

Chairs Report AGM 2020

The past year at the SCCA was loaded with various degrees of unexpected events along with our usual activities in covenant administration, e-news reports and alerts, support for bio-diversity protection with community groups such as supporting the formation of the new Sunshine Coast Streamkeepers.

Last summer started out as usual with our two summer students who set up our information booth at several community events, worked with the summer art and conservation program and helped with mapping projects.

The first surprise was the sad loss of long-time supporter Rick O'Neill in August. He generously appointed us as his heirs and executors of his estate with the commitment to protect and preserve the forest on his property in perpetuity. The community organized a wonderful memorial service. The estate has generated a lot of activity for Directors in sorting out the legal and financial issues necessary to comply with Rick's wishes. We are still sorting through this work that we hope will help establish a local model for conservation trusts on private lands.

The Federal election call was not entirely unexpected but we did sponsor a successful All - Candidates meeting with our friends in the Alliance for Democracy. The Roberts Creek Hall was at capacity to listen to the six candidates' positions on environmental issues and answer questions. We appreciate that both Patrick Weiler, our new MP, and Nicholas Simons, our MLA, have been available for advice and consultation regarding conservation issues.

We spent several hours with a facilitator to complete extensive organizational development planning in November and December. The main outcome is a fresh consensus to re-focus our work on conservation of marine and terrestrial bio-diversity for the Sunshine Coast.

We've contributed to consultation processes including OPP, the FLNRO application for additional moorage in Gibsons Harbour, a detailed oral and written response to the Province's Old Growth Review Panel, and continuing work on species at risk habitat. We're working with member groups on forest protection issues including Reed Road, aquifer recharge areas and new cutting block plans proffered by BCTS. After almost a year of planning for the conservation covenant area of Gospel Rock, we were surprised at a meeting in February by Town staff wanting to develop a multi-use trail on the uphill side of the road in addition to the 3m. constructed path on the water side of the road. We are continuing to work with The Land Conservancy to resolve this issue.



We started 2020 planning for a major social event - our traditional Gala, lining up funding for summer students and figuring out how to fund the engagement of an Executive Director when COVID19 changed our activities. We won't be sponsoring students this summer or holding a fancy social event. Instead we're all learning how to use Zoom and finding new ways to achieve our goals and work in our community.

Our most recent transition will be in staffing as Naomi Fleschhut will be shifting her work to organizing in other areas in the community. She has been a stalwart to the organization for the past seven years initiating a transition in improving our use of technology and organizing many events in the community as well as handling our administrative duties.

We will only be seeking a part time administrator at this time, hopefully to begin in August. They will need skills in QuickBooks, Mailchimp, editing and writing announcements and notices and providing admin support to the Board. Please get in touch with me or our office if you or someone you know might be interested!

We don't know what lies ahead, particularly in view of the pandemic. Much of our work has moved into on-line meetings and written reports even though some of our work is continuing in the great outdoors where many of us would rather be.

Lee Ann Johnson

Chair

SCCA Board of Directors