

SEASHELL ECHO

DECEMBER 2020

SECHLT SENIORS ACTIVITY CENTRE NEWS

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Season's Greetings & Thoughts

BY CHRIS KANE

Well, it's that time of year again. When we can reflect and try to say something positive about 2020. This year, stay up on New Years even if only to make sure the last one leaves.

Some people say Christmas is for children. Well, bah humbug to that! Life starts out with everyone clapping when you poo and it goes downhill from there. When little, we could run around naked without a diaper—try it now and you'll need bail money.

We know that having kids is like having little broke friends that think you're rich. Children are like pancakes—the first one is always a bit weird.

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Season's Greetings . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Waking up on Christmas morning I wonder about people who wear pajamas in public. Have they given up hope or are they living life to the fullest? Some of you will enjoy a wonderful breakfast with loved ones. Consider that bacon can't solve all of our problems. That's why we have tequila. When it comes to Christmas dinner, remember this. Eating off somebody else's plate is okay, it's their calories, so they don't count. During the holidays, what will grow faster, my debt or waist?

For NFL enthusiasts, Minnesota at New Orleans should keep you occupied on Christmas Day. Meanwhile, I'll be looking for a wine that pairs well with pretending to like football.



As we look forward to the New Year, resolutions make a guest appearance. If I diet, I expect the results will be instant, dramatic and spectacular. Wish I could drop my body off at the gym and pick it back up when it's ready. I tried yoga but it kept turning into a nap. To our spouses, I want someone I can share my entire life with who will leave me alone most of the time.

About getting old, one moment you're young & carefree, next minute you can feel the rain coming in your knee. I'm at that delusional age where everyone my age looks way older than I do. You're only young once but you can stay immature forever. Lying about my age is easier now that I'm having trouble remembering it. You know you're old when you go to bed at the time you use to go out. Do you know how weird it is being the same age as old people?

Finally, take care of yourself—spare parts for older models could be out of stock.

Merry Christmas, everyone!



Some other celebrations around this time of year:

- Bodhi Day (Buddhism)
- Pancha Ganapati (Hindu)
- HumanLight (Humanism)
- Hanukkah (Judaism)
- Yalda (Paganism)
- Kwanzaa (Pan-African)
- Chalica (Unitarian Universalism)
- Sadeh (Persian)
- Malanka (Slavic)
- Holiday (Pastafarian) . . . they also celebrate "Pastover" and "Ramendan"

Tidbits

One step forward – two steps back. Unbelievable!

Just as enthusiasm was beginning to build with many of you re-entering the Centre to enjoy your favourite activity, we were forced to once again, on November 9, close our doors for all activities. Coming on the heels of the Elections BC closure, and the Air Quality closure and the initial pandemic closure this one was particularly hard to stomach.

It seems that every time we are able to take a step forward, we are forced to take a couple of steps backward.

Initially it was hoped this closure would be limited to the 2-week public health order that precipitated it, but that order was extended and limitations were added to the “shutdown” by Dr. Henry that prevented re-opening prior to the end of November.

Thankfully, Emily’s meals remain . . . aaahhhh!
Be grateful for the small things, because the big ones are increasingly rare and far between.

Call For Volunteers

Now that the SSAC is looking forward in 2021 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**.



Christmas is a necessity.
There has to be at least one day of the year to remind us that we're here for something else besides ourselves.

ERIC SEVEREID



THE SMELLS
OF CHRISTMAS
are THE
SMELLS OF
CHILDHOOD.

RICHARD PAUL EVANS

And Now The Good News!

As a result of the multiple closures this year, and in an effort to reduce the workload for volunteers in December and January, we are changing the way we handle memberships at the Centre.

No longer will your membership be tied to the calendar year.

Starting with June 1, 2020, the date you purchased your membership will be used as your renewal date. For example, if you bought your membership June 7, 2020, it will now expire June 6, 2021.

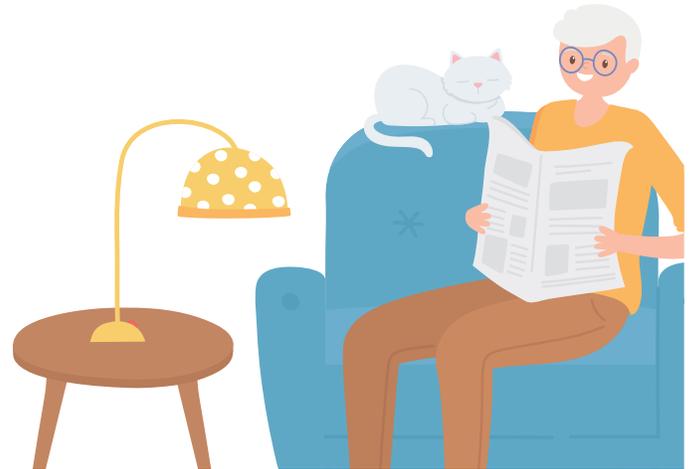
As the blue cards expire this December 31st, you will need to exchange your card for a new one. The new card will have your June 6th expiry date and you will not be charged until you renew next June.

If you purchased your membership before June 1, 2020, your renewal process is the same as it's always been. You have paid until December 31st.

If you renew before then, your new card will cost \$30 and it will expire December 31, 2021. If you are not using the Centre and choose to renew later in 2021, the expiry date will be one year after the purchase date.

Part of the reason for doing this is as stated above, to reduce the load on volunteers in December and January—but the other reason is to compensate members for the loss of use of the Centre for much of the year and to reward them for their continued loyalty.

If you provided the Centre with an email address when you registered, you will be contacted prior to the expiry of your membership—letting you know it's time to renew. If you choose to, you can



wait until you receive that notification, but if you prefer, you can renew at any time prior to that, and your membership renewal period will start on your established renewal date. Hmmmm. That sounds more complicated.

Here's another go at explaining it:

If you bought/renewed in April 2020, you can pay for your renewal any time prior to April 2021 and your membership will then extend until April 2022.

A small benefit of this change is that you will now have a “permanent” membership number. One less thing that changes . . . once you've memorized your number . . . as long as you renew on time . . . you keep your number! It's like a password no-one demands you change, or tells you isn't “strong” enough. And, it's probably less likely to be the source of identity theft than any of the other numbers and passwords you are required to maintain in order to be human in today's society.

We are extremely grateful to our membership who have been so patient with us during extended and intermittent closures this year, and this is one way we are saying thank you. We are also pleased that we won't be raising membership fees for 2021.

SOLAR POWER DATA - 2020

	August	September	October	November
Energy Produced (kWh)	1,400	899	506	267
Currency Equivalent	\$176	\$112	\$62	\$33
Trees Saved	26	16	9	5

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

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	Vacant

Directors at Large 2020-2021

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

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Centre will be closed from **Monday December 21st thru Friday December 24th**, inclusive. Further, the Centre will be closed on **Friday January 1st**. There will be no food service or office hours attended.

OUR SPONSORS





Feeling Bored? Get **On Board!**

To paraphrase the words of HRH QE2, “2020 . . . annus horribilus.”

We’re pretty sure the Board of Directors who navigated through the renovation of 2018 figured that would be the most difficult year to be a director. Little did they know!

This year we’ve faced many challenges, and we’ve managed to get through without completely collapsing. The casualties, however, are mounting. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we’ve lost (or are losing) the following board members:

1. Maintenance Director – Fred Schembri

Fred stayed with us for the shortest period, but his input and help was very valuable during his tenure.

2. Past-President – Joanne Rykers

You knew her as president in 2019, and in 2020 she was serving as past-president, then she sold her house and moved to Vancouver Island.

3. Treasurer – Sylvia Graber

Sylvia had indomitably stickhandled her way through the books, but she has decided pass the job on to someone new.

4. Secretary – Mary Bittroff

After serving as secretary for several years, Mary will be moving to Comox the day after the AGM in February to be closer to her family.

5. Day Director – Kit Artus

After many years on the board and many more as a volunteer, Kit has decided to return to being a volunteer effective 2021. This last year Kit has directed her time to developing the policies and risk assessment processes to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. Kit says it is time to enjoy friends and still contribute to the Centre.

6. Day Director – Marni Mulloy

Marni has decided that she would like to take a step back. The extra work she has put in during the pandemic has been remarkable, and we will miss her as a director next year. Marni has said she intends to continue to volunteer with us.

7. Day Director – Christine O’Brennan

Christine, you may not know, was also in charge of managing the issuance and control of keys for the Centre. Chris decided in September she just couldn’t continue.

8. Director at Large – Margaret Boyd

Margaret has been a tireless director for many years. She has been involved with many committees such as volunteers, decorations and directed the interior design of the renovated Centre. She will be missed. Be safe Margaret, stay well and see you at reception!

That leaves just four members of your Board who have stuck it out and plan to run again in 2021. Chris Kane, president; Ken White, vice-president; together with Tony Stroud, and Bev Wickham, Day Directors.

So, we’re looking for a new batch of “volunteers” to help. The transition to full operation we anticipate occurring as we enter 2021 will need to be guided carefully and the talents and skills of our members will be drawn on heavily to do so successfully. If you think you have something to bring to the table, talk to one of the survivors of 2020, email us or even send us a note by snail mail to start the process and “get on board”. The Centre needs all the help we can get, and you may be just the right fit to fill a role in helping to guide this ship safely to port.

Thank you all for your patience and your words of appreciation—we hope to see you all soon.

Outlook

Occupancy Limits and Consumables Costs Lead to Rate Increases

Pickleball – our most popular physical activity at the Centre has had its ups and downs this year, and, aside from the multiple closures, among the most challenging has been reconciling the costs with the revenue during the pandemic.

Combined with reduced revenue because of occupancy limits, the cost of consumables has been increasing to the point that it is impossible for the Centre to continue to underwrite.

At the November Board of Directors meeting, a decision was approved that will see consumables and personal equipment become the financial responsibility of participants. SSAC will cease to buy equipment used for personal activities e.g., yoga mats, pickle balls and bats, table tennis balls and bats and so on.

Additionally, the costs for running activities of all kinds has increased as a direct result of the pandemic. This has made it necessary for us to increase participation fees across the board. What used to cost \$3 will now cost \$4. What used to cost \$5 will now cost \$6. It is always a difficult decision to increase pricing, and this decision was not taken lightly.

When the Centre is re-opened to activities, we look forward to seeing you all again.

We trust you will understand the need for these adjustments and that you continue to enjoy your favourite activities at the Centre—still the best deal in town!

LIMITED EDITION

ART BOOK



\$100

This limited edition art book about the "bog" at Smuggler Cove Marine Provincial Park is the ideal holiday gift! Featuring Sandy Kay's original paintings from her "A Tangled Web" series with selected writings about the park. Included in the book is a gift of music commissioned especially to enhance your experience of the artwork. 10% of all sales will be donated to the Smuggler Cove Marine Provincial Park. Available online at atangledweb.ca or at Silver Moon Gallery in Gibsons.

ORIGINAL PAINTINGS

WATERCOLOURS



It's now or never! Sandy Kay's original watercolour paintings long held in her private collection are now available for sale at Silver Moon Gallery in Gibsons. Specially priced for the holiday season!

Sandy Kay
contemporary & west coast artist

Silver Moon Gallery - Unit 307, 287 Gower Point Road, Gibsons
604.328.7655 | atangledweb.ca | sandykayart.com

Staying on Track with Change



Using this time of limited “on the floor” activities, your Board of Directors has been attempting to wrestle to the ground issues simmering at the Centre prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. As the Centre (and its membership) has grown, it has become increasingly challenging for board members to pay proper attention to the long term picture.

Managing day-to-day operational issues consumes our time on an ever-increasing basis. This has led to burn-out among directors—the attrition rate steadily increasing in direct proportion to the workload. It has also led to a lack of attention to issues of a comprehensive nature. In other words, directors have been spending their time on the minutia of operations to the exclusion of planning and governance.

We have been consulting with outside agencies, independent individuals and others concerning how best to transition the board from one that manages the daily operations to one with a mandate to lead the Centre into and within the post-pandemic reality.

Currently, your board has been attempting to redefine the job previously described as “Rentals and Activities Co-ordinator,” incorporating many of the same responsibilities but adding to them managerial authority to more completely handle daily operations, while still reporting to the Board.

The process of change is complex and one step under consideration is to replace “Day Director” positions with ones that are reflective of a change to governance. That would see the board comprised of some current members serving in a more general capacity, together with new specific positions on the board. By way of example, new positions may include “Legal Counsel” and “Financial Counsel”.

Change is never easy, and your board is looking to make this transition as seamless as possible. We are confident we are moving in the right direction, but much deliberation remains to be done, and clarity on roles, responsibilities, positions, titles, etc. needs to be established.

Fortunately, the pandemic has provided us the opportunity to reflect on these issues more substantively than during normal operations.

As we move forward, we will be seeking continued input from members to be sure we are “on track” to providing the right services in the right way to the right people. While we had originally hoped to bring a comprehensive proposal to membership for the October mid-year general membership meeting, it now seems unlikely we will be prepared even to bring it to membership at the AGM in February. While every effort is being made to do so, it seems more likely this transition will be left for the 2021 Board to bring to fruition.

We are hopeful that we are successful in recruiting members to step forward and join the Board of Directors early in 2021.