

Coast Reporter • Friday, February 19, 2010



Kisses & Kicks

Kisses and a huge shout-out to the Hidden Grove trail blazers. Your thoughtful planning and access to interesting features on the north trail is wonderful.

— Your Sandy Hook neighbours

Robert D'Arcy - Brian Smart (brian.smart@dccnet.com), Michael Davidson (paci.davi@gmail.com) - Hidden Grove
From: Robert D'Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>
To: Brian Smart (brian.smart@dccnet.com) <brian.smart@dccnet.com>
Date: Sun, 07 Mar 2010 12:25:00 -0800
Subject: Hidden Grove March

Hi Brian,

I was going to write Kevin when I realized we are supposed to use you as the liaison! Also I am writing you since it is Sunday and don't want to take you away from family on a weekend with a phone call. This is a bit long - sorry.

First off - the Northern Trail is finished and it is super. Comment of one visitor was that it is so good that it looks like it has been established for years. Comment of the crew - we now have to redo the Main trail to bring it up to the new standard. Had a couple from Memphis, Tenn. during the Olympics who had found the site on the web somehow so when they took a break for Vancouver/Whistler came to a B&B here and the Hidden Grove.

Some ugly temporary signage is up but we thought this was needed to tell people how long a walk it is (30 to 50 minutes) and to stop them ending up lost on Inlet Road.

The website has been substantially updated and new features included. More to do. The Northern Trail is now taken off the work page and moved it to the History page. On the Tourist page you will see a link to open a photo tour of the N. Trail. This is still to be completed as we want every trail to have a slideshow to virtually walk - both ways - so folks can preview what they are going to get into. Need to wait until the sun is higher in the sky and bright to photo all. Take a look though at <http://hiddengrove.info> and the new tourist page for one thing.

For trail building in the immediate future - aside from upgrading that is - a spur trail will be built to the Twister and a couple of other loopbacks maybe.

What has been going on that is really important is trying to address the situation with the unfinished parking lot and loop road. About 10 days ago I phoned Kevin to advise that with the rain part of the lot (behind where the angle parking is) was a mud hole and we were concerned about someone getting stuck and it getting worse. Kevin went out and took a look and you no doubt saw his reply of the 25th reading in part:

"Looked at it yesterday and it is slimy. In the short term, volunteers could: * Scrape some muddy areas off and put it on the debris piled by the road * Bring in some PU loads of sand and spread."

The crew has worked on the area. They have done quite a bit to level the muddy bit (not the part where the old brush is dumped and will be for

Robert D'Arcy - Brian Smart (brian.smart@dccnet.com), Michael Davidson (paci davi@gmail.com) - Hidden Grove (the handicap bus) and have done a lot of cutting of roots and bits in the sandy part. To stabilize things until later in the spring, when presumably SCPI will be able to complete the main job, it really needs a good load of gravel and dust dumped in the bad spot. Our crew can hand spread it with shovels and tap it down by driving cars over it. We don't have the gravel or truck.

You may recall that we were going to try to source gravel but I spoke to Kevin after finding that CAL wanted a written submission and was not prepared, without that, to contemplate so much (asking for the whole amount). Kevin told me to forget it and he would organize it all. So we have not written any request and we never did have trucks. For now is there anyway SCPI can get a truck load in there?

If you can organize that we would stabilize it all until May when Kevin indicated (Feb 16 email) he planned to be in a position to resume things and finish off the parking and drive through to the final standard - District mandated pavement at the entrance, gravel/dust topping leveled out and compressed - all ready for the busy summer season. Also we want to do something special by way of thanks to SCPI when it is done and redo our brochures for the visitors bureau in town.

Well that's it for now but I hope you can back to me before the rain starts again.

All the best and thanks,

Bob D'Arcy

Chair,

Hidden Grove Steering Committee

<http://hiddengrove.info/>

Bob

2010-01-08 - Robert D'Arcy - - Off Leash Areas - COTW Wednesday.txt
From: Robert D'Arcy [mailto:rdarcy@dccnet.com]
Sent: March-09-10 1:19 PM
To: Alice Janisch (janisch@sechelt.ca); Alice Lutes (lutes@sechelt.ca);
Ann Kershaw (kershaw@sechelt.ca); Connie Jordison; Darren Inkster
(darren_inkster@sechelt.ca); Fred Taylor (taylor@sechelt.ca); Keith
Thirkell (thirkell@sechelt.ca); Warren Allan (wallan@sechelt.ca)
Subject: Off Leash Areas - COTW Wednesday

Hi Everyone,

I note the list of off leash areas proposed and as a Sandy Hook resident have no objections to the "Heritage Forest" - as a matter of practicality it is used for that every day. I would, however, like to suggest a couple of points you might move from the floor for adoption as part of the recommendations:

1. Add in the Hidden Grove too. There are several reasons this makes sense and might as well do it Now:
 - a. It is being used that way most every day by folks from all over the Coast anyway - not just Sandy Hook
 - b. It is "attached" to the Sechelt Heritage Forest so there is going to be movement back and forth unless barriers are contemplated
 - c. It has better, longer, flatter walking trails than the SHF.
 - d. It has - almost finished - a proper parking lot which the SHF does not (parking on road only)
 - e. Like the SHF it is designated Parks and Open spaces within the DoS in the zoning and OCPs
 - f. Like the SHF it is actually controlled by logging interests showing community responsibility. The SHF by a conglomerate of logging firms, the Hidden Grove by SCPI (DoS really)
2. Picky, picky but when passing any motion refer to the "Heritage Forest" by its proper name "Sechelt Heritage Forest". That is what it is on all the maps and guides the community has carefully developed.

This submission is just me and not on behalf of any group BUT I think you will find pretty well universal support when it goes out for community input as indicated will happen in the COTW report.

Cheers and thank you,

Bob D'Arcy

website at <http://rdarcy.net> <<http://rdarcy.net/>>

(No trees were killed in the sending of this message,
but a large number of electrons were terribly inconvenienced.)

2010-04-07 - Robert D'Arcy - 'dfliitton@sechel t. ca' - Connie away. txt
From: Robert D'Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>
To: 'dfliitton@sechel t. ca' <dfliitton@sechel t. ca>
Date: Wed, 07 Apr 2010 15:58:00 -0800
Subject: Connie away

Hi ,

Following is an email I sent to Connie today. Her email response says she is away and you are the person for now. Would you please look after it - thank you very much.

Subject: Off Leash matter

Hi Connie,

Sorry to bother you but the reports in regard to the off leash matter were by the "Manager of Sustainability Services & Special Projects" and I don't know who that is. They are seeking Community Association input on the changes proposed for off leash areas. Would you please see that whoever it is gets this email. Thank you.

To: Manager of Sustainability Services & Special Projects,

You are seeking comment from the Sandy Hook Community Association regarding the addition of Sechel t Heritage Forest and the Hidden Grove areas to the legal off leash areas in the DoS. I cannot speak to the Sechel t Heritage Forest area although I believe the President Gray Waddell, last September or August, responded to a survey by the Bylaw Officer, Bruce Haynes and gave a very positive answer in favour of that area being officially off leash. It is currently used that way.

In respect of Hidden Grove, I am the official spokes person for the Sandy Hook Community Association in accordance with their minuted motion of November 17, 2009 reading in part: "Bob D'Arcy will continue to act as Chair of the Hidden Grove Plan Steering Committee with the Committee acting and speaking on behalf of the community for the Hidden Grove." In this role I am pleased to confirm that the SHCA Hidden Grove committee is in complete favour with the Hidden Grove being a legal off leash area. It is currently used that way.

Should you have any further questions please contact me and thank you for this opportunity. For your convenience maps and other material are available at the committee website at <http://hiddengrove.info>

Thank you very much.

Bob D'Arcy

2010-04-07 - Robert D'Arcy - 'dfli tton@sechel t. ca' - Conni e away. txt
Chai r,
Hi dden Grove Steeri ng Commi ttee
<http://hi ddengrove. i nfo/>

HIDDEN GROVES LEGACY COMMITTEE

May 18, 2010

Sechelt Visitor Centre
P.O. Box 639
Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0

5790 Teredo Street
Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0

Re: Hidden Grove Legacy and Sechelt Heritage Forest

We are very pleased to deliver roughly 100 copies of our new brochure. You may note that we have now combined the two adjoining forests as there are now adjoining trails. The same "Legacy Committee" is acting as stewards and providing volunteers for both forests with the Community Forest overseeing the Hidden Grove aspect.

Some signage is up and new signage will be throughout most of the Hidden Grove part within a week or two. The trails are well maintained and even cleared after storms. Like all wilderness areas some caution should be used on some of the steeper trails but we have tried to warn of those on signage.

These brochures are volunteer produced and until we see what demand there is we would appreciate you trying to hand them out to those showing a real interest in forest or trails and not just make them a part of a tourist package. Once we have a feel for the demand we may go ahead and have them commercially produced. Notwithstanding this we would be pleased to hear from you if more are needed and we will get those to you as quickly as possible.

We would welcome any comments on the brochures and particularly any improvements you might suggest. More information is available at our website.

It is our hope that you will direct both locals and visitors from afar to the Groves we cherish so. We know that the more who visit the stronger will be the support from the community and the authorities to maintaining these wonderful assets of Sechelt.

Thank you very much.
The Committee

Per:

Bob D'Arcy
Chairperson

REPLY: Mail – c/o SHCA, 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4
Email: hiddengrove@sechelt.net Web Site: <http://hiddengrove.info>
Phone: 604-885-5766

rt D'Arcy - Michael Davidson (paci davi@gmail.com), Kevin Davie (anikconsulting@dccnet.com) - Hidden Grove
From: Robert D'Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>
To: Michael Davidson (paci davi@gmail.com) <paci davi@gmail.com>,
Kevin Davie (anikconsulting@dccnet.com) <anikconsulting@dccnet.com>,
Brian Smart (brian.smart@dccnet.com) <brian.smart@dccnet.com>
Date: Wed, 09 Jun 2010 15:33:00 -0800
Subject: Hidden Grove Brochures

Keeping you posted. Delivered another 100 brochures to the Visitors Centre today as the supply delivered 3 weeks ago was nearly depleted in spite of staff hording them for just those who express special interest in trees or hiking and such. Feedback is that some visitors have come back to the Centre to comment on how nice the Groves are and how they will send their friends. Those from B&Bs seem to be the most enthusiastic.

They suggested also supplying Gibsons but I think we should wait on that until the pattern of what we need here develops and we can consider a more economical and funded way of doing the printing. Plus there is some updating to do.

Bob D'Arcy

Chair,

Hidden Grove Steering Committee

<http://hiddengrove.info/>

2010-06-10 - Robert D'Arcy - legacy@hiddengrove.info, kirkecxner@yahoo.com - Hidden Grove.txt
From: Robert D'Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>
To: legacy@hiddengrove.info <legacy@hiddengrove.info>
Cc: kirkecxner@yahoo.com <kirkecxner@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, 10 Jun 2010 18:58:00 -0800
Subject: Hidden Grove

Hi to the Hidden Grove Committee,

I have been terrible at sending out anything to the whole committee and I apologize fully. Maybe you will forgive me as you read through this.

Back when it seemed that some members did not want to see everyday exchanges as things were worked upon. Soon it was sort of down to Michael and me exchanging emails and calls with sometimes including Gray Waddell. After the mess at the SHCA I started copying Rupert Clark in as the liaison person there - at least on much of the email to outsiders. Habits are hard to break and make so by attrition I just left out keeping everyone fully in the loop. What suddenly woke me up was an advice of an email had been sent by Marilyn Jares to the Coast Reporter on the parking lot thing. My God! I have been leaving Marilyn out of all the email stuff for some time. I am so sorry.

So a big update.

1. The website has most everything on it if you go say once a week or 10 days and just check. I try to highlight new things on the Home page to save you digging all over. First time though you might spend some time as there has been a lot of major changes and re-organization of the site.

2. The parking lot - in February you know it had the digger in and then it stopped. Michael and I made a presentation to the SCPI advisory board in May and there was a main board meeting on May 27th. What exactly came of that is still a well guarded secret but we are advised that SCPI has been told to go out and get firm figures from contractors to finish the job fully including the safety features demanded by the DoS. A complete job good for a long, long time. That was just this past Monday and we now know we will have to wait for the week of the 21st before we hear more. Hold your breath.

3. SCPI and several teachers on the Sunshine Coast are eager to start taking classes though the Grove for interpretative stuff. We are kind of discouraging that at the moment due the unfinished state of the parking lot.

4. Without knowing about the approach to SCPI but sensing some publicity was needed it seems that is where Marilyn's email comes in. Her email got a reporter, Christine Wood, from the Coast Reporter tipped off about the parking lot work to call me and get an update. It sounds like she is going to do a story on the improvement to date and she confirmed she is also interviewing John Henderson, the Chair of the Community Forest. She indicated she would help plug getting more of the job done. Don't know when it will appear.

5. On another front, we worked out a design (good help from Gertrude Pacific with some important touches) for a brochure to encourage visitors. The first 100 of the glossy full coloured brochures was delivered to the Visitors Centre in Seaside Centre on May 19th. (see

2010-06-10 - Robert D'Arcy - legacy@hiddengrove.info, kirkecxner@yahoo.com - Hidden Grove.txt at <http://hiddengrove.info/work.html>) This is all, of course, part of the long term plan to make the Grove so popular that there is no way they dare revert it to logging or as a site for houses. On this Tuesday I checked and found the supply was already going short so I printed and delivered a further supply of 100. We now must investigate a more economical way to print them as it looks like they are a very popular item. The Centre said that some visitors were coming back to thank them for being sent to the Groves and how much they enjoyed it. B&B visitors seemed to be most thrilled. Michael is updating the map and I am seeking best prices along with some sponsorship, if possible (Other than the SHCA hopefully)

6. Trail building has been going on at a steady pace all winter and this spring with up to 12 souls out for a couple of hours of real hard work twice a week in winter and once a week for now. The Northern Trail is done and so is the new connector from the SHF. There is a new application into the Province for approvals on 4 more trails so there is no shortage of things to do. Must think about a party for the hard workers if the weather ever really gets nice.

7. This email is going to the committee as it has stood for over a year: Michael Davidson, Gray Waddell, Marilyn Jares, Rupert Clark and Mike Sutcliffe (out of town right now). I am also copying in the new president of the SHCA on just this email since he was by today and expressed a real interest in it all. Normally our liaison with the SHCA is just Rupert.

Again, my apologies to Marilyn when after all she has been with us since the start and was one of those who saw the first logging tapes away back then.

Bob D'Arcy

Chair,

Hidden Grove Steering Committee

<http://hiddengrove.info/>

2010-06-18 - Robert D'Arcy - 'Legacy@hiddengrove.info' - Hidden Grove and DoS.txt
From: Robert D'Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>
To: 'Legacy@hiddengrove.info' <Legacy@hiddengrove.info>
Date: Fri, 18 Jun 2010 16:26:00 -0800
Subject: Hidden Grove and DoS

Attachments: 100618ForestManagement.pdf

Today I met with Crystal Boeur who was referred to me by Christine Wood of the Coast Reporter - how tangled can you get. Anyway Crystal is the consultant to prepare an Urban Forestry Management Plan for the Dos and of course Hidden Grove and the SHF are big parts of that. It was a 45 minute interview so I cannot detail it all but some points:

* She is playing catch-up on most everything but I was impressed by how much she has been able to figure out. Nice person. She and her husband are frequent HG visitors.

* I was able to lead her through some history and she had partially reviewed the website. On my advice she is going to see Brain Smart for information on the plants and species in the HG. She is also going to get input from the SIB on all the forested areas in Sechelt.

* She is looking for more areas to maybe protect or treat special. I only mentioned the gap to the powerlines and the private lots along Grey Creek. I gave her Linda Williams number so she can get the Tuwanek story.

* I suggested she recommend expiry dates on Comprehensive Development Permits so something like SilverBack loses its permits and zoning at 3 or 5 years. She agreed that was good as she had worked in Burnaby where they had such a policy.

* Over and over I seeded the need for the reapplication of the DoS to the Province for the HG as Park for the DoS and she agreed she is going to do it. I told her to review the 2002-3 submission by Parfitt and go at it much more professional in the sense of putting in legal covenants to give the Province comfort the DoS would not just flip the land.

* There was more but I forget for now.

Crystal gave me the attached survey she is asking some to complete - not the general public but agreed that having our committee members each run at it was OK. You do not have to do it. If you want to just print it out, complete it and drop it off at the DoS.

I'll welcome any questions.

Bob D'Arcy

Chair,

Hidden Grove Steering Committee

<http://hiddengrove.info/>

PS. Gertrude and Michael - I have hard copies of the survey to give you tomorrow at 9:45 when we meet.

HIDDEN GROVE ACCESS

Exposing a hidden gem

CHRISTINE WOOD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Sunshine Coast Community Forest (SCCF) and the Hidden Groves Legacy Committee (HGLC) are working together to save paradise and put up a parking lot.

The two groups want to promote the Hidden Grove forest located in Sandy Hook next to the Sechelt Heritage Forest. Both want to encourage educational tours and recreational use of the area, although the SCCF, which holds the forest licence for the area, has a broader vision.

"We decided to support Hidden Grove and their work with the trail systems because it dovetails into our larger overall educational forest idea," said John Henderson, chair and president of Sechelt Community Projects Inc., which operates the SCCF.

He said the SCCF will create interpretive signage in the forest and extend trails through old growth areas, sensitive wetland areas, areas logged 15 years ago and newly logged areas.

"We think it will make for a very good educational and recreational area,"

Henderson said.

The Hidden Grove area boasts ancient trees, wetlands, easy hiking trails and views of Sechelt Inlet and Vancouver Island. It also has legal off leash areas for dogs and beautifully groomed trails, thanks to the volunteer efforts of HGLC.

"We think it will make for a very good educational and recreational area."

John Henderson

Both groups want to see the area saved for its natural beauty and used for educational purposes, but in order to accommodate bus tours of children or wheelchair access to the site, a proper parking lot must be created.

"We talked to a lot of schools that would like to do outings to Hidden Grove, but there are legal issues for the school buses the way the parking lot stands now," said HGLC chair Bob D'Arcy.

The SCCF and HGLC

volunteers have created a temporary parking lot at the site, and it's seeing lots of use from locals and tourists alike.

"We create the brochures for Hidden Grove and they are going like hot cakes at the visitor information centre," D'Arcy added.

The HGLC has plans for fully accessible trails in the area, and in order to open those trails to the mobility challenged, a proper parking lot is imperative.

The SCCF understands the need, and they are currently looking for estimates from local contractors to have a proper parking lot created by the end of the summer.

The SCCF plans to widen the area to accommodate buses and level the parking lot, likely with crusher dust.

For more on HGLC's efforts go to www.hidden-grove.info, and to learn more about the SCCF's plans go to www.sccf.ca.

"We really like the way this relationship has worked with the Hidden Grove volunteers, the board and the community. It is a great example of what we want to do with other community minded groups in the future," Henderson said.

EXCITED ABOUT HIDDEN GROVE

Editor:

Thank you very much for the great article on Hidden Grove ("Exposing a hidden gem," *Coast Reporter*, July 16). Especially thank you for expressing appreciation to the volunteers who work so hard to make and groom the trails for all to use.

You mentioned the new brochures we have — I am pleased to advise the Sunshine Coast Bed & Breakfast, Cottage Owners Association recently agreed to pay for the printing of a Coast-wide supply. The first of the new brochures with their logo in place are being distributed as this letter is written. They are available at the Sechelt Visitors Centre.

We appreciated Mr. Henderson's kind words and wish to reciprocate with our thanks for the efforts being made by the Community Forest to further the Hidden Grove. On July 20, a meeting was held to revise the parking lot plans to better accommodate school buses. Plans are afoot for trails going out of the Grove proper to interpretative areas for educational groups.

If you have not visited the Grove recently, we encourage you to do so. There are some new trails and it is always relaxing and lovely. The tourists are certainly finding it. Just 10 days ago, a group of more than 30 Koreans visited commenting they enjoyed being able to see so much of the forest world in such a short and easy walk. Lots of information at www.hiddengrove.net. for you to review.

We are all very upbeat and we appreciate everyone who has contributed to the progress in the past and all those who are helping us so very much as we go forward.

Bob D'Arcy, chair, Hidden Grove Legacy Committee

2010-09-12 - Robert D'Arcy - z_ Hidden Grove Group (Legacy@hiddengrove.net) - Hidden Grove Update.txt
From: Robert D'Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>
Date: Sun, 12 Sep 2010 15:42:00 -0800
Subject: Hidden Grove Update

(Sent to Committee and some others - all blind for privacy - sorry if you get two - you are on two mailing lists?)

Hi everyone,

My last update was back on July 22nd and I thought it was time to bring you up to speed again. If you regularly visit the website much of this will be old news.

1. The Trail Builders have been hard at it every single week for hours and since the last report have:

a) Installed ALL the sign posts and the colour markers at all the current intersections. Should be hard to get lost now. If you have not seen these great signs then you should visit soonest.

b) Cleared recent fallen trees from several locations

c) Done a major clean up and refurbishment of the trails in the Sechel t Heritage Forest.

2. In respect of the signs, little addendums for many of the signs have been made and laminated ready to install. These extras are to give further explanations where needed - length of a particular walk or warning of a steep grad and so on. They go on the little black strip below the main map sign. Michael Davidson is going to attach these when he catches his breath from everything else.

3. Until the addendums are up we have been putting out maps in the case at the main entrance. Are they ever popular! Just today another 50 put out and those to replace the 50 from the week before. Since the box went up there have been 275 maps put out. Some nice folks even use the maps and put them back for others to use thus saving printing and paper. We have not seen any littering of the trails. Recent special visitors run into in the Groves from: Amsterdam, London England, Brisbane, two separate parties from New York plus many of the Ho Hum usual from Seattle, Portland, Calgary and Edmonton.

4. The brochure continues to be a hot item too. Just last week another 50 to the Bayside Campground on Inlet Road and another 40 picked up by some B&B owners. All comment on how it is good for their business since they are able to give something of local interest to their clientele for activities while here. I still have a good supply so we should be good until next spring when we will want to reprint anyway with a revised updated map.

2010-09-12 - Robert D'Arcy - z_ Hidden Grove Group (Legacy@hiddengrove.net) - Hidden Grove Update.txt

5. Several of the Canadian and BC tourist websites have now revised any write up they had about the Groves to include the new trail work and signs or have put up links to the Groves website. This should all help promote its use.

6. A new organization dedicated to trails on the Sunshine Coast has just been incorporated and will be having its first real meeting soon. There is a website at <http://sctrails.ca> which will be building over the next few months. This group should help with coordinated efforts to maintain and develop places where residents and visitors alike can enjoy safe and pleasant hiking, walking and cycling. We have applied to the SHCA to have the Groves join up.

7. I have held off on this last item in the dreamy hope that while I wrote this email maybe I would hear something to report. As I advised back in July we met with Community Forest people on July 20th regarding the parking lot. We understood they were to get some firm quotes and then do something to get the ball rolling. We have heard nothing. As you might appreciate we are hesitant to bug about this for fear of crossing ourselves up in the politics somewhere. We are further confused by the just posted minutes of the Community Forest board which directed "management" to go ahead. Maybe this email will precipitate something?

8. As most of you know we cannot start on the handicap trail until the parking lot is resolved. We have missed a couple of funding opportunities recently due to this but we are still optimistic that when the time comes we can find the needed money for the surface materials and equipment. Fingers crossed.

This email became longer than I expected - sorry. Remember you can stay up to date pretty well at the website. All the best and thanks to everyone who pitches in to make the Groves the wonderful asset to Sechelt that they are.

Bob D'Arcy

Chair,

Hidden Groves Steering Committee

<http://hiddengrove.net/>

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2010 | BREAKING NEWS: VANCOUVERSUN.COM



Sechelt's Hidden Grove is a quiet, peaceful forest area free from logging.

FAVOURITE PLACES

Hidden Grove a precious gem just minutes from Sechelt

BY BOB D'ARCY

Ancient trees combined with a work in progress; nature at work and volunteers putting in hours each week; beauty, history, educational values, easy exercise and tranquillity.

All of this and more is within 10 minutes of downtown Sechelt — or just two minutes from Porpoise Bay Provincial Park — at Hidden Grove.

In spite of nearby logging activity, Mother Nature hid the grove and even kept forest fires at bay for hundreds of years. In 2000, logging was proposed again and local residents found the ancient grove tucked away inside the logger's licence area. The community banded together and fought off the loggers, realizing they had a precious gem on their doorstep.

With the help of dedicated volunteers, permits were obtained for the building of trails to:

- The Ancient Forest, a large pocket of mixed species with some specimens more than 700 years old.

- Views of Vancouver Island and Sechelt Inlet.

- A "Lonely Giant" cedar more than 700 years old, alone in an area logged just 60 years ago but mysteriously saved even after the loggers started cutting into it.

- A wetland source of a salmon-bearing brook, restored in another project by local residents.

- A huge "Twister Tree" that was struck by lightning hundreds of years ago but went on to grow to over 30 metres with its bark twisting around the trunk.

- Local first nations' recent marking of trees as they gather cedar for making native wares.

But above all, Hidden Grove is a quiet, safe and peaceful old forest area for all.

Now fully accessible with good parking, recently the local Sechelt Community Forest declared the area a priority recreational project. An enlarged parking lot with room for buses and vehicles for the handicapped is underway. The volunteers will soon complete a trail giving wheelchairs proper access to the Ancient Grove area.

A comprehensive website, www.hiddengrove.net, presents maps, virtual tours, history and more. The smiles

of visitors from all over the world as they tour the grove is the reward of the community volunteers, but they and their families enjoy this wonderful place for its beauty, too.

Special to The Sun

0-08 - Kirk Exner - Robert D'Arcy, board@sandyhookcommunityassociation.ca - SHCA - Hidden Grove Committee
From: Kirk Exner <kirkexner@yahoo.com>
To: Robert D'Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>
Cc: board@sandyhookcommunityassociation.ca <board@sandyhookcommunityassociation.ca>
Date: Fri, 08 Oct 2010 10:12:44 -0800
Subject: SHCA - Hidden Grove Committee

Dear Mr. D'Arcy,

To begin with congratulations on the recent developments with the Hidden Grove parking area!

As confirmation, I delivered two cheques from the SHCA to you this week. One in your name for \$40.00 and another for Michael Davidson for \$194.01. Based on your last email this brings us up to date on expenses. With these remunerations, the SHCA has now contributed \$370.60 during the calendar year towards the development of Hidden Grove.

The October board meeting for the Sandy Hook Community Association (SHCA) was held on Monday, October 4th and, as mentioned, Hidden Grove was on the agenda.

As you know, our annual operating budget is linked directly to our current membership base and is just over \$1,000.00 per year; of which, Hidden Grove has been allocated 37% of the available monies. At the board meeting we were able to revisit our operating budget and, with the annual Meet and Greet slated for December 2010, all of the available funds for 2010 have now been allocated.

During the board meeting we also elected to set our 2011 budget at our January, 2011 meeting. At this time we will portion out our annual operating budget (estimated at \$1,000.00). Based on our informal discussions during our meeting last night, Hidden Grove is anticipated to receive up to 30% (\$300) of the available funds in 2011 (discretionary to the Committee and as required during the calendar year). We would encourage the Hidden Grove Committee to develop an annual operating budget for Hidden Grove based on this number.

You did point out that the SHCA has some surplus funds in Cash and GICs from past years and that Hidden Grove is a very worthy candidate for those funds. In order to access additional funding over and above the Hidden Grove budget we would require the Hidden Grove Committee to prepare a proposal outlining the intended use for any additional funds beyond the portion allocated from the SHCA annual operating budget. Any proposal would be reviewed and voted upon by the board.

I would also like to note that the SCHA is absolutely interested in assisting the Hidden Grove Committee with fundraising. We are in the process of creating a "Fundraising Committee" with the intention of providing additional funding to various projects. We hope to appoint a Fundraising Committee Chair at our next meeting.

Kind Regards,

Kirk Exner, President

SHCA

10-01 - Robert D'Arcy - kirkexner@yahoo.com, Michael Davidson (paci davi@gmail.com) - Hidden Grove Bills
From: Robert D'Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>
To: kirkexner@yahoo.com <kirkexner@yahoo.com>
Cc: Michael Davidson (paci davi@gmail.com) <paci davi@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, 01 Oct 2010 11:34:00 -0800
Subject: Hidden Grove Bills

Attachments: 1009SCTSreceipt.pdf, Davidson Bills.pdf

Hello Kirk,

Rupert is away in the UK for a month and I understand there is a board meeting coming up. If the SHCA is going to pay the recent bills for the Groves then I cannot send them in through Rupert so I trust using you is OK. I don't think it is right for Michael to be hanging out without knowing one way or the other.

I am attaching 2 PDF files which are shots of the receipts submitted. Michael's total is \$194.01 and then there is the receipt of sorts for the SCTS membership of \$40 that I paid by personal cheque. I would appreciate you bringing this matter up and, if accepted, seeing that the appropriate cheques are cut. I have the actual receipts here and can turn them over to whomever you say.

As a bit of a sales pitch, I am once again going to readdress the matter of the SHCA paying reasonable bills for the Groves. There is a lot of precedent and history to consider. SHCA took on the Heritage Forest part of the Groves back in 1992 when the SHCA dedicated massive efforts and some funds to successfully saving the Heritage Forest. In time the SHCA was given official status under the District Of Sechelt to maintain the trails and benefit from the DoS's advice and insurance. In other words, there is a history of 20 years of SHCA support and engagement for the Groves.

The part known as the Hidden Grove became a hot issue in late 2000 and early 2001 although there had been active lobbying prior to that. Saving and developing the Hidden Grove was adopted as an ongoing, priority project of the SHCA and has been supported in full by every board and board member (but for one board member in 2009) ever since. A review of the treasurer's statements will show that expenditures have been very minor and sometime nil throughout the intervening 10 years. It was always known (or at least worked towards) that a time would come when funds would be needed for real development. All that was required was a legal environment that would support such activity. The SHCA worked diligently to achieve that environment through lobbying, presentations - you name it - and in 2008/9 started to get the green light from Provincial and municipal authorities to begin real work. So - here we are finally able to do what over 10 years of SHCA boards have dreamed of. Through those years the finances were handled with care and a small reserve built up. There are no formal notes that I am aware of that it is dedicated to the Groves but clearly it was set aside to spend on something including this long, long term dream project officially adopted by the SHCA.

There is no question we are in a period of expense, to repeat, the first
Page 1

10-01 - Robert D'Arcy - kirkexner@yahoo.com, Michael Davidson (paci davi@gmail.com) - Hidden Grove Bill
in some 10 years of this Association project. We are gaining outside financial support as evidenced by the Community Forest recent work and promised work. We have had some meaningful donations of materials. We have a list of potential donors for the proposed handicap trail. We think we can get the needed major kiosk materials at least donated. Sometime - dream time - there maybe funds (through a grant possibly) for the planned interpretive centre (see the official plan formally endorsed and adopted by the District in 2002) which may incorporate a community hall usable by the three small communities along the east side of the Inlet (likely too small to sensibly build and maintain their own halls).

Why relate all this? The bottom line is that after all these years we have finally and wonderfully entered a period where real work is being done to discharge the mandate adopted and set over 10 years ago. Now is the time to accept that funds need to be released from the reserves for the mandate. I don't think a one year undisclosed budget total is fair or that it complies with the wishes of the 10 or 20 boards before this one.

I have written this email with the greatest respect but felt it important that some message go out.

Yours,

Bob D'Arcy

Chair,

Hidden Groves Steering Committee

<http://hiddengrove.net/>

Hidden Groves Legacy Committee

October 8, 2010

BY EMAIL in PDF format

The District of Sechelt

Attention:

Mayor and Councillors;

All Staff and in Particular: PARKS - Emanuel Machado, Sustainability & Special Projects Manager and Perry Schmidt, Parks Foreman; PUBLIC WORKS - Ken Tang

Re: Hidden Grove Parking Lot

Dear Everybody,

Just yesterday, all the 'millions' of supporters of the Hidden Grove were thrilled to see District heavy equipment in the Grove working on the parking lot project. It is now ready for the next step sponsored by the Community Forest - the installation and compacting of a gravel base. Soon we expect to see a fully finished lot with room for the many, many tourists and locals who visit constantly. Also, a safe lot for the school buses with Sunshine Coast children on nature outings (we know they have been waiting anxiously).

We have added the District to our growing list of donors that can be found on our website both in a slideshow at the top of every page and on a dedicated page at www.hiddengrove.net.

After over 10 years of working and not a little frustration it is exciting to see developments like this move us all towards completion of the "dream."

Thank you all.

Hidden Groves Legacy Committee

per: **R. B. D'Arcy** (computer signature)

Bob D'Arcy
Chairperson

CC: to committee, work party and others.

REPLY: Mail – c/o SHCA, 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4
Email: participate2@hiddengrove.net Web Site: <http://hiddengrove.net>
Phone: 604-885-5766

**REPLY: Mail – c/o SHCA, 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4
Email: hiddeengrove@sechelt.net Web Site: <http://hiddeengrove.info>
Phone: 604-885-5766**

0-08 - Kirk Exner - Robert D'Arcy, board@sandyhookcommunityassociation.ca - SHCA - Hidden Grove Committee
From: Kirk Exner <kirkexner@yahoo.com>
To: Robert D'Arcy <rdarcy@dccnet.com>
Cc: board@sandyhookcommunityassociation.ca <board@sandyhookcommunityassociation.ca>
Date: Fri, 08 Oct 2010 10:12:44 -0800
Subject: SHCA - Hidden Grove Committee

Dear Mr. D'Arcy,

To begin with congratulations on the recent developments with the Hidden Grove parking area!

As confirmation, I delivered two cheques from the SHCA to you this week. One in your name for \$40.00 and another for Michael Davidson for \$194.01. Based on your last email this brings us up to date on expenses. With these remunerations, the SHCA has now contributed \$370.60 during the calendar year towards the development of Hidden Grove.

The October board meeting for the Sandy Hook Community Association (SHCA) was held on Monday, October 4th and, as mentioned, Hidden Grove was on the agenda.

As you know, our annual operating budget is linked directly to our current membership base and is just over \$1,000.00 per year; of which, Hidden Grove has been allocated 37% of the available monies. At the board meeting we were able to revisit our operating budget and, with the annual Meet and Greet slated for December 2010, all of the available funds for 2010 have now been allocated.

During the board meeting we also elected to set our 2011 budget at our January, 2011 meeting. At this time we will portion out our annual operating budget (estimated at \$1,000.00). Based on our informal discussions during our meeting last night, Hidden Grove is anticipated to receive up to 30% (\$300) of the available funds in 2011 (discretionary to the Committee and as required during the calendar year). We would encourage the Hidden Grove Committee to develop an annual operating budget for Hidden Grove based on this number.

You did point out that the SHCA has some surplus funds in Cash and GICs from past years and that Hidden Grove is a very worthy candidate for those funds. In order to access additional funding over and above the Hidden Grove budget we would require the Hidden Grove Committee to prepare a proposal outlining the intended use for any additional funds beyond the portion allocated from the SHCA annual operating budget. Any proposal would be reviewed and voted upon by the board.

I would also like to note that the SCHA is absolutely interested in assisting the Hidden Grove Committee with fundraising. We are in the process of creating a "Fundraising Committee" with the intention of providing additional funding to various projects. We hope to appoint a Fundraising Committee Chair at our next meeting.

Kind Regards,

Kirk Exner, President

SHCA

Presentation October 21, 2010 to SC Community Forest Semi-annual meeting

Thank you Mr. Chairman. My name is Bob D'Arcy and I am representing the Hidden Groves Legacy Committee here tonight.

I will be very brief since I am not going to talk about:

- The well received and distributed brochure paid for by the B&B Association. or
- The wonderful new trails that have been built in the Hidden Grove, or about
- The new signage with maps mounted at every intersection in the Groves , or about
- the new colour coding system on each and every trail so folks will not get lost and can follow a colour route as they wish, or about
- the new dressing of the trails with cedar chips
- Nor will I talk about the opening up of the viewpoint so one can see all the way to Vancouver Island - on a clear day, that is, or about
- how we now have visitors regularly from as far away as Korea, Germany, Brazil and South Africa plus tours by organizations interested in hiking or nature, or about
- the really wonderful and dedicated work party volunteers who put in untold hours every single week making the Hidden Groves experience better for all

No. I will leave preaching about all these things for another time.

Tonight I would like to express special thanks to the Community Forest for proceeding with the development of the proper parking lot for the Grove. While it is not quite finished I know this is because an outside contractor had some timing conflicts and that completion is now scheduled for either this week or next. When all done, there will be a compacted gravel lot without the mud and confusion of the past. Above all there will be a new level of safety for visitors including school buses with your children on day trips to see nature at its most beautiful.

As soon as the gravel base is completed the Work party volunteers will be installing appropriate parking guides and signage.

Lastly, I would personally like to express my thanks to Kevin Davie, Brian Smart and Warren Hansen who have dedicated so much time to this major project - and an extra special personal thanks to Kevin with whom a sort of fun and humorous near daily telephone exchange has developed - cheers, Kevin.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and everyone with the Community Forest. We look forward to the next great Hidden Grove project you assist us with. We have a list.

Hidden Groves Legacy Committee

October 28, 2010

DELIVERED BY HAND

SUNSHINE COAST COMMUNITY FOREST
#201/204 - 5606 Wharf Avenue
PO Box 215
Sechelt, British Columbia
V0N 3A0

Attn: All the Board and All who participated

While I was delighted to verbally express our appreciation for the new parking lot at the recent semi-annual meeting of the Community Forest we wanted to be sure there was a formal letter on record too.

Again, we want to thank all involved in the decision and the execution of this important development at this wonderful recreational site under your mandate. Already the compliments are rolling in.

In the next few weeks our happy team of volunteers will be marking the parking spaces and putting up more suitable signage. THEN, it will be on to the next projects and we will be sure and keep you posted if not directly involved.

Thank you once again, and again.

Yours,

Bob D'Arcy
Chair

REPLY: Mail – c/o SHCA, 5866 Deerhorn Drive, Sechelt, B.C., V0N 3A4
Email: participate2@hiddengrove.net Web Site: <http://hiddengrove.net>
Phone: 604-885-5766



Kisses & Kicks

Kisses to **Bente Rehm** for her donations of her beautiful jewellery to the Angel Tree Project.

Big snowflake kisses to the lovely woman in the burgundy pick-up who gave three stranded Bonniebrook residents a lift home after our (two) cars skidded off the road on Nov. 24. We weren't looking forward to the cold, slippery trip up Harry Road.

Kisses to **Tony and Daisy** for helping to carry my groceries upstairs right to my door.

Kisses to the **Hidden Grove volunteers** — wow, it is like instant gratification every time I walk in there. What a professional, thoughtful trail system. — *A happy forest walker*

Kisses to the **parents who do their very best for their children** — whether people are watching or not. — *A silent observer*

Kisses to **Starbucks in Gibsons** for supporting our Langdale Elementary School book fair with coffee.

Kisses to **Dr. Hynd and the Sunshine Coast dental group** for your continued support of the Elphinstone junior girls volleyball team.

Big wet snowy kisses to the **Gibsons & District Kinsmen** for their support of the Jackrabbit skiers.

Kisses to **coach Jane Ostashek** for taking the Elphinstone junior girls volleyball team all the way to the provincial level. Thank you for everything.

Kisses to **Bev Burgoyne** from all Gibsons' strata owners for settling the water meter question.

Kisses to **Jan** for being a good friend to so many in the community.