



Newsletter – Winter – 2017

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I'll begin this newsletter with a notice of our **Annual General Meeting**. It will be held **on Saturday, March 25th at 3:00 PM** in the Meeting/Games room at the Apex Inn. As well as committee reports and APOA business, Cameron Baughan from the RDOS will give an update on progress with the waste transfer station and James Shalman will update us on resort activities and future plans. I hope you will mark that date on your calendar and plan to attend. This newsletter will summarize the activities of our committees and the issues that we have been dealing with.

Forestry Committee:

Following the MOU meeting last June, the Forestry Committee has met several times to work on a strategy that would provide harvesting opportunities for commercial operators while at the same time preserving the natural qualities of the Apex recreation area. They plan to provide more information at the AGM.

Forest Fuel Management is another topic in which the committee has become involved. The forestry committee had two meetings with Warren Houle of the Penticton Indian Band. In the first we outlined several areas that could be extended. We also pointed out some other areas of concern. The second meeting was about their application and discussion with the consultant about the application and our support for the project, which would involve forest floor thinning and fuel load removal. In addition, Fire Fuel Management should be something that we all take care of on our own lots. It helps a lot to clean up the under-storage of the forest, and to limb the trees up to 3 meters. We can all do our part to reduce the risk of wild fires.

Road Committee:

Board members agreed that the main and side roads have been maintained better than in previous years. It was felt that we should thank Bill Dieno and his crew at Argo Road Maintenance for the good work they've been doing.

HRVA update [Hazardous Risk Vulnerability Assessment]

In November 2016 a broadly diversified group met with Dale Kronebusch and Shona Schleppe from the RDOS. The discussion concluded on 9 incidences where an action plan needs to be developed. At this point Dale and his group are developing the systematic action plans for each of these possible situations. The idea will be to have a number of hardcopy manuals in accessible and secure locations around the Apex Mountain Resort area. We anticipate that these manuals would be placed in locations for the beginning of the 2017/2018 ski season. We will keep you informed of this initiative as it unfolds within our community.

Societies Act

In November 2015 the government revised the Societies Act. The new Societies Act requires that all societies transition to the new act by Nov 2018. The board is seeking legal assistance to revise our constitution and Bylaws so as to comply with the new Act and we hope to be able to bring that to the AGM for the approval of the membership.

Electricity rates

For a number of years, Fortis, our electric utility has been using a 2 tiered system of billing for the use of electricity. At Apex, as for many rural communities, the only viable commercial energy source for home heating and hot water is electricity. There isn't an alternative such as natural gas. This two tier system has resulted in higher utility costs for many rural home owners. If you think it is unfair, you can go to the BC Utility commission web site where there is a complaint button. If you choose, you can make a complaint directly to them. It is up to the government to make the change. You can also send a letter to Linda Larson directly. We've posted a sample letter on our APOA website. It was written by a home owner in one of our neighboring communities.

Social Committee Report

The next Social for all APOA members and the Apex Fire Brigade members will be after our APOA AGM on Sat. Mar. 25th. The AGM is from 3 to 5 in the games room of the Apex Mountain Inn and the Social will follow from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Rock Oven Room. Wonderful appies again provided by the lovely Marilyn and a CASH ONLY bar will provide beer, cider, wine and highballs for \$7.

This is our second APOA social event of the season, the first having been held in December. A mid-season social gathering for our members had been anticipated to occur in February but various situations arose and the event had to be scrapped. However, Diane and Julia are looking forward to the 2017/18 season

with renewed enthusiasm to presenting a fun third, mid-season event, bookended by the opening and closing socials in the Rock Oven Room that have always proved to be well attended and enjoyed.

Come out and support the APOA's party and nosh on appies that are funded by the APOA which is funded by you! We look forward to a large member turn-out and the opportunity to reconnect before the season closes the following weekend.

Burglaries

Just as this Newsletter is about to go out, there has been news of another series of break-ins and theft in the Apex community. I understand at this time that an individual has been apprehended and some stolen property has been recovered, which is good news. This is a serious concern for all of us and I wonder what we can do to better protect ourselves and our property. To quote a member "We are a community and we need to watch out for each other."

Board Elections

There will be a vacancy on APOA's Board of Directors. APOA encourages members to consider putting their name forward to act on the Board. Terms are for one year. A member can nominate themselves.

Memberships

Strata Memberships - APOA welcomes stratas of any size. Stratas receive a preferred membership rate. If your strata is a member of APOA all owners within that strata are automatically a paid member. As a reminder, APOA requires each strata owner to complete an application form in order for us to have your contact info and email address. If you have any questions or require further information regarding membership, please contact us at apoexec@gmail.com.

Thanks to Board Members: Jennie Albrechtson, Road Committee; Colette Stoof, Treasurer; Arnie Erickson, Forestry Committee; Julia Valenti, Social Committee; and Robert McLennan, Editor, for their contribution to this Newsletter.

Membership Renewals: If you haven't renewed yet, there is still time. We'll be ready to take your membership payment for 2017 at the AGM. I and the rest of the board members are looking forward to seeing you there on the 25th and we hope you've had a great season of winter activities.

Barry Leigh
APOA President

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