

SEASHELL ECHO

NOVEMBER 2020

SECHELT SENIORS ACTIVITY CENTRE NEWS

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It's All About The Numbers

BY CHRIS KANE

Welcome to November, more than seven months into a health emergency that continues to give us little hope of returning to what once was normal. Trying to predict the future is like guessing the winning lottery numbers.

Your board constantly reviews options and determines the best course of action to clear the next hurdle. For example, near the end of September, it was determined that the expense of keeping a rentals and activities coordinator on contract during this period of limited activity was not an effective use of already stretched resources. Following the concurrent decision by our volunteer treasurer to resign, the determination was made that those funds would be more effectively spent on managing our accounting practices. As a result, we are stick handling the rentals and activities between a few volunteer directors, and our bookkeeping has been contracted out on an interim basis.

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It's All About . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Even though a lack of fundraising and the scarcity of activities have impacted our finances, the food program continues to be successful, and the rental to Elections BC has bolstered our reserves considerably. Now that EBC has vacated, we are eagerly anticipating the sound of pickleball in the auditorium and the resumption of additional activities throughout the centre. We invite all members to participate in those activities that we can find a safe way of facilitating. We also encourage members to volunteer if you feel comfortable doing so. By making yourself known at this time, you will assist us in determining the feasibility of renewing a number of operations.

*Your board is very appreciative
of your patience and tolerance
of all the interruptions in service
you have endured during
these past months.*

We currently have 1,200 members, down only slightly from 2019. We intend to modify our annual membership structure to reflect the anniversary date of each individual application for membership or renewal. So, if you become a member (or renew your membership) on February 2, 2021, your membership would extend to February 1, 2022. In this way, your membership will be valid for a year from purchase, regardless of the start date. This procedure will also serve to spread out our revenue through a greater part of the year and eventually, there will not be a rush of new memberships and renewals for volunteers to manage each January.



Our next board of directors meeting will be held on Tuesday November 10, at 10 am in the auditorium. We invite you to attend this board meeting as we will be hosting a question and answer session with members immediately following the business of the meeting. Reservations are required and will be accepted for 24 members only, to maintain social distancing. To reserve your spot, please make your request by e-mail to communications@secheltactivitycentre.com and include your contact information (Name, Member #, Phone Number). Additional Q&A sessions following future board meetings may be scheduled, based on demand.

It bears repeating that your board is very appreciative of your patience and tolerance of all the interruptions in service you have endured during these past months. It is our sincerest hope that we can return the centre to being the hub of activity for which it previously was so cherished.

Tidbits

With Our Thanks

The SSAC wish to acknowledge and sincerely thank loyal members Sylvia Graber, Gillian Smith and Christine O'Brennen for their contribution and support to our center over the past years. Their dedication and years of service has been greatly appreciated.



Call For Volunteers

Now that the SSAC is moving forward to reopen activities where possible, we are looking for volunteers to fulfill many roles. If you wish to apply to volunteer, please email ssac@dccnet.com. The subject line should read: Volunteer inquiry.

Nominations for Life Memberships

If you wish to recommend a sterling member who you feel deserves to receive Life Membership, please submit their name by January 21, 2021. Kindly send your email submission to: ssac@dccnet.com

Please mark the subject line: Nominations for Life

Solar Power Data

October 1-30, 2020



Energy Produced (kWh)



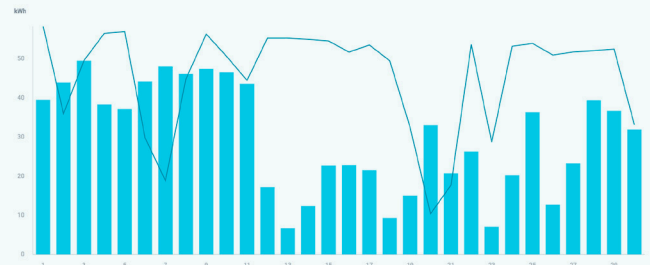
Currency Equivalent



Trees Saved

Past Performance

August 2020 | September 2020



Line Graph: August 2020

1.4^{MWh} = \$176 = 26 trees

Bar Graph: September 2020

873^{kWh} = \$109 = 16 trees

For current information, please visit our website at secheltactivitycentre.com.

The SSCA: Sunshine Coast Headquarters During the 2020 Snap Election

BY BEV COXFORD

On September 21, 2020 a snap election was called by the NDP's leader John Horgan, and for the Sunshine Coast, the SSAC became the Elections BC Headquarters. Led by Wendy Lee, Deputy District Electoral Officer and her team of 8 staff members, an action plan was put into place. As the SSAC was being prepared for the arrival of all of the supplies for the election, the SSAC was quickly transformed from a Community Center to the main operations center. Trucks arrived with boxes and boxes of supplies, and the staff members began the large task of setting up operations for all of the many duties of implementing the election "role out plan." Within a week, over 188 people were hired to fill a variety of roles that included staffing for 10 voting places, including the 3 advance voting poles in Sechelt, Gibsons and Pender Harbour. Wendy credits Elections BC with their efforts to "pre-plan" for the impending snap election, and their valiant efforts made to execute the whole election based on very short notice. "Elections BC could not rent election office space ahead of time, but they went out to pre-prepare, and scout out rental accommodation in the event the snap election was called, which worked out to be a positive strategy." In addition to all of the regular tasks that were fulfilled, Covid pandemic requirements were in place which required an entirely new set of plans with stringent guidelines, supplies, and information that needed to be implemented.



They ensured that all the supplies and rules adhered to the rules within the guidelines of WorkSafe BC and the BC Provincial Health Care. As with any election, the many challenges that were faced by staff and voters were numerous, but fortunately the voters were very patient and respectful of the protocol implemented through Covid. Additionally, at the Sechelt Center headquarters, there was unforeseeable construction throughout the entire election which had the many voters diverting their routes to get to the center.

On behalf of Elections BC, Wendy and her staff, she would like to thank the Sunshine Coast Community, the SSAC for their use of the facility and all of the citizens who came out to vote. It is with our sincere appreciation and our gratitude that we were able to successfully run this snap election and it is all thanks to you and countless number of workers that made the outcome so positive. The election counts were not finalized on October 24, because mail-in ballots are not counted until 13 days after the election. This year's election saw an unprecedented number of mail in ballots because of Covid. The many thousands of mail-in ballots have been sent off to Victoria for the final count and the updated result information will be announced shortly after November 4, 2020.

Elections BC have kindly contributed PPE supplies to the SSAC in appreciation for their use of the community center.

The SSAC is now operational as Elections BC finalizes the large task of packing up their supplies. The SSAC is reopened again and we thank our members for their patience, and look forward to seeing you back once again. our members back and look forward to resuming many popular activities once again.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency	911
Sechelt Hospital	604.885.2224
Sunshine Coast Community Services	604.885.5881
Senior's Advocate (www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca)	877.952.3181
Community Information and Help Line	211
Healthlink BC	811
Community Resource Centre	604.885.4088
Sunshine Coast Transit	604.885.6899
HandyDART	604.885.6897

CENTRE INFORMATION

Executive 2020-2021

President	Chris Kane
Vice President	Ken White
Treasurer	Vacant
Secretary	Mary Bittroff

Directors at Large 2020-2021

Kit Artus	Marni Mulloy
Margaret Boyd	Tony Stoud
Bev Coxford	

All directors may be reached by email at communications@secheltactivitycentre.com. Please indicate to which director you would like the email sent.

Custodian	Jim Coffin
Chef	Emily McPherson

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Outlook

Financial Ups & Downs



BY BEV COXFORD

The Elections BC rental has provided a financial boost that essentially reverses losses from the forced closure due to COVID-19. Revenue of over \$40,000 for six weeks of “displacement” has lifted us from a precarious financial position and will allow us to continue operations well into 2021 – and assist in meeting our financial goals moving forward.

Meanwhile, unforeseen expenses have arisen. Most recently, the heating system has been “acting up” and may require a costly repair. Coast Climate Control has been on site at least 4 times in the past 2 weeks trying to keep the kitchen’s air handling unit functioning. The prognosis is grim, as the unit is over 21 years old and parts are no longer available. Diagnostics continue and we are hoping not to be hit with too large a bill once a remedy is determined.

On the “up-side”, the solar panel installation continues to pay dividends – even in these colder days of late autumn. While the \$55 saved in October doesn’t sound like much, it has raised the savings close to \$1,000 since installation was complete in March, and by year’s end, it looks like total savings on this account will amount to more than \$1,100 . . . or the equivalent of one month’s usage prior to COVID. (Keep hoping for sunshine)!

With the November re-start, we are anticipating an increase in revenue moving forward, and are hopeful that by early 2021, we can be back to operating at a break-even pace.

Have Your Say

November 10, 2020

SSAC Auditorium - 1:30 PM

On November 10, the Board of Directors will hold their regular monthly meeting at the Centre. Immediately following (1:30 pm), we invite you to an open forum in the auditorium. Questions will be fielded by board members, and suggestions accepted on a number of fronts. Unfortunately, we cannot swing wide the doors and have you all come. Full COVID-19 protocols will be enforced, and dictate that we can only have 40 people in the auditorium, so we need you to pre-register for this opportunity. Please e-mail us at communications@secheltactivitycentre.com so we can save you a seat!



Q&A

The SSAC is officially re-opening on Monday, November 2. Here are some frequently asked questions and answers.

Q: When can members renew their memberships?

A: Starting Monday, November 2, you may renew your membership for one year. Membership fees are \$30 and will be effective from the time of purchase up to one year. Members can drop by the office from 11 am to 2 pm to pick up their cards.

Q: Will “dine -in” at the SSAC resume?

A: No, unfortunately not for now while we are still in a pandemic.

Q: Will there be the annual Christmas Lunch?

A: No unfortunately not this year, however the SSAC is considering possible options to be able to provide take-out Christmas lunches. Stay tuned.

Q: Who is in charge of activities?

A: Please call the center Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday between 11 am and 2 pm and ask any questions you would like answered.

Q: Who do we contact for Rental Info?

A: Please send all inquiries to ssac@dccnet.com with the subject: Attention - Rentals

SSAC HAS A NEW FLAG!



Many thanks to
Weldon Congdon

lest we forget



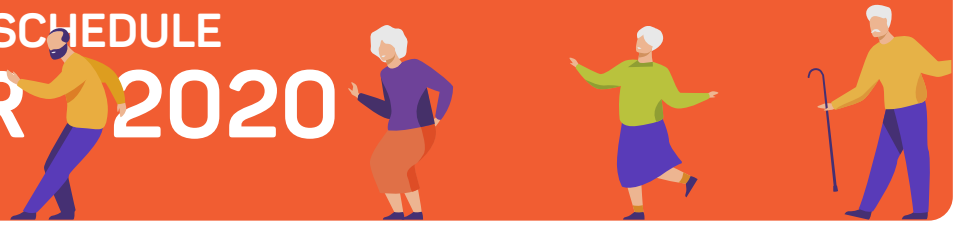
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Laurence Binyon, "Ode of Remembrance"

**YOU ARE BRAVER
THAN YOU BELIEVE,
AND STRONGER
THAN YOU SEEM,
AND SMARTER THAN
YOU THINK**

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

SSAC ACTIVITY SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 2020



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
PICKLEBALL 7:30-9:15am				PICKLEBALL 7:30-9:15am		
YOGA w/ JOHN 9:30-10:30am		YOGA w/ JOHN 9:30-10:30am	YOGA w/ JOHN 9:30-10:30am	CHAIR YOGA 9:30-10:30pm		
LINE DANCING 11:30am-12:30pm	QI GONG w/ SUSAN FLETCHER 10:30-11:30pm	PICKLEBALL 11:00-12:45pm	MOBILITY w/ LORI 12:00-1:00pm	LINE DANCING 11:30am-12:30pm		
		QUILTERS 11:00-2:00pm Lunch Room				
CARPET BOWLING 1:00-3:00pm	PICKLEBALL 1:00-2:45pm	PICKLEBALL 1:00-2:45pm	CHAIR YOGA 1:30-2:30pm	PICKLEBALL 1:00-2:45pm	PICKLEBALL 1:00-2:45pm	
UKULELE w/ MARK TRAVIS 3:30-5:00pm	PICKLEBALL 3:00-4:45pm	PICKLEBALL 3:00-4:45pm	PICKLEBALL 3:00-4:45pm	PICKLEBALL 3:00-4:45pm	PICKLEBALL 3:00-4:45pm	PICKLEBALL 3:00-4:45pm
PICKLEBALL 6:00-7:45pm	TABLE TENNIS 7:00-9:00pm	PICKLEBALL 5:00-6:45pm	PICKLEBALL 5:00-6:45pm	PICKLEBALL 5:00-6:45pm	PICKLEBALL 5:00-6:45pm	PICKLEBALL 5:00-6:45pm

All activities are in the auditorium (lunch room for Quilters). Please bring your own water and follow the **Covid Safety Protocols** for your session. Hand sanitizer and sign-in sheets are in the entrance at the back of the building. Please enter one person at a time. Your phone number is required on the sign-in sheet for contact tracing purposes.

ACTIVITY	START DATE
Yoga w/ John	November 4
Line Dancing	November 2
Pickleball	November 2
Carpet Bowling	November 16
Table Tennis	November 3
Mobility w/ Lori	November 12
Chair Yoga	November 4
Qi Gong w/ Susan Fletcher	November 10
Quilters	November 4
Ukulele w/ Mark Trevis	November 16