



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

Sproat Lake Newsletter

Sproat Lake Community Newsletter - Winter 2024

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

Sproat Lake Community Association's AGM

The SLCA Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 26, 2024, at 7 pm, in person at the Sproat Lake Community Hall (9346 Bomber Base Rd.).

The SLCA AGM agenda is included on the back page of this publication. The SLCA AGM includes presentations on the ACRD Draft 2024-2028 budget, ACRD planning and development, Sproat Lake Parks, Alberni Valley Community Forest, and Mosaic Forest activities update. SLCA projects will be reviewed as well as resolutions presented to refresh the Constitution.

As our community continues to grow and evolve, so does the need for dedicated individuals who are passionate about shaping the future. Now, more than ever, we are seeking community leaders to join our Board of Directors and make a lasting impact.

SLCA Director Elections will be held for SLCA President, First and Second Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and seven Directors-at-Large, during the SLCA AGM on Monday, February 26, 2024.

SLCA Director Nomination forms for SLCA Director, responsibilities and election process can be found at www.sproatlakecommunityassociation.com. Completed nomination forms must be sent to the Nominating Committee c/o email address sproat@sproatlakecommunityassociation.com or dropped to the ACRD office, addressed to the "SLCA Nominating Committee Chair," by Friday, February 23, 2023. There will also be nominations from the floor.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

ACRD and ACRDHD 2024-2028 Annual Budgets

The ACRD and ACRHD (Health District) for 2024-2028, which follows the ACRD Strategic Plan and targets respecting



the future and operations of the Regional District, will be presented at the SLCA AGM Monday, February 26, 2024.

The ACRD and ACRHD 2024 -2028 draft Financial Plan is available on the ACRD website at www.acrd.bc.ca. Alternatively, you can call the ACRD at 250-720-2700 for further information. ACRD Financial Plan Public Consultation is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 1:30 pm via Zoom or in the ACRD Board meeting.

Sproat Lake Official Community Plan Update

On January 24, 2024, the ACRD Board of Directors approved the Official Community Plan updates – work plan and community engagement strategy. The Board resolved that the ACRD proceed with comprehensive updates to Electoral Area Official Community Plans (two per year) in the following order:

1. South Long Beach and Sproat Lake,
2. Beaver Creek and Beaufort,
3. Bamfield and Cherry Creek.

The desired outcome is to hire a consultant to lead community engagement and work with the ACRD to update the OCP in the 2024 work plan.

With the Sproat Lake community so engaged with the Zoning Bylaw and OCP review, it is your opportunity to provide comments on the vision for our community plan and bylaws.

More information: www.acrd.bc.ca.

BC Housing Report and Short-term Rentals

The ACRD requires Temporary Use Permits (TUPs) to operate short-term vacation rentals on residential properties in the ACRD.

The ACRD electoral areas, including Sproat Lake, are exempted from the new BC Short-Term Rental Accommodation legislation. Zoning Bylaw updates are still being identified around secondary suites and accessory dwellings on smaller than one-acre parcels. Environmental and servicing factors, as well as legislative requirements, must be considered as part of any zoning updates.

The ACRD's Bylaw Enforcement Policy creates the framework for the enforcement process and the Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw authorizes a ticketing process for Zoning Bylaw infractions. Please call the ACRD for more information or visit the ACRD website at www.acrd.bc.ca/bylawenforcement.

Sproat Lake Community Newsletter - Winter 2024

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

Sproat Lake Volunteer Fire Department (SLVFD)



SLVFD members completed a combined 5,000 hours of training over the last year assuring our fire department is meeting all requirements for personal and community safety. All members train on Tuesday nights, as well, the newer recruits train together on Thursdays.

Our SLVFD duty crews are available at the Harold Bishop Fire Hall on Saturdays, covering maintenance and extra training. In the spring of 2024, Sproat Lake will be retiring the oldest fire truck receiving a new tender fire truck that will have a 25% bigger capacity.

SLVFD was successful in receiving a Community Futures grant this year, providing them funds to add more forestry firefighting equipment to its trailer for rapid response to wildland fires in our area. 2023 BC saw devastating wildfires around BC. The Alberni Valley volunteer fire departments deployed firefighters to support at the Kelowna interface fire, four members from Sproat Lake, alongside the members from Beaver Creek and Cherry Creek Volunteer Fire Departments, helped save many homes last summer. Much heart felt gratitude is coming from that community as well as our own community thanking our local heroes. It is with the support of all our valley fire departments that we can appreciate the automatic aid from our neighbours in times of need. Through our SLVFD fire protection we get reduced insurance premiums on our home insurance. Call the SLVFD for more information.

The need of new members in all areas, especially the Lakeshore Road area, is increasing. Please, if you're interested in becoming a volunteer stop by one of our halls on a Tuesday night. SLVFD recruitment is ongoing for anyone interested in helping the community and learning new skills. Contact your fire department for more information by email at mcann@acrd.bc.ca.

Be sure address signs are visible. For information or to purchase a reflective address sign please contact them at 250-724-1777 and leave a message or send an email to officeadmin@sproatlakefire.ca. Remember, if they can't find you, they can't help!!

FireSmart Home Program Comes to Region

The ACRD is launching the FireSmart Home Partners

Program. It is designed to engage homeowners in voluntary wildfire mitigation activities by offering a free professional home assessment with property-specific recommendations in an effort to mitigate the impacts of wildfire risks to homes.

The FireSmart Home Partners Program is a collaboration between FireSmart Canada, FireSmart BC, provincial government, local governments, indigenous communities, the private sector and homeowners in Canada. The assessment process evaluates the exterior of the home and property for wildfire exposure, identifying mitigation actions unique to the property. Upon completion of the recommended mitigation action and successful follow-up site review, property owners can receive a FireSmart Certificate to share with insurance providers for incentives or discounts.

The ACRD, through its current grant funding, continues to offer the FireSmart program in 2024 until March 2025. If approved, residents will be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 in rebate to assist with completing FireSmart recommendations provided by the Local FireSmart Assessor. Please remember to take advantage of the Curbside Pickup of pruning waste offered to residents located in the Sproat Lake, Beaver Creek, Cherry Creek and Beaufort Electoral Areas as well as City of Port Alberni, Tseshaht First Nation and Hupacasath First Nation.

For more information, stay tuned to the Alberni Valley Emergency Program Facebook page (www.facebook.com/AVEmergencyprogram) or contact the FireSmart Program at firesmart@acrd.bc.ca or call 250.720.2700.

Flood and Drought Management in our Lakes

Sproat Lake and Great Central Lake flood/drought management is an issue for many lake residents who reported the level of Sproat Lake and Great Central Lake hit record level highs and lows.

The Somass Fish Flow Committee is discussing the need to coordinate the management of lake and river levels with involvement from all levels of government, First Nations, fisheries, private landowners, and Paper Excellence. Meetings are ongoing and updates will be provided as plans are identified. The Somass Watershed Flood Management Plan (SWFMP) report and maps are considered in this review and are on the ACRD website at www.acrd.bc.ca/flood-mapping. The SWFMP provides critical information respecting options for applying the 200-year flood plain maps in the electoral areas. Drought is not identified in this report or other management options.

Improving and Renovating SL Community Hall

Sproat Lake Community Hall renovations and improvements to the interior, exterior, and outdoor courts have modernized

Sproat Lake Community Newsletter - Winter 2024

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

this community jewel with the support from the Community Works Funds (CWF) Grant provided by UBCM and the Province through the ACRD. The www.sproatlakecommunityassociation.com website has all the updates and information to keep local residents up to date on community events on the community calendar.

Recent changes are in effect to hall security and the use of our courts and reservation calendar by players from outside of our community. With more and more people using the pickleball courts and accessing the hall, it has become necessary to implement some changes that will enhance security and streamline our growing pickleball program for a more organized and seamless pickleball experience for all.

We're Here to Help. We're enthusiastic about these enhancements to our pickleball program, especially as our pickleball community continues to grow. We understand that change may prompt questions, and we appreciate your cooperation and support as we navigate these enhancements together. In case you require assistance, Tamara Thorpe, our Community Engagement Co-ordinator, will be available to assist with registration and the new calendar, at the hall, on February 8, 7 to 8 pm, and on February 17, 11 am to 12 pm. In the meantime, should you have any questions or need clarification, please feel free to reach out to us at pickleball@sproatlakecommunityassociation.com. We thank you for your ongoing support and understanding!

Sproat Lake Parks Commission

The Commission had a busy year working on improvements at Cougar Smith Park, completing remediation work addressing the erosion issue at the Northeast corner of the basketball court and the drainage at the bottom of the fill that leads to the upper ball field. The water line that services the bike skills park is now buried.

Plans for 2024 for the SL Parks include the Cougar Smith bathroom renovation, which includes new lighting on the outside, and addressing deficiencies on the tennis courts, which were approved in 2023 but could not secure the contractors until 2024. At Dickson Park, the ACRD is working with local First Nation regarding the signage that will be put up this summer. Lakeshore Trail has completed the required fencing along the highway. Our trails continue to be very well used by the community. There is a transportation plan (details below) ongoing to identify future trail systems at Sproat Lake.

The SL Parks have identified Lot 950 at the end of Taylor Arm Drive and the beach area at Dickson Park as future projects. This year project include finishing the Faber trail to Cougar Smith Park pending budget restraints. If you are interested in volunteering for the SL Parks Commission, please call Joe Lamoureux, SL Parks Chair, at 250-723-3001 or 250-724-4663 or [email joe@albernihometeam.com](mailto:joe@albernihometeam.com).



Sproat Lake Active Transportation Project Update

The ACRD is in the process of developing an Active Transportation Network Plan for Sproat Lake.

The ACRD owns and maintains 6.35 km of public pathway within the Sproat Lake Electoral Area. Most recently the Lakeshore trail was extended to the three-way stop at the Sproat Lake Landing Resort, and the next identified priority is to extend the Faber Trail to connect with Cougar Smith Park.

Through the development of this plan, we will identify further community priorities, opportunities, and challenges for the future of the trail network and Active Transportation within the Sproat Lake Electoral Area.

So far, a baseline condition review of the existing network in Sproat Lake, as well as the first round of public consultation and interviews with key community partners, have been completed.

Sincere thank you to EVERYONE who has participated. Please visit www.letsconnectacr.ca to review the 'Baseline Conditions Report' as well as the 'What We Heard Report.'

There will be further opportunities in the coming months to have your voice heard as well as provide your feedback on the draft plan.

For more information on this project and to say informed on upcoming engagement opportunities, please visit www.letsconnectacr.ca

Alberni Valley Community Forest Corporation (AVCFC)

The AVCFC completed harvesting operations near the Sproat Lake Fire Lookout. All the trails to the lookout and all the Teodoro trail networks are now open to the public again.

The wood was utilized down to three-inch tops so there will not be much of a firewood opportunity in this area. AVCFC plans to open Friesen Main up for firewood this spring as there

Sproat Lake Community Newsletter - Winter 2024

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

is still some firewood opportunities on that road.

There was a small rockslide at Sutton Pass, Taylor 568, the road that leads up to the Mount Adder trail. A couple of very large boulders broke off of a cliff face and tumbled down the hill and then blocked the road. A terrain stability assessment determined that there was still some potential unstable material on the rock cliff above the road.

The recommendation was to wait until spring to remove the boulders from the road when there was less chance of instability due to rain, freeze, and thaw events. Warning signs have been posted on the road.

AVCFC will be having an open house to the public late in February or early March at the airport office. The open house will be to discuss the operations in the Community Forest and to review the Forest Stewardship Plan, which is open to the public for comment.

Mosaic Forest Management Update

Mosaic continues to engage with the Sproat Lake Woodlands Society and the community. The Ash 50m woodlot block harvest is complete, and Mosaic has

graciously provided firewood permits to Sproat Lake residents until mid-February. Many thanks to Mosaic for authorizing ACRD Director Penny Cote (pcote@acrd.bc.ca) to issue firewood permits to residents. Please reach out to Colin Koszman, Land Use Forester at Colin.Koszman@mosaicforests.com should you have any questions.



SPROAT LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

Monday, February 26, 2024 at 7 pm

Sproat Lake Community Hall, 9346 Bomber Base Rd.

Welcome to all residents of the Sproat Lake Area

Agenda:

Call to Order:

Adoption of the Agenda:

Minutes of the Feb 27, 2023 AGM:

Treasurers Report: Rene Lacousiere

Delegate, Petitions & Presentations:

- Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Draft Financial Plan 2024 -2028: Teri Fong
- Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Planning & Development: Mike Irg
- Mosaic Forest Activities Update: Colin Koszman
- Sproat Lake Volunteer Fire Department update: Chief Mike Cann
- Sproat Lake Parks & Trail Commission update: Joe Lamoureux
- Sproat Lake Area D Report: Penny Cote

SLCA Report: Nancy Harvey

- Website
- Hall projects
- Court Project
- Hall access changes & Pickleball registration
- Open House Aug 2023

New Business:

Resolutions:

Background: The Constitution has not been updated from its original statement and does not adequately reflect the past and current activity of the Association.

A) Motion to change/add to the SLCA Constitution, paragraph 2) as follows:

Current:

1. The name of the Society is "Sproat Lake Community Association"
2. The objects of the Society are:
 - a) To acquire, operate, and maintain premises for community purposes; to encourage and foster the growth of community spirit in the Sproat Lake area; to provide social, recreational, and athletic facilities for the enjoyment of its members; to acquire and hold licenses, franchises, real and personal property; and to

do all things necessary or incidental to the foregoing.

3. The operations of the Society are to be chiefly carried on at or near Sproat Lake, Alberni District, in the Province of BC.

Revised:

The objects of the Society are:

- a) To acquire, operate, and maintain premises for community purposes; to encourage and foster the growth of community spirit in the Sproat Lake area; to provide social, recreational, and athletic facilities for the enjoyment of its members; to acquire and hold licenses, franchises, real and personal property; and to do things necessary or incidental to the foregoing.
- b) To promote or engage in the preservation, enhancement, and management of Sproat Lake and its surrounding area, including raising environmental concerns; promoting conservation efforts; and organizing community initiatives to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the lake ecosystem and our drinking water, as well as supporting broader community needs.

Moved by:

B) Motion to revise the Board of Director's (BoD) membership from:

- President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer & 7 Directors, one of which is Past President

To:

- President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer & 8 Directors, one of which may be Past President and one of which may be Community Engagement

Background: The BoD membership change above was previously approved via Resolution, but unfortunately not documented via the Society's Act. The inclusion of a Community Engagement position meets the goal to 'foster the growth of community spirit'.

Moved by:

Elections of Sproat Lake Community Association Board of Directors:

Nancy Harvey

Note: the elected positions this year must follow the membership registered with the Society's act.

President, Secretary, First Vice-President, Treasurer, Second Vice-President, Directors (7)

Old Business:

Adjournment: