

# Winter Newsletter

*Sunshine Valley Ratepayers Association*

SVRA 8TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Social Events :** Junior Life Guard course
- **Annual General meeting:** 11:00 Jan 15, 2006
- **Local Spirit of BC Community Committee:** Volunteer Appreciation Night
- **Community Forest Partnership update**
- **Adopt-a-Highway**
- **Grants**
- **Web Page**

## The 8th Annual General Meeting will be held in the Hope & District Arena Mezzanine , Saturday January 14th, 2006 at 11am.

Coffee and snack will be provided. All members are welcome to participate. Observers welcome.

Annual membership fees are required to be up to date. Executive positions open to members with six months or more in the Association. Interested in being a part of our community Ratepay-

ers Association as part of the executive? Please contact Don Bender to be registered for nomination.

Guest speakers are invited to present : Fraser Valley Regional District, Interfor, Community Forest Consultant and Ministry of Forest and Cattermole.

Want to work in building capacity in our community? Check out our web site for some possible areas you may find interesting.

[sunshinevalleyratepayers.org](http://sunshinevalleyratepayers.org)  
Or talk to a SVRA director

AS PART OF OUR COMMITMENT TO AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION PLAN, THE SVRA WEB SITE IS UP TO DATE.

**2005 ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDED HOSTING TWO PUBLIC MEETINGS INVOLVING PROPOSED WATER RATE INCREASE, AND PROPOSED LOGGING . BOTH ISSUES ARE ONGOING .**

**Watch for SVRA's January meeting, a public discussion about the Proposed Water Rate Increase.**

## Hot Websites

[sunshinevalleyratepayers.org](http://sunshinevalleyratepayers.org)



[birding.bc.ca](http://birding.bc.ca)

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE : RUTH HEDSTROM

Ruth passed away peacefully on December 14th, 2005. There will be a celebration of her life on January 14, 2006 at 2 pm held at the Curling Rink in Hope.



## INSIDE STORY : 2005 PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Thank you, Sunshine Valley, for getting involved in building our community. You expressed your concerns, and we responded. We need more volunteers to keep up the great work. So if you have the interest and the time, get involved. Here is a small sample of what we accomplished this year on your behalf:

- ✓ Communication Plan fully implemented: web page, newsletter and bulk mail, plus the posting on bulletin board of the executive, AGM minutes and financials;
- ✓ Fundraising, included monies for materials for go-cart;
- ✓ 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Canada Day Celebration hosted over 200 participants throughout a day of events;
- ✓ Adoption of a 5 km section of Hwy #3 for the community;
- ✓ Support for Conferences & workshops attended by community members for Non-Timber Forest Products, Community Forests, and Emergency Social Services;

- ✓ Participation in the public lands acquisition for park/skating rink, community meeting place;
- ✓ Advocacy for fair water rate increase;
- ✓ Advocacy for input into future development on behalf of the Community;
- ✓ Continuation of membership drive;
- ✓ Petition developed & circulated to Network BC and Telus for the high speed internet and cellular coverage;
- ✓ Holding of Executive & Annual General Meetings, all with advance public notification and held in publicly accessible locations;
- ✓ Stakeholder in the Community Forest initiative;
- ✓ Continued support of SV Emergency Social Services;
- ✓ Successful grant applications to both local and federal governments;
- ✓ Co-hosted with Yale Ratepayers the All-Candidates Meeting for Fraser Valley Regional District Electoral Area "B";
- ✓ Continued lobbying of all levels of

government to provide better service, more grants and better management of taxes;

- ✓ Invited guest speakers to meetings on subjects such as Run of the River Power Programs, Community Forest Initiatives, Grow Operations and Meth Houses, local government programs, and Sunshine Valley Governance Study;
- ✓ Raised awareness and posed community impact questions with the 49 to 74 new lots proposed for Sunshine Valley with regard to water supply, sewage, road access and other issues.

As you can see we have been very busy working together to build a better community with improved communication. Should you have any ideas that could improve the work we've done to date, please come and share.

Sincerely,

Bernd Hendrichs  
2005 President of SVRA

## HOW TO BUILD A COMMUNITY

Here are a number of ideas for building community: Turn off your TV. Leave your house. Know your neighbours. Greet people. Look up when you are walking. Sit on your front steps. Plant flowers. Use your library. Play together. Buy from local merchants. Share what you have. Help a lost dog. Take children to the park. Honour elders. Support neighbourhood schools. Fix it, even if you didn't break it. Have pot

lucks. Garden together. Pick up litter. Read stories aloud. Dance in the street. Talk to the mail carrier. Listen to the birds. Put up a swing. Help carry something heavy. Barter for your goods. Start a tradition. Ask a question? Hire young people for odd jobs. Organize a block party. Bake extra and share. Ask for help when you need it. Open your shades. Sing together. Share your skills. Take back the night. Turn up the music. Turn down the music. Listen

before you react to anger. Mediate a conflict. Seek to understand. Learn from new & uncomfortable angles. Know that no one is silent, though many are not heard. Work to change this. (author unknown.)

Our community is currently leading in number of these key ideas. Thank you Sunshine Valley for creating a community!

## TOONIE TIME

SKATE OR  
SWIM FOR A  
TOONIE

UNTIL JAN 19/06

ENJOY POOLS,  
SAUNA, HOT TUB  
AND STEAMROOM.  
HOPE RECREATION  
CENTRE

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES: HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFIT

*Only homeowners who have had the EnerGuide for Houses evaluation and have followed up on recommendations will be eligible for a grant. The house must achieve a minimum energy performance improvement. There is a cost to the homeowner for the EnerGuide for Houses service, which includes a pre-retrofit*

*evaluation with blower door testing, a rating and recommendation report. Service organizations may also include the cost of the post-retrofit evaluation to assess rating improvements in the initial fee. Homeowners can find out more about how the grant program works by visiting the Grant Questions and Answers page.*

One local family received over \$1300 FOR A GRANT. Take the time to find out more at the following site:  
Eco-action grants :  
[http://www.pyr.ec.gc.ca/eoaction/index\\_e.htm](http://www.pyr.ec.gc.ca/eoaction/index_e.htm)

## INSIDE STORY :EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE

I am pleased to advise that there are many residents who are interested and have signed up to become emergency management volunteers. The Fraser Valley Regional District will support and assist the area by providing training opportunities, information and assistance on customizing the Community Emergency Response Plan. I look forward to working with your area to keep residents informed and aware of what everyone can do to be prepared for emergencies.



Gale McMahon  
FVRD Emergency Management Coordinator

*“I look forward to working with your area to keep residents informed and aware of what everyone can do to be prepared for emergencies.”*

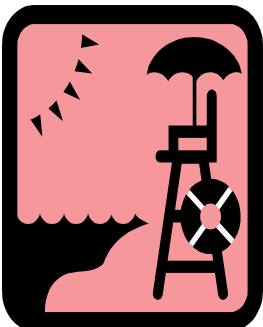
## WINTER PREPAREDNESS

While the southwest corner of British Columbia is known for relatively mild winters, our weather can change quickly and drivers can be faced with black ice, freezing rain, snow and high winds creating blizzard-like conditions. If you must drive, be cautious and plan ahead. Check weather and travel conditions before heading out, and let someone know your route, destination and expected arrival time. The Canadian Automobile Association recommends the following items be kept in the trunk of your car:

- |                       |                        |  |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--|
| ✓shovel               | ✓sand or kitty litter  | ✓matches & survival candle in a deep can |
| ✓tow chain            | ✓warning lights/flares | ✓booster cables                          |
| ✓blanket              | ✓traction mats         | ✓extra windshield washer fluid           |
| ✓ice scraper/brush    | ✓first aid kit         | ✓extra clothing/footwear                 |
| ✓fuel line antifreeze | ✓flashlight            | ✓emergency food pack                     |

Stay in your car and keep fresh air in the car. Run your motor sparingly and use the candle for heat. Set out a warning light or flares. Make sure the tailpipe of the car is not blocked by snow. Keep moving and don't fall asleep. Wear a hat as up to 60% of body heat is lost through a person's head.

## JUNIOR LIFE GUARD COURSE



As part of the SVRA commitment to promote youth physical activities, we are announcing a Junior Lifeguard Course. Enrollment for Sunshine Valley youth will be accepted at the registration desk at the Hope & District Recreation Center. For more information about the program call 604-869-2304.

Cost for SV youth is \$20. Course will be offered March 20 –May 17, Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30pm.(Ages 8– 15 years old.) A SVRA member is required for coordinating this program. Please contact any director.

## ADOPT- A -HIGHWAY

The SVRA is proud to announce that we will begin our participation with The Ministry of Highways on the Adopt-a-Highway program. After our application was accepted in early 2005, we went on to an initial training session. A roster of names has been submitted of those willing to participate in the litter collection along Highway #3 in front of Sunshine Valley. This litter collection will begin in Spring 2006. We are waiting for the placement of 2 permanent signs on HWY 3 notifying motorists of the periodic litter collections. Please look out for us on the highway. If you wish to join us in future collections, simply submit a completed waiver form to any SVRA director.

## COMMUNITY FOREST

The Community Forest Initiative is entering an exciting time, with the soon-to-be-released offer letter from the provincial government expected in January 2006. This letter of invitation means the Initiative needs to appoint a Board as well as Advisory Groups from the community to prepare a business plan acceptable to the government. If you or someone you know wishes to volunteer for an advisory committee, the SVRA is interested in putting your name forward. For further information and updates, check out the SVRA website or the FVRD Area 'B' website. Let's get involved in this incredible opportunity.

*Community Forest seeks sustainable solutions for local forest*



### SPIRIT OF BC 2ND ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DESSERT NIGHT

**The Spirit of BC Community Committee - Hope Region** is thrilled to invite your organization's volunteers to our *Appreciation Gala* event on February 11, 2006. This event showcases an international dessert buffet, and will also feature local youth musicians. We have set aside this evening to celebrate our local community volunteers and their unique contributions to the Hope Region.

We request that you RVSP with your group's anticipated attendance no later than January 13, 2006 in order for our Committee to finalize the logistical seating requirements for the evening. Let us know if your organization is able to assist financially with hosting this regional recognition Gala.

Invitations will be available for pick up from the Recreation Centre on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Invitations are required for the event, so please ensure you accurately accounted for your organizations attendance at these years Gala.

We look forward to sharing a wonderful evening with our community volunteers serving the Hope Region.

Sincerely,

Kate Zabell & Peter Duhault, Co-chairs  
Spirit of BC Community Committee - Hope Region



*Remember!  
\$5 renewal for members*

## SVRA Membership Drive

We need our past members to sign up again and we need new members to join. **Please** join with your present directors in recruiting new members so that we will have a strong voice in what happens in our community.  
**\$10.00 / member / year**

Mail your information and cheque to the Association at '71655 Leaf Lane, Hope, BC V0X 1L5, **OR** bring it to an association meeting.

Membership is open to persons living in and/or owning property in Sunshine Valley. For \$10 per year, each member receives our periodic newsletter and the right to vote at association meetings as long as s/he has been a member in good standing for at least six months. The membership year is January to December.