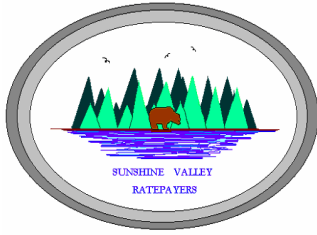




Winter Newsletter



Sunshine Valley Ratepayers Association

"Your local Valley voice for advocacy for government programs and services"

SVRA 9 TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Social Events: Junior Life Guard course**
- **Annual General meeting: 10 : 00 Jan 13,2006**
- **Local Spirit of BC Community Committee: Volunteer Appreciation Night**
- **Web Page Links**
- **Emergency Preparedness**
- **Word find**

The 9th Annual General Meeting will be held in the Sunshine Valley Recreation Center, Saturday January 13th, 2007 at 10 am.

Coffee and tea will be provided. A potluck luncheon will be held after the meeting. 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 Ratepayers 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, Community Forest Consultant and Ministry of Forest and Cattermole.

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

As part of our commitment to an effective communication plan, the SVRA web site is up to date with government reports, local correspondence and special events. Also monthly meeting minutes are posted at the entrance to the valley. Mailbox mailout of newsletters are distributed.

2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDED HOSTING AND OR ATTENDING PUBLIC MEETINGS INVOLVING PROPOSED WATER RATE INCREASE, GOVERNANCE ISSUES, PROPOSED LOGGING, AND RADIO SATION SOCIAL ENTERPRISE RESEARCH WITH ON-GOING DISCUSSIONS ON ALL TOPICS. YOUR COMMITTEE CONNECTION FOR ADVOCACY FOR MORE GRANTS AND SERIVES FOR OUR RURAL COMMUNITY.

Watch for 2007 SVRA's executive meeting agendas , where an open and transparent discussion about valley opportunities, solutions and issues are discussed.



If you have not often felt the joy of doing a kind act, you have neglected much, and most of all yourself.-- A. Neilen

Hot Websites

Personal Emergency Preparedness http://www.pep.bc.ca/hazard_preparedness/Personal_Safety.html

Adventure Smart Outdoor Safety <http://www.adventuresmart.ca/>

Spirit of BC: <http://www.spiritofbc.com/content/home.asp>

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/05/060524-global-warming.html>

sunshinevalleyratepayers.org

INSIDE STORY : 2006 PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I would like to personally thank my entire executive and the community for the rewarding experience acting as your president. The amount of volunteer hours the executive have put in has been extensive. I would like to publicly acknowledge you all. Some of our successes of 2006 include the following:

- √ Supported the Bear Aware Program
- √ Expansion of services and Website upgrades
- √ Participated in Social Enterprise Workshops
- √ Healthy Communities Initiatives
- √ Hosted 6th Canada Day Celebration
- √ Partnered in Swimming Programs for local Youth
- √ Developed a Governance Manual for Executive
- √ Policy and Procedure / Job Description Manual
- √ Grant applications for local programs and services

- √ Advocacy for fair water rate increase;
- √ Invited guest speakers to meetings such as Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission, Community Forest Initiatives, Grow Operations and Meth Houses, local government programs, and Sunshine Valley Governance Study; land Cattermole Timber Ltd.

Although I have chosen to resign as your president after only one year, I can assure you that the decision was not easy – but necessary at this time. I will seek to remain on the executive as past president. Having said this, I am certain your new president will pick up the torch and carry the SVRA to new heights in community vision and sustainability. I have learned an incredible amount over the last year and I really want to thank all of you for allowing me to grow at a reasonable pace. Quite simply, I love this community and the nature that surrounds us all. I have also grown from these experiences of

differing opinions. We are faced with many challenges in the near and distant future; what will occur in respect to logging in and around the valley, what voice the community will carry in respect to land development issues. Over 2006, we have doubled our membership and we have assisted in bridging the community together for public meetings.

On behalf of all SVRA members, I would like to extend thanks to the response and recovery efforts during the last storm, power outage and water issues. There were a few speed bumps during the events – but that is exactly how a community learns and grows – no event is without a hiccup and trouble shooting the scenarios through is paramount. Once again, thank you to all who supported the process throughout 2006 and most importantly, the recent community emergencies.

Best Regards,
Rick Gagnon,
2006 SVRA President

BASIC HOME SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- List important numbers and out-of-province contacts beside each telephone.
- Store matches, lighters, medications, household cleaners, and other toxic substances in a safe place. Make sure they are clearly labeled and in their original containers.
- Review your plan and conduct
- fire, earthquake and emergency evacuation drills.
- Maintain fire extinguishers and know how to use them and check smoke alarms on a regular basis.
- Have enough supplies in your home to meet your family needs for a minimum of three days.
- Assemble basic first aid items and take a first aid and CPR class.



REDUCE—RECYCLE—REUSE

You Can Prevent Global Warming focuses entirely on conserving energy, reducing the demand for fossil fuels (coal, petroleum, and natural gas) by becoming more careful and efficient in everyday usage of electricity, home heating, and gasoline. "By telling you how to conserve 'energy,' we're telling you how to conserve fossil fuels," the authors say.

Reduced burning of fossil fuels will cut the greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere, especially in the form of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Greenhouse gases, which also include methane, chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's) and a variety of other gases, trap the sun's heat in the atmosphere and cause a gradual warming of the Earth.

While some scientists dispute that the worldwide trend towards higher temperatures over the past century has been caused by industrial emissions, there is a large body of evidence to indicate that the warming of the Earth is changing climate patterns. This in turn impacts ecosystems, agriculture, and the spread of disease.

Warming is also causing glaciers to retreat and the ice caps to fragment and melt. If the trend continues, sea level will rise, posing the threat of inundation to coastal cities and entire island countries. For more information on what you can do see : http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/04/0422_030422_conservationtips.html

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Our local Free store is an excellent example of community involvement in reducing the volume of waste taken to our landfill. Keep up the great work Sunshine Valley in being responsible for our local site! Stop and meet our new local contractors -who are keeping the site clean and accessible.

INSIDE STORY :EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Your local volunteer ESS team wish to extend thanks to many for their support during the events of Nov. 6th & 7th when we were stranded with out power, water and the ability to get to Hope because of a land slide.

We would like to give special note of thanks to the following local hero's:

Sunshine Valley Volunteer Fire Department - for the use of the generator and help

Sunshine Valley Cooperative Club for the use of the facilities

Nestle Water Inc. for the Bottled water

Arne Zabell, Area ' B ' Director for Fraser Valley Regional District for co-ordination of multi agency services and looking after our youth

Hope ESS volunteer team for setting up the reception center

Hope residents who cared for our youth

BC Hydro for working around the clock to get us back on line

Ministry of Transportation & Emil Anderson Ltd. road crew

Sunshine Valley Development Ltd. in coordination with the **Ministry of Health** for the efficient utility staff and timely return of valley water system.

Above all we wish to thank the Community members for cooperating and being respectful of all the partners roles and responsibilities during an emergency. "This event was a fine example of a community working together."

Happy Holidays,

Your Sunshine Valley Emergency Social Service Team



"This event was a fine example of a community working together. We look forward to working with you to keep residents informed and aware of what everyone can do to be prepared for emergencies."

WINTER PREPAREDNESS

FAMILY SAFETY DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON THE HOLIDAY SEASON BRINGS AN ABUNDANCE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR FAMILY FUN. WITH CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL AND A FOCUS ON MORE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO REVIEW FAMILY SAFETY PRECAUTIONS. SAFETY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN ARE ESSENTIAL TO HELP EVERYONE BECOME MORE RESPONSIBLE AND SELF-AWARE. THIS DIALOGUE MAY ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS YOU CAN DO AT THE ONSET OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON. EACH YEAR, THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FACE EMERGENCY SITUATIONS THAT COULD CHANGE THEIR LIVES FOREVER. DON'T BE CAUGHT OFF-GUARD. KNOW THE HAZARDS IN YOUR AREA AND IN AND AROUND YOUR HOME. TAKE THE TIME TO ENGAGE FAMILY MEMBERS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOME AND OUTDOOR SAFETY AND IN ASSEMBLING YOUR FAMILY EMERGENCY KIT. **IMPORTANT FAMILY SAFETY INFORMATION LINKS** SEE THE PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY PROGRAM [HTTP://WWW.PEP.BC.CA/HAZARD_PREPAREDNESS/PERSONAL_SAFETY.HTML](http://www.pep.bc.ca/HAZARD_PREPAREDNESS/PERSONAL_SAFETY.HTML)

Outdoor Recreation Safety

Know the potential risks when participating in outdoor activities. It is important to ask yourself if you are you prepared to spend the night outdoors if you get lost while hiking, skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling or snowshoeing. Before you head out, find out more about compiling a trip plan. Winter weather brings thin ice and strong currents to ditches, creeks and rivers. Warn children of the dangers and supervise their play. Families should also know about avalanche and other winter hazards before heading into the back country. **Have a fun and safe holiday season.**

JUNIOR LIFE GUARD COURSE

As part of the ongoing SVRA commitment to promote youth physical activities, we are announcing a second Junior Lifeguard Course. Enrollment for Sunshine Valley youth will be accepted at the registration desk at the Hope & District Recreation Center before December 31, 2006. For more information about the program call 604-869-5936.

Course will be offered on **January 8- March 14, 2007** -Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30pm. (Ages 9 – 15 years old). Free transportation will be provided in partnership with the Hope & District Recreation Commission and the Fraser Valley Regional District.

Winter Word Search



m h s l e d c s
 w a q j l l o n
 i t d n x w l o
 n b o o t s d w
 t m i t t e n s
 e c o a t g y o
 r s z s c a r f
 w k k i c e j m

boots mittens
 coat scarf
 cold sled
 hat snow
 ice winter

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Enthusiasm is the best protection in any situation. Wholeheartedness is contagious. Give yourself, if you wish to get others.

-- David Seabury

Manning Park Resort

Alpine Skiing -Open- 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
 Nordic Skiing -8:30am to 4:00 pm

Check out the Weather Cam at Manning Park:
http://www.weatheroffice.pyr.ec.gc.ca/RVAS/default_e.html?section=mpk

See the daily Snow Report :
<http://www.manningpark.com/winter.snowreport.html>



SPIRIT OF BC WEEK FEB. 9 - 17TH , 2007

The *Spirit of BC Community Committee - Hope Region* is proud to invite our community to a variety of local free events to celebrate our community diversity in the Arts & culture, Sports & Recreation, Volunteerism, and Literacy. A free family skate is scheduled for February 14th. Other event details will be available in your local paper or on the SVRA website. Also the following link for a schedule of all provincial events : <http://www.spiritofbc.com/content/home.asp> **More than 90 Spirit of BC Community Committees are working together to leverage Olympic, Paralympic, and other community opportunities in the areas of sport and recreation, arts and culture, literacy and volunteerism. The Community Committees are committed to developing local programs and events that demonstrate the five elements that define the Spirit of BC - achievement, effort, inclusion, celebration and excellence.**

Please invite your organization's volunteers to our 3rd Annual Volunteer *Appreciation Gala* event on Saturday evening February 10, 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 are required for the event, so please ensure you accurately accounted for your organizations attendance at this years Gala. See the web site for our Best Practices recognition for 2006. We look forward to sharing a wonderful Spirit of BC Week for our Hope Region .See you there!

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 / new member / year or \$5 for renewal

Membership is open to persons living in and/or owning property in Sunshine Valley. Each member receives the right to vote at association meetings as long as s/he has been members for at least six months. The membership year is Jan. to Dec. Application available online or by request. Mail your information and cheque to the Association at PO Box 2104, Hope, BC V0X 1L0, **OR** bring it to an association meeting.