

SEASHELL ECHO

APRIL 2021

SECHELT SENIORS ACTIVITY CENTRE NEWS

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Spring is in the air And with that, a fresh new start!

BY CHRIS KANE

It's unbelievable, but we've been in this pandemic for over a year. During this time, the top priority for the Board has been the health and safety of our members. We have developed successful protocols that protected members from unnecessary risks. Behind the scenes, Board members work tirelessly to ensure the best long-term outcome for the Centre.

Did I happen to mention that financial management is another top priority? For the past month, and continuing into the foreseeable future, Vancouver Coastal Health has and will be utilizing the Centre as their main vaccination site in Sechelt. In comparison to the other vaccine sites in Gibsons and Madeira Park, the Centre has been poking twice as many people.

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Spring is in the air . . .

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Almost half the total vaccinations that will happen on the Coast will happen at the Centre. Over the coming weeks, VCH will be expanding their schedule of vaccinations while occupying the Centre. We are very pleased to be able to contribute to the wellness of our community through this arrangement. All questions and concerns regarding the vaccination roll-out on the Coast should be directed to their call centre. Your Centre directors, who are currently answering the phone at the Centre do not have the ability or information you may seek regarding vaccinations. This endeavour will take priority over all other activities until such time as the vaccination roll-out is complete. The meal service will continue unabated, even during vaccination days, and if it looks too busy to come in—don't go away hungry! Just tell the security agent onsite that you are coming for the meal service, and they will get you right in!

With respect to finances, last year's statements are being reviewed by the accountant and will be released shortly. Moving forward under a preliminary budget for 2021, losses were incurred in January, February and March with income falling behind expenses by approximately \$12K. With most of our costs fixed and our revenues variable, it is easy to understand that losses will continue to mount. The Board is acutely aware and focused on generating more income. Recently, a raffle was held that netted the Centre \$900. We are also very appreciative of a number of members making sizable donations (anonymously) as well as a \$3,100 donation received from 100+ Women Who Care. We are continuing to investigate various ways to increase revenue.



Our membership renewal rate has been low this year, with only 35% of members renewing for 2021. For some, the \$30 may be difficult to pay, for others it represents a nominal cost. Certainly the benefits of having a seniors centre in the community far outweigh this amount of annual outlay. If your membership has expired, I urge you to renew. The Centre relies on this revenue stream to cover costs that we cannot defer. The phone bill, the gas bill, the hydro bill, the mortgage, etc. all have to be paid monthly—whether or not we are open to members for activities. The only way we can ensure the continued viability of the Centre in a post-pandemic reality is to maintain membership. Once this is all behind us, we will all enjoy the benefits of an independent, vibrant, financially sustainable Seniors Activity Centre. We will continue to evaluate our position and keep you informed.



3100 Reasons for Gratitude



The Centre offers sincere thanks to the “100+ Women Who Care” society who have made a generous donation of \$3,100 greatly assisting the Centre to survive these difficult months of closure.

“Generosity of community groups such as ‘100+ Women Who Care’ has made it possible for us to keep the Centre afloat,” says Chris Kane, SSAC president. “We have relied on the goodwill of our members to maintain and renew their memberships, even though we have been unable to offer programs so many of them have grown to enjoy over the years.”

New Secretary Jumps Aboard

With great pleasure we announce that Diana Mumford has joined your Board of Directors in the capacity of Interim Secretary—pending our next annual general meeting.

Diana brings wide-ranging experience to the Board, having previously served locally with the Ferry Advisory Committee, SCR D Emergency Support Services, Sechelt Genealogy and Sechelt Library Board. Previously, Diana was honored by the Attorney General’s ministry as “Regional Volunteer 2000” for her volunteer work in Burnaby.

“I am delighted to become a part of the Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre, which plays such a vital part in the lives of senior residents on the Coast,” says Diana.



Your Board of Directors has been “running on empty” for a while, and by volunteering now, Diana brings a welcome breath of fresh air to our deliberations. As we optimistically move toward re-starting activities this summer, Diana’s experience and vigor will be most valuable.

She has long believed in volunteering for the community good and with focused attention to detail, a proactive approach and excellent people skills, Diana will be assisting your Board as it moves toward one of governance in “the new normal” we all anticipate.

SOLAR POWER DATA - 2021

	Jan	Feb	Mar
Energy Produced (kWh)	252	413	810
Currency Equivalent	\$32	\$52	\$101
Trees Saved	5	7	15

More info: secheltactivitycentre.com/solar-power-data

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
Interim Secretary	Diana Mumford

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

Tidbits

Telus Extends Support to SSAC

Thanks to a donation by TELUS' Community Investment program, four new laptop computers will soon be arriving at the Centre. We will no longer have to take coffee breaks while waiting for computers to boot-up, re-start or switch programs.

Tony Stroud, IT Director, says "these computers will improve security, compatibility and reliability." He goes on to say the Centre hopes to add central data storage to the system which will also make it possible to configure data flow to users.

Once the Centre is able to resume "regularly scheduled programming," the benefits of the Telus donation of computers will be fully realized.



SSAC AGM

Please be advised that the SSAC will plan to conduct the **Annual General Meeting** later this year when conditions allow us to do so. We will keep you posted via our website and newsletter.

Call For Volunteers

The SSAC is looking forward to reopening activities where possible this year, we therefore need volunteers to fulfill many roles. If you wish to apply to volunteer, please email ssac@dccnet.com. The subject line should read: **Volunteer inquiry**.