



# Fairwinds Community Association 2020-21 Annual Report

## **Community Relations**

The FCA board continues open engagement with our community, membership, local agencies, and where possible or needed, with other key stakeholders, such as Fairwinds Enterprises, Seacliff Group, and the Regional District of Nanaimo, along with other local organizations and non-profits.

Our endeavours in this past year included

- Participating in RDN forums, Parks and Open Spaces Committee meetings and emergency planning sessions.
- Community communications with emails, newsletters, Facebook, and public inquiries.
- Environmental awareness events such as broom busting.
- A complete redesign of our website for easier access to information.
- A meeting with Bob Rogers, Director, Electoral Area E, Regional District of Nanaimo to discuss issues impacting our community.
- Support for improvement of a section of the trail in Schooner Ridge Pathway Park.
- Corresponding with Recycle BC to request recycling improvements in Parksville (glass, Styrofoam etc.).

The past 18 months have provided many challenges in our efforts to support our community. Some events supported by the FCA have been cancelled or delayed by the pandemic. These include neighbourhood emergency planning sessions designed to increase participation and the popular *After 4* events that support Nanoose Community Services.

## **Restrictive Covenants, Architectural Guidelines, and Building Schemes**

Throughout the year we advised and provided assistance on issues relating to Fairwinds Restrictive Covenants and Architectural Guidelines. As stated in previous years, these are difficult to enforce and have been interpreted in a more flexible manner by the developer's approving agent.

## **Bylaws**

We continue to promote awareness of RDN bylaws within our membership and the Fairwinds community. For example, an ongoing issue has been illegal dumping of yard waste off Bonnington Drive. Our placing a no dumping sign was not deterring the practice, and after communication with Fairwinds, they placed boulder across the trail entrance to restrict vehicle access.

## **Emergency Preparedness**

The FCA continues to support the efforts of local neighbourhood emergency planning and preparedness groups. Our efforts are led by FCA NEPP Committee director Sheila Cruikshank, and members from various area NEPP programs: Schooner Heights, Glen Eagles, AAAA (Andover, Amberwood, Ashton, Avondale), and Collingwood, all in Fairwinds as well as Madrona and Arbutus Hill in Nanoose Bay. The FCA has budgeted \$1000 to support training for the Fairwinds groups. We will also be supporting an application for a RDN grant to purchase emergency related supplies and equipment.



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## **Community Awareness and Communications**

Communication is an important part of community awareness and relations.

Last year, the Board engaged a web designer to update our website, a crucial tool for our members. The design was modernized, with a clean new look and the website's purpose and strategy were redefined and streamlined to provide quick access to information. Under the various headings you can find local maps, trails, links to area organizations and clubs and many local government links. You will also find information on the FCA, its executive, constitution and bylaws, and copies of our recent newsletters. Many thanks to Crystal Ironside, our FCA Communication lead, for her hard work on this project.

Our quarterly newsletter provided information about local bylaws, restrictive covenants and messages for the RDN. Occasionally we sent emails directly to our members regarding items that needed timely distribution, such as crime prevention or surveys. As well, our Facebook page was regularly updated with additional information. We again thank Crystal for all her efforts on our behalf.

The Board will continue to provide community information and updates. Knowledge is power and our community engagement unites us with ongoing email communications, newsletters and website activity.

## **Membership**

Fairwinds continues to change as vacant lots are being built upon, some residents move away and others arrive. Our membership fluctuates with those changes, and we ended our fiscal year with just over 200 members. Our thanks to Caryl Wylie for all her work the whole membership process.

We will be initiating a membership drive this fall to increase participation in the FCA.



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## Parks and Green Spaces

### **Broom Busting and Community Cleanup**

A very successful broom busting and garbage clean-up event was held in May of this year. More than 20 volunteers cut broom for a total of around 70 person-hours in this year, making substantial inroads, particularly along Fairwinds Drive and on the trails at the far end of Dolphin Lake. The section of road between the four way stop and Fairwinds Centre was completely cleared of broom.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Fairwinds staff who cleaned up after us by collecting and disposing of all the cut broom. And, of course, a huge thank you goes out to all our community volunteers who toiled in some very hot weather!

Although the effectiveness of cutting back broom has been questioned, it does have a significant impact in the long term. One only needs to take a look at some of the areas outside Fairwinds where broom has effectively taken over large areas to realize how invasive this pest can be. For more information on broom busting on the Island go to [www.broombusters.org](http://www.broombusters.org).

We encourage property owners to do their part to keep our green spaces safe from this invasive species, and to be considerate with garbage and pet waste.

### **Dumping of Yard Waste**

From time to time the Association receives complaints from members that yard waste is being dumped on undeveloped and community properties. Residents are reminded that there is an RDN Bylaw prohibiting dumping which provides for substantial fines for those who dispose of refuse in an unauthorised manner. This year Fairwinds management has had to arrange for the removal of a large quantity of garbage including household appliances from a site just off Fairwinds drive. More information is available on the [RDN website](#).

The FCA would also like to thank Fairwinds for strategically locating a large boulder at the entrance to the trail off Bonnington Rd. opposite the entrance to Bradner Circle in order to prevent vehicular access. This site has a history of substantial dumping, much of it from vehicles.

Residents are reminded that a green waste pick up service is available through Jack of All Trades: (250) 240-0065. Bag tags are available for sale at the Fairwinds Wellness Club.

### **Bonnington-Coventry Community Park**

There currently exists a narrow linear park connecting Bonnington Drive and Coventry Place which has been largely inaccessible because of steep terrain and recent development in the area. We are pleased to report that, due to a [proposal](#) made to the Area E Parks and Open Spaces Committee by a local group of residents, and subsequent support from the FCA, work on the trail began in May, 2021. Improvements to the trail were completed last summer.



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## **Jack Bagley Community Park (adjacent to Nanoose Bay Elementary School)**

The re-development of Jack Bagley Park will take place in two phases. The first includes 1 tennis and 5 pickleball hard surface courts, a washroom and storage building, safe and accessible access to the park along Powder Point Road to a park entry plaza with seating, and a path connection to Nanoose Place with stairs. Phase two includes upgrades to a single ball field, a half-size soccer field, and enhanced parking along Powder Point Road.

The first phase of the project was scheduled to be completed this year but delays have been experienced. Detailed design drawings are in place and an invitation to tender will be issued this October. Construction will begin this fall and completion of Phase 1 is expected by June 2022.

## **Brickyard Community Park**

This popular Park in the heart of Fairwinds has seen some significant work over the past winter and spring months. At the end of last year seven large hazardous trees were removed from the park. These trees had been identified in a report provided by an independent arborist. The operations crew worked through the winter removing the invasive English Holly in the park. In early March park trails were resurfaced to address erosion and drainage problems. Next steps for this park include the installation of split rail fence to establish conservation areas within the park.

## **West Ballenas Island**

Last year the BC Parks Foundation announced its goal of raising \$1,700,000 to purchase this island which is part of the Winchelsea Archipelago just off our coast. The FCA is proud to support this initiative and is pleased to report that the fundraising campaign has been successful. The Parks Foundation is now pursuing the creation of a marine park to include all the islands of the Ballenas-Winchelsea Archipelago.

## **Schooner Ridge Pathway Park**

The FCA has been involved in an initiative to improve a section of trail in the Schooner Ridge Pathway Park. We believe that having a safe walking trail that would connect the various sections of Fairwinds is important for area residents and would be an asset to the community.

Schooner Ridge Pathway Park runs from Foxrun Place in the east to Dolphin Lake in the west, behind the homes on Sheffield Place, Shetland Place and Simmons Place in the Schooner Ridge neighbourhood. It is one of the very few publicly owned parks and green spaces in the Nanoose peninsula that has the potential for walking and resident enjoyment, and to be an inter-connecting pathway. It could also provide a safe walking route for area residents to the new restaurant and amenities at Schooner Cove. Dolphin Drive, which is winding and narrow, is not a safe alternative for pedestrians.

Until late last year, there were park signs at various entrance points to Schooner Ridge Pathway Park, as well as orange markers along the trail in the park. However, most of the path was rugged and unmaintained. Walkers had been exiting the park at the end of the maintained laneway leading from Foxrun Place, using a self-created pathway through an empty lot on Shetland place. However, that lot is being developed and is no longer passable, resulting in the need for a safe alternative.



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The initiative to improve the park was initiated in December 2020 by a committee of Schooner Ridge residents. One of the FCA board members, Lisa Collins, is a member of that committee.

They had made enquiries with the Regional District of Nanaimo Parks Department and created a survey to ask area residents their views on improving the park path and whether walking on Dolphin Drive was a desirable (or safe) alternative. The FCA assisted by distributing the survey via email to its members. The survey indicated that there was overwhelming support for improving the park path and that it would be well used.

The request to improve the park was considered by the Nanoose Bay (Area E) Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Committee (POSAC) and by the RDN Services Committee. As a result, RDN Parks Staff have studied the park and prepared a report outlining what would be required to create a walking path from the maintained laneway off Foxrun to the exit on Sherbrook Road. The Report has been referred back to the POSAC for further consideration at their October 27, 2021 meeting. We plan to appear at that meeting as a delegation. We are hopeful that the committee will approve the project and include it in the upcoming parks budget.



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## Treasurer's Report Year Ended March 31, 2021

	Actual	Budget
Membership dues	\$2873	\$2400
Disbursements	2107	3672
Surplus (deficit) of receipts over disbursements	\$766	(\$1272)

The Association ended the fiscal year with a surplus from activities of \$766 as opposed to the budgeted deficit of \$1272. Membership dues were \$473 higher than budgeted while expenses were \$1565 under budget.

There are currently 200 households in Fairwinds as members ( 2020: 198). The FCA continues to offer free membership for the first year for new members and a reduced three year rate as well for new and renewing members.

Expenses were lower than budget for the year principally as a consequence of the pandemic which shut down many of our group oriented activities. We had budgeted \$200 for support of the Sunday@4 series which was closed. Similarly, emergency preparedness sessions/meetings were cancelled resulting in a decrease of \$1000 in budgeted expenditures. Also, there were not any community maintenance/beautification costs, a reduction of \$150 from budget. As a result there was a savings of \$1565 in expenses which resulted in the surplus of receipts over expenditures for the year.

### **Balance Sheet at March 31, 2021**

Cash balance was \$13,162 at year end. The unused grant funds for emergency preparedness sessions which could not proceed as a result of pandemic restrictions, were returned to the Regional District of Nanaimo in August, 2020.

Prepaid dues of \$3763 reflect the receipt of three year renewals which are deferred for recognition in the applicable membership year.

The Board considers it prudent to reserve funds to cover two year's basic expenses and to have a legal reserve should a need arise for legal consultation.

### **Budget for the year ended March 31, 2022**

Going forward, a deficit of disbursements over receipts of \$730 was proposed in the budget for the year ended March 31, 2022.

Membership dues were budgeted at \$3400.

Expenses were planned at \$4130, an increase of \$2023 over the past year. Emergency planning initiatives (\$1000) continue as a priority and are focused on supporting training of neighbourhood groups. We anticipated an increase in insurance premiums (\$150). Otherwise, the budgeted expenses reflect our best estimate of requirements in this pandemic environment anticipating that we might be emerging from the obligatory restrictions.



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## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS Year Ended March 31, 2021

	2021	2020
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>		
Membership dues	2873	2382
Total Receipts	<u>\$2873</u>	<u>\$2382</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>		
Community support	--	528
Insurance	1450	1150
Community maintenance	--	350
Emergency preparedness	--	34
General meeting	--	666
Office expenses	253	426
Post Office box	182	177
Society fees	40	90
Membership	182	370
Total Disbursements	<u>\$2107</u>	<u>\$3791</u>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS</b>	766	(1409)
Website upgrade	—	2100
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<u>\$766</u>	<u>(\$3509)</u>



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## BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31

	2021	2020
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	13162	11246
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	\$13162	\$11246
<b>LIABILITIES :</b>		
Prepaid Member Dues	3763	2613
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	3763	2613
<b>RETAINED FUNDS (Note)</b>	9399	8633
<b>LIABILITIES and RETAINED FUNDS</b>	\$13162	\$8633

**NOTE:**

The Retained Funds have been designated by the Board of Directors as follows:

Reserve for operations	6000	6000
Reserve for legal expense	2000	2000
Designated Funds	8000	8000
Surplus Funds	1399	633
Retained Funds at March 31,2020	\$9399	\$8633





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## RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS BUDGET Year Ended March 31, 2022

	Actual	Budget
	March 31	
	2021	2022
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Membership dues	2873	3400
Total Receipts	<u>\$2873</u>	<u>\$3400</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
Community support	--	200
Insurance	1450	1600
Community maintenance	--	200
General meeting	--	200
Emergency preparedness	--	1000
Office expenses	253	350
Post Office box	182	190
Society fees	40	90
Membership	182	300
Total Disbursements	<u>\$2107</u>	<u>\$4130</u>
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<u>\$766</u>	<u>(\$730)</u>