



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

Sproat Lake Newsletter

Sproat Lake Community Newsletter - Summer/Fall 2023

Published by Penny Cote - Director for Sproat Lake - Electoral Area D

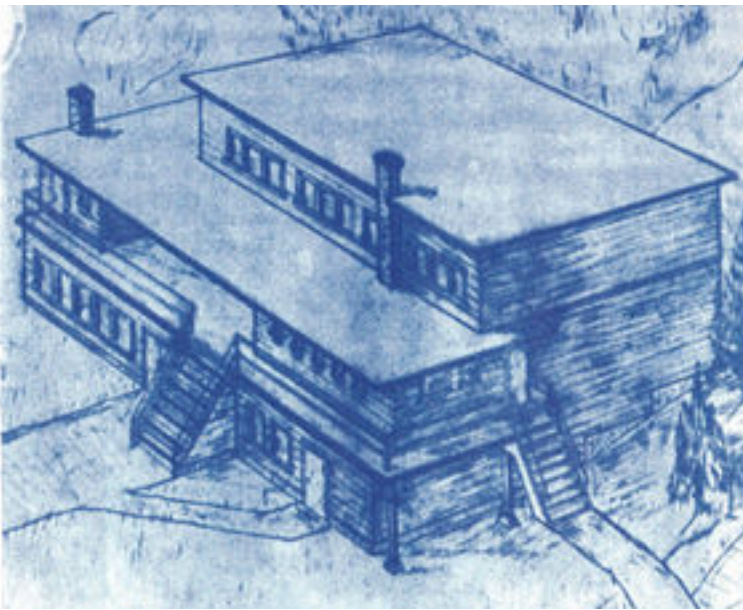


Photo courtesy of the Alberni Valley Archives from the cover of the 1954 Sproat Lake Regatta Souvenir Program cover.

CONGRATULATIONS ON 70th ANNIVERSARY

Sproat Lake Community Association celebrated their 70th Anniversary commemorating the organization becoming a registered society. Then named the Sproat Lake Ratepayers' Association, the Sproat Lake Community Hall was constructed by community volunteers a few years later. The August 12, 2023 event hosted more than 250 happy community members enjoying a barbecue lunch cooked by our own Sproat Lake Volunteer Fire Department, live music and door prizes. Many thanks to the past and present SLCA Directors for your support to the community.

COMMUNITY PLANNING OPEN HOUSE & WORKSHOP

Help shape the future of your community! Join us on **Monday, October 23 from 4 pm to 7 pm at the Sproat Lake Community Hall** for an interactive open house and workshop to explore what you think your community should look like now and in the future. Tell us about your community values and interests, and discuss opportunities and challenges in Sproat Lake. Drop in at anytime between 4 and 7 pm to explore Community Planning information and participate in table discussions on different community topics. We want to hear from you! More

information and to stay connected, go to: www.acrd.bc.ca/communityplanning. Contact us at communityplanning@acrd.bc.ca or 250-720-2700.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK PLAN

The ACRD is developing an Active Transportation Network Plan for the Sproat Lake Area (ACRD Electoral Area "D"). This plan presents an opportunity to review the community's existing assets and identify priorities such as expanding the function of its trail network, linking population centres with services and amenities, and increasing its service potential to a greater number and diversity of users who wish to travel via active modes (walking, cycling, etc.) The project is underway and is expected to be completed by March 2024. You can find out more information or take the surveys by visiting www.letsconnectacrd.ca.

WEIR ON SPROAT RIVER

Sproat River weir steel plates have been concerning Sproat Lake property owners because they were not reinstated in the slots of the Catalyst weir at the Sproat River lake outlet this spring.

At a meeting of the Somass Fish Flows Committee on August 22, 2023, a determination was made as reported by Tim Hawkins: "Given the already low water level on Sproat Lake, installing weir plates at this time would make a minimal impact on lake level and draw down while negatively impacting migrating salmon coming into Sproat Lake through the Sproat River. In late August and September, sockeye salmon continue to migrate into the lake and coho salmon have begun migrating into the lake. These salmon depend on adequate flows in the river. Resident trout and juvenile steelhead trout live in the Sproat River and also depend on adequate flows in the river. It is understood that each of the three weir plates reduces the flow of the Sproat River by approximately one cubic meter/second. Installing even one plate at this time would harm fish in the Sproat River without meaningfully reducing lake draw down or increasing lake water levels as lake inflows from tributaries are presently very low.

Sproat Lake Community Newsletter - Summer/Fall 2023

Published by Penny Cote - Director for Sproat Lake - Electoral Area D

The present situation is a result of not installing the weir plates earlier in the spring/summer to prepare for potential drought conditions, likely due to site access issues that have now been resolved.

“The Somass Fish Flows Committee strongly recommends the installation of weir plates, when possible, at the start of the summer in following years, with gradual removal of plates as required to maintain adequate flows in the river as potential droughts extend. This should be possible in 2024. The purpose of the weir plates is for water storage in the lake, thus installation of plates must take place when water is in the lake to be stored.”

For more information, please contact Tim Hawkins at the West Coast Aquatics - tim@westcoastaquatic.ca.



SPROAT LAKE FIREFIGHTERS ASSIST WITH WILDFIRES

Sproat Lake Volunteer Fire Department (SLVFD) sent a truck and four members to help with the wildfires in West Kelowna this fire season. They worked 116 hours in eight days. It is very grueling and dirty work. It is also very difficult mentally to see homes destroyed by wildfire.

You may notice SLVFD has a new pickup truck and trailer added to the fleet. The pickup truck, also known as Duty Officer 42, will be used as a rapid response vehicle for medical first responder aid calls, help with traffic on motor vehicle incident calls on the highway, and as a Forestry Type 6 engine during wildfire season in our area. This truck will greatly improve our response time and our ability to access difficult areas the bigger trucks cannot. As for the trailer, it is equipped with forestry firefighting gear and structural protection equipment. This will allow the department to set up sprinklers in neighbourhoods that could be threatened by wildfire. This will give firefighters a great tool that they can deploy without having to wait for resources from outside of our region.

The SLVFD is ready and available to respond to the

residents of Sproat Lake. The SLVFD responded to 160 calls during 2022. Remember, if they can't find you, they can't help you. Minutes count when they are looking for address signs in the middle of the night. SLVFD is selling reflective address signs and home protection gutter mount sprinkler systems. See www.waspsfire.com for more information.

Please feel free to contact the fire department with any questions regarding FireSmart BC - 250-724-1777. Anyone interested in helping out our community and learning new skills, please contact Fire Chief Mike Cann at mcann@sproatlakefire.ca.

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR THE ACRD

Sort'nGo for organics, recycling, and garbage in electoral Areas of the Alberni Valley - Areas A (Bamfield), B (Beaufort), D (Sproat Lake), E (Beaver Creek), and F (Cherry Creek) - has some proposed changes.

The Alberni Valley and Bamfield Services Committee (AVB) reviewed the fees under the Alberni Valley Tipping Fee and Regulation to compare fees with costs for managing each waste stream (visit www.acrd.bc.ca/events/23-8-2023/ for full details).

The **PROPOSED CHANGES** to the regulation with considerations include sustainment of our solid waste systems for the region, maintaining solid waste assets, continued building of capital reserves for management of the landfill site, and keeping fees comparable with neighbouring regional districts.

Proposed changes include:

Solid Waste

- No change to the per tonne rate of \$140
- Changing the per bag rate to \$5 per bag with a \$5 minimum
- Increasing recreational vehicle fees from \$240 per tonne, with a \$300 minimum, to \$280 per tonne with a \$500 minimum

Recyclable Materials:

- No change to the commercial cardboard/mixed recycling rate of \$350/tonne
- Increasing Gypsum/Drywall from \$250 per tonne to \$260 per tonne
- Increasing clean wood waste from \$120 per tonne to \$130 per tonne
- New organics tipping fee for small self-hauled loads at \$5 per 20 L bucket, while the \$115/tonne rate remains unchanged
- Increasing residential branches from \$5 per load to \$10 per load
- Including commercial branches under land clearing

Sproat Lake Community Newsletter - Summer/Fall 2023

Published by Penny Cote - Director for Sproat Lake - Electoral Area D

debris (no change in rate)

- Grass and leaves now included in the organics category

Controlled Waste:

- No change to construction/demolition per tone rate of \$175
- Increase to medical facility waste from \$132 per tonne to \$150 per tonne
- New coastal clean-up waste rate of \$175/tonne to capture derelict ocean debris and ghost gear that cannot be recycled

Finally, as organics diversion is now available in the Alberni Valley, the surcharge of double the standard tipping fee will apply to regular solid waste loads containing recyclables, controlled waste, and organics.

Next Steps: The Regional Board will meet on Sept 27, 2023 to endorse these changes and amend the bylaw, which would not go into effect until January 1, 2024.

SMARTER BURNING, CLEANER LIVING

Rebates are available to eligible residents who remove their uncertified wood-burning appliance used for home heating and replace it with a cleaner fuel source. Formerly known as the Woodstove Exchange Program, the **Community Wood Smoke Reductions Program** offers options for households upgrading any woodstoves older than seven years (pre-2016) for cleaner burning fuel sources, like pellet stoves or electric heat pumps and save between \$1,000 to \$1,500.

Propane and natural gas appliances are no longer supported by this program. Exchange your old uncertified (pre-1994) for a new CSA-EPA emissions certified wood stove and save \$500.

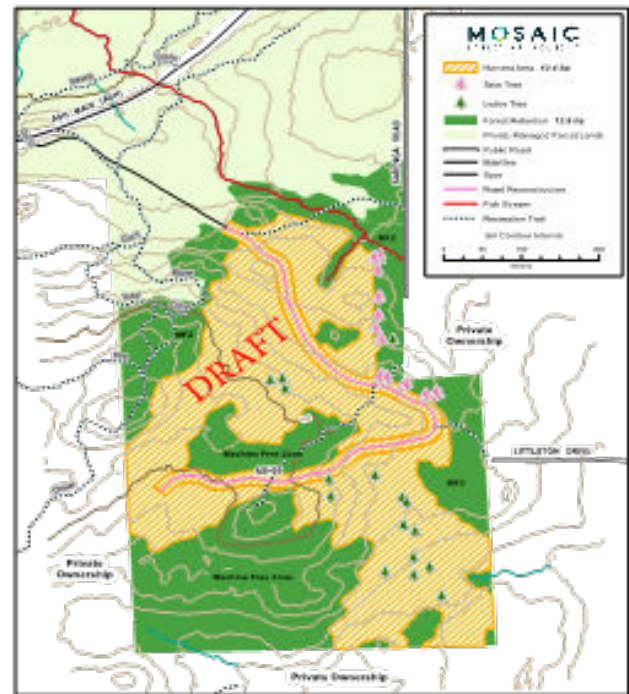
ACTIVE LIVING ON SPROAT

Sproat Lake parks and trails continue to provide active lifestyle opportunities to our community residents and visitors. If you have any questions or would like to join the SL Parks Commission, please email Joe Lamoureaux at joe@sandralamoureaux.com.

Sproat Lake Community Pickleball continues at the Sproat Lake Community Hall! There are a number of novice and competitive men's, ladies', and mixed groups. They played outdoors on the five pickleball courts this summer and continue to play indoors throughout the summer and winter months. For more information on how to join a group or make up a group of your own, call John Thorpe at 250-857-6832 or email to petinvolved@sproatlakecommunityassociation.com. They will help acquaint beginners with the rules and use of the hall.

IT'S TIME TO TEST YOUR WATER

The 2023 Fall Sproat Lake Community Group Water Testing for E.Coli and total coliform is scheduled for **Monday, October 24, 2023** at a discounted group rate of **\$80 per sample**. Water sample bottles from Bureau Veritas Laboratories are available, along with the requisition forms, at the ACRD office at 3008 Fifth Avenue, Monday to Friday 8 am - 4:30 pm. This has been a popular program offering the community the opportunity to test water filtration systems and lake sources, wells, etc. It is always advisable to treat or boil unfiltered raw water sources. The SLCA held group tests on March 27, 2023. Results from 15 tests were one positive test for E.coli and six tests clean of all bacteria. Some tests were submitted to check the performance of the filtration and others were to test for raw water results from lake and wells. These tests are a snapshot of the water at the time of the test. For further information on water testing, contact Penny Cote at 250-724-5040.



MOSAIC FOREST MANAGEMENT SUMMER UPDATE

Mosaic has been conducting early engagement regarding planned 2023 road re-construction and 2024 harvest activities (Sarenga Road/Littleton Road area). To date, engagement has occurred with the Sproat Lake Woodlands Society (consistent with our MOU and ongoing meetings) and adjacent neighbours (which has included field reviews). Adjustments to the block design have occurred based on input from that process.

Information has also been shared with the Area Director Penny Cote. The proposed harvest (above) is 100% second

Sproat Lake Community Newsletter - Summer/Fall 2023

Published by Penny Cote - Director for Sproat Lake - Electoral Area D

growth, includes various buffers, leave trees and internal/external retention (along trails, streams and roads).

Firewood permits will be available post operations for those from the community who are interested.

Road re-construction is currently scheduled for December and harvest activities will follow (avoiding the busy summer months). Mosaic will be continuing to receive feedback and engage with the community on these plans and will be offering field walks of the planned harvest area in early October. If you have any questions or would like to sign-up for a field walk in October (registration required), please contact Colin Koszman, Land Use Forester at Colin.Koszman@MosaicForests.com.



WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE LAKE

The **Clean Beaches, Clean Water** Sproat Lake Beach Clean-up is tentatively scheduled for **Sunday, September 24, 2023** - WEATHER PERMITTING.

- Sproat Lake Community Association is calling for VOLUNTEERS to help clean up targeted crown land beaches along Stirling Arm, Two Rivers Arm, and Taylor Arm.
- Please remember to wear weather-appropriate clothing and footwear and bring your work/rubber gloves, shovels, or rakes, etc.
- SLCA and the Fish and Duck Resort will provide garbage bags, maps, water, and a hot lunch.
- The sproatlakecommunityassociation.com website is the place to confirm the event date or for more info. If you want to volunteer but you need to arrange for boat transportation, call the Fish and Duck Pub at 250-724-4331.

- The support boats and houseboats will be near the mouth of Two Rivers Arm around 9:30 am for people to pick up garbage bags and head out to beaches to clean up.
- Kindly pre-register so the SLCA is aware of lunch numbers and where volunteers are cleaning beaches.
- 2022 was the last "Clean Beaches, Clean Water" community event sponsored by the Fish and Duck with local volunteers keeping our environment healthy.

Don't forget to put away your toys and remove debris from your beaches before the high water comes. Clean water is everyone's responsibility.

Thank you to those community heroes already doing beach clean-up all year on your own! Your efforts are appreciated.

Garbage and abandoned wharves are all of our concern. If you are replacing an old wharf please ACT RESPONSIBLY! It is illegal to dispose of old wharves on Crown Land, and the Province may charge removal to the owner. Please have old wharves disposed of in an environmentally safe and sensitive manner.

Report illegal Poachers and Polluters by calling 1-877-952-7277 (RAPP), Cellular #7277, or report violation online at the Ministry of Environment Conservation Officer Service Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) website.

Thank you for your consideration of our water protection. Be kind to your neighbours next door and across the lake. Did you realize that sound and light pollution are some of the biggest complaints?

This summer, the Sproat Lake Community Association launched a new website. This online hub is designed to be your go-to resource for all things related to our vibrant community. Explore the latest news, discover upcoming events, and access valuable resources. The website's primary goal is to foster community engagement, enhance communication, and provide a central platform where you can stay informed about the happenings in and around Sproat Lake.

To ensure you never miss an update or event, you are encouraged to subscribe to their news and updates. By doing so, you'll receive important announcements, regular updates, and exclusive content delivered directly to your inbox. It's a great way to stay connected and be an active part of our community's growth and shared journey towards a stronger, more connected community.

To subscribe visit www.sproatlakecommunityassociation.com and click on the "Subscribe" button in the top right corner of the page.