



2019 Annual Report

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Geoff Craig, President and Chair

With little revenue for 2019 our board has decided we could not declare an extraordinary dividend to the Legacy Fund this year. However, with some funds left from last years \$600,000 extraordinary dividend there will be an opportunity for some more modest granting this year from our Legacy Fund. We did declare our regular dividend of \$25,890 to our shareholder, the District of Sechelt.

I am very pleased to tell you that, in consultation and cooperation with our shareholder the District of Sechelt, we purchased in 2019 a Structural Protection Unit for the benefit of our community. A structural protection unit is a trailer filled with sprinklers, hoses, pumps and reservoirs that can help protect up to 30 rural homes from an encroaching wildfire. The unit is owned and maintained by the Sechelt Fire Department and is available to any fire department on the Coast. Of the total \$119,764 we have invested in this project \$10,000 was allocated to training firefighters in all 6 Fire Departments in deploying this unit. The unit is also registered with the Provincial Fire Commissioner and may be hired out, with a trained 5 person crew, to other jurisdictions in an emergency.

I need to thank Sechelt Fire Department Chief Trevor Pike, Assistant Chief Dwight Davison and firefighter Bill Elsner for their work in putting this unit together in accordance with provincial standards. Their knowledge and skills saved us a considerable amount compared with buying an off the shelf unit. I also want to thank Sechelt's Mayor and Council for their support in this important project.

Our AGM, like many other meetings this year, will be online only on May 11 at 7:00pm. Questions may be submitted in advance. Thanks to all our staff, directors, suppliers and contractors and let's hope that next year is more profitable and less socially distant.

From Left: District of Sechelt Councillors Alton Toth, Janice Kuester, Brenda Rowe, Matt McLean, Mayor Darnelda Siegers, Sechelt Fire Department's Assistant Fire Chief Dwight Davison, Firefighter Bill Elsner, Sunshine Coast Community Forest President & Chair Geoff Craig



OPERATIONS REPORT Dave Lasser, RPF, Operations Manager

2019 was a challenging year. Plans were continually modified as decisions by government were delayed with a negative impact on our ability to operate, to the extent that we did not harvest this year. Our new Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) was submitted to government for approval at the end of June 2018. This would be the first to go through a new decision making protocol the government has set up in the Sunshine Coast Forest District. By the end of December 2019 our FSP was still not approved. We were unable to apply for new Cutting Permits without an approved FSP; however, we have completed engineering field work for the cut-blocks planned for 2019/2020. This triggers a variety of other activities such as BC Hydro referrals, bridges, visuals, migratory birds, archaeological, etc.

To facilitate community fire preparedness on the urban interface from Port Mellon to Egmont, we held 2 Urban Interface Fire meetings on June 10th. Four guest speakers were invited to the Coast. Each spoke about a different part of the fire planning spectrum, painting a complete picture. The speakers made one presentation to approximately 55 members of first responder organizations on the coast, followed by a second public presentation. Coast Cable broadcast their presentations live, rebroadcast it every day for the next week and then multiple times throughout the summer fire season. The Community Forest worked with Elder College to hold 4 more public meetings over the following 2 weeks in Roberts Creek, Pender Harbor, Gibsons and Halfmoon Bay. In total, approximately 450 people attended the public meetings.

We enjoyed many other opportunities to support our community throughout the year. The Community Forest is a significant sponsor of the SunCoaster50 Mountain Bike Race and this year's race was another very successful and popular event. The race was held in the West Sechelt and Halfmoon Bay area with approximately 250 racers. We worked with the SC Trails Society, donating beams for new bridges. The Community Forest was also able to support the SCR's consulting engineering team working on new water reservoir locations by discussing the benefits and difficulties of potential access routes.

The Community Forest free firewood permit program continues to be very popular with residents from all over the Coast. Please call our office if you would like a permit. On the other hand, the illegal harvesting (poaching) of standing green trees by illegal firewood cutters has reached the epidemic level. I am sure that over 1000 trees (some up to 3 to 4 ft in diameter) have been felled by firewood poachers. The RCMP, the Conservation Officer Service and the Ministry of Forests are trying to deal with this continuing problem.





HABITAT RESTORATION

Michelle Evelyn, Sunshine Coast Wildlife Project

This spring, the Sunshine Coast Wildlife Project led a team of volunteers from the SC Trails Society and Community Forest to plant native vegetation along the shorelines of a restored wetland within the Community Forest's tenure near John Phare Lake.

In 2015, the West Sechelt Wildfire burned through 400 hectares of forest; 68 hectares were subsequently harvested by the Community Forest in a salvage logging operation. With cooperation from the Community Forest and the shíshálh Nation, and with funding from Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Wildlife Habitat Canada, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation, Gencon Foundation, and the SCRCD, the Sunshine Coast Wildlife Project is working to restore wetland ecosystems in the fire area. In October 2019, two wetland ponds were excavated with the help of Husband Contracting. Throughout 2020, volunteers of all ages will help to replant native shoreline vegetation and build and install wildlife nest boxes. The goal of the project is to increase wetland quantity and quality, aid in the recovery of species at risk, increase climate change resilience, and improve habitat for frogs, salamanders, waterfowl, and countless other species. The easy accessibility and topography of the location makes it an ideal demonstration site to educate about the importance of wetlands and showcase ecological restoration techniques.

This is the second site where the Wildlife Project has constructed wetlands on Community Forest lands, and more wetland projects are planned in the coming years to increase connectivity of wildlife habitats across the landscape. The Community Forest looks forward to continuing this valuable partnership with the Sunshine Coast Wildlife Project.

Legacy Fund

We were pleased to have had the opportunity to fund, with the support of our Shareholder the District of Sechelt, the following projects this year. We very much appreciate all the volunteers who make Legacy Fund projects possible, as countless hours of work and fundraising go into these. Thank you!

A number of previously funded projects were completed this year as well, including those pictured here: Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre's kitchen renovation, Gibsons Public Market's Solar Array, and Sunshine Coast Fastball League's new backstop at Hackett Park.



Recipient	Project	\$
Pender Harbour Health Centre	Accessible Van	40,000
Roberts Creek Hall	Roof Replacement	100,000
Sunshine Coast Rotary Club	AED's & Rescue Tubes	35,000
Sunshine Coast Arts Council	Roof Replacement	100,000
siyaya Reconciliation	Totem Carving	10,000



Financial Summary

Profit & Loss	2019	2018
Revenues	58,800	3,678,900
Cost of Sales	37,200	1,922,000
Expenses	413,400	532,200
Net Income (Loss)	(391,700)	1,224,700

Changes in Equity	2019	2018
Opening	2,292,400	1,843,700
Net Income	(391,700)	1,224,700
Dividends	(625,900)	(775,900)
Closing	1,274,900	2,292,400

Cash Flows	2019	2018
Opening Balance	2,885,300	2,451,400
Operations	(608,700)	1,209,800
Dividends Paid	(625,900)	(775,900)
Interest	29,100	31,500
Net Increase in Cash	(1,205,500)	930,800
Closing Balance	1,679,900	3,382,200

As Always, our full audited financial statements are available on our website.



Contact Us

Facebook.com/
SunshineCoastCommunityForest

PO Box 215, 5588 Inlet Ave
Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0
Phone: 604.885.7809

Email: info1@sccf.ca
www.sccf.ca