



Greetings APOA Members! In this newsletter I will outline the activities of our executive and the developments that have taken place over the past months.

There have been several changes to the executive board this year. New members to the board include Arnie Erickson, Director, Robert McLennan, Director, Theo Kellner, Director and Colette Stoof who has taken the position of Treasurer. Suzie Anderson remains as the Secretary, and Diane Pew continues as a Director. Jenny Albrechtson, continues as a Director and is chairperson of our Road Committee. I have assumed the roll of President and Julia Valenti is now the past-president. Julia and Diane have taken on the job of organizing social events and activities.

We have held two productive meetings since our current board's formation. We were very pleased Shona Schleppe, RDOS Area D Rural Services Manager, was in attendance.

Hazard and Risk Vulnerability Assessment

A subject that has required our immediate attention is the opportunity to take part in a Hazard and Risk Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) workshop offered by the RDOS. Robert McLennan has attended one of their workshops and the following is his report of the process: "The APOA through the RDOS is conducting an **HRVA workshop** for the Apex property area. You might ask what is an HRVA and why are you doing this. **HRVA stands for: Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment.** An HRVA is a systematic approach **to identify hazards, evaluate risk and incorporate appropriate measures to manage and mitigate those risks.** There are 57 known hazards that are evaluated in this process, all the way from air crash to utilities failure and everything in between. The APOA, the voice of Apex property owners, wants to help better prepare the outdoor recreation area of Apex, its residents and recreational users as to how to approach different hazardous situations should they occur. If a situation arises, how to go about sounding the alarm and knowing what resources will begin to assist the situation. When these risks are evaluated a plan for the Apex area will be created. This will be a working document for all parties to view and update as time goes forward. We anticipate this plan would be available for viewing in early 2017 and will advise the membership by email." If you are interested and want to know more about this HRVA workshop, you can email us at APOAexec@gmail.com.

Waste transfer station: The RDOS is proceeding with this project. The RDOS and Apex Resort have settled on a location, the site being that of the current disposal unit near Keremeos Creek and east of the main village parking lot. Designs are being studied and there was a mail out with this information. The RDOS will conduct public information meetings later this winter. Construction is tentatively scheduled for the spring of 2017 and completion expected by the summer.

Road Committee

Our Road Committee chairperson, Jen Albrechtson has met with Argo the road maintenance contractor. She was advised that they are employing experienced drivers this year meaning that the drivers should be familiar with the roads and the snow clearing needs of area. An issue that we have been dealing with is the lack of snow clearing on the Vista Trails parking lot. Argo, the contractor, has said that due to a lack of funding they will no longer maintain this parking lot and we feel this is a major safety concern.

We have contacted our local department of highways to advise them of this safety issue. As well, APOA has been informed by Weyerhaeuser and Snpinktn that they had completed their harvesting activities for this year. Skul'qualt plans to be finished by the end of October. There may however be some truck traffic after that time which would involve the removal of some of their heavy equipment.

Forestry Committee

This report is an update for APOA members on the activities of the APOA Forestry Committee.

1. MOU Meeting

Members will recall that APOA along with Nickel Plate Nordic Club and Apex Mountain Resort entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and three forestry companies (Weyerhaeuser, Snpinktn and Skul'qualt).

The main MOU commitments were to:

- follow the Okanagan Shuswap LRMP;
- share information, communicate and integrate the various interests into forest harvest plans;
- share information on planned forest harvest operations, including an annually updated map of proposed harvesting;
- have forest license holders schedule log hauling from the Apex area for completion by December 15, or by special notice (to the other parties) thereafter but not on holidays or weekends;
- meet annually;
- consider aboriginal interests;
- consider wildfire hazard resolution; and engage with media only after notice and discussion by the signatories.

The MOU Committee met this summer and was advised that the best that could be provided was a 2 to 3 year overview of timber harvesting plans as a basis for assessing impact on potentially affected trails or other recreational values. The Committee will continue to monitor this aspect and would welcome input from APOA members on their particular concerns and interests. The effectiveness and extent of the consideration of recreational and visual interests will remain a focus particularly within the Intensive Recreation Area designated by the LRMP (which is online). It sets out several topics and zones with particular logging prescriptions while most of the area remains a standard "working forest". Subsequent to the meeting, we were advised that plans were to have all hauling completed by the end of October (see road report above).

2. Wildfire Mitigation - We have been informed by Snpinktn Forestry of their intention to apply for a grant to carry out Forest Fuel Mitigation around the Apex Community and the Forestry Committee has met with them to discuss the details of this project. The purpose of this project would be to reduce wildfire risk by strategically reducing fuel loads in the area. Part of the cost would be that of hiring a specialist consultant who would do an assessment and formulate a prescription for the area.

Social Committee as reported by Julia Valenti

Board members Diane Pew and Julia Valenti are the designated Social Events Coordinators for the upcoming 2016/17 ski season. They had a planning meeting this past summer to outline event ideas, how to create them and who would be the invitees. Prior to their meeting, it was decided at an APOA Board meeting that the APOA and the AFBS (Apex Fire Brigade) could, and even should, be more closely allied. The first attempt at creating this bond was a social after the March APOA AGM that was open to

APOA and AFBS members only. Social Events for this season will hopefully further strengthen that bond by, again, opening the gatherings to APOA and AFBS members and, reaching a little further, some will be open to Nickel Plate members as well. The APOA Board sees one of its roles as being a catalyst to create a strong sense of community in which we make a more concerted effort to know who our neighbors are. A fun and simple way to do this is thru social interaction. There is also a bit of strategy behind this - it is intended that both the APOA and the AFBS can grow their memberships since membership is required to attend these events. Nickel Plate Nordic could benefit in this way also. All of these volunteer groups need funds to operate and, as well, larger membership is beneficial when serious issues arise that require a strong image, indicating there are a lot of people in the Apex community who are affected by government decisions, who care about those decisions and will respond in kind when asked for input.

The following events are not yet organizationally completed and except for December 10th, are flexible re dates. Diane and Julia will meet again in November to confirm dates and all event details.

1. Season Opening Social—Sat. December 10th - 4 to 7 p.m. Rock Oven Room at Apex Mountain Inn - Appies, drink specials, a forestry update by the APOA Forestry Committee, AFBS update.
2. Pot Luck in the village Day Lodge or in the Nickel Plate Lodge— sometime mid January to mid April.
3. APOA and AFBS Fundraiser—sometime mid March in the Gunbarrel dining room.
4. APOA March AGM and Social –March spring break

Event ideas are welcome, as are volunteers to help organize and set up. Please e-mail Julia at rjvalenti@nethop.net. See you all soon for another great winter of outdoor and indoor fun at Apex.

That wraps up this newsletter. Thanks to Robert McLennan, Jenny Albrechtson, Denis O’Gorman and Julia Valenti for their contributions. Remember to mark December 10th on your calendar and watch for notices of those other events. Have a great season of winter recreation.

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