



# Elphinstone Community Association

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Serving the Elphinstone Community since 1971

## General Meeting February 19, 2025 – 7 PM Frank West Hall

<b>Executive</b>	Rod Moorcroft – President	Vacant – Vice President
	Janet Oxley – Director	Lucie McKiernan – Secretary
	Brian Thicke – Director	Tamara Hedden – PAC
	Ben Foster – Director	
<b>Absent</b>	Jonathan Weintraub – Membership	David Weintraub – Webmaster
	Trish Wray – Treasurer	
<b>Members</b>	Estimated at general meeting	25

1. Call to Order	Rod called the meeting to order at 7:06pm and gave the land acknowledgement.	Action by
2. Agenda	Adopted as presented - <b>Brian/Lorraine carried.</b>	
3. Director's report	<p>Notes from Donna's update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCRD has a new CAO - Tina Perrault former CFO. Unanimous decision the board is very happy with. Tina is the former CFO and did a great job in the Acting position. Now looking for a new CFO.</li> <li>• Snow – Pender got the worst and was without power for 3 days. SCRD needs to coordinate better re emergency response.</li> <li>• Passed budget. \$11 increase for Area E for \$1,000 assessed – due to increased costs for fire dept.</li> <li>• Old debt still to be paid down – much new spending coming.</li> <li>• She hopes for projects in Area E – re Chaster House/Park.</li> <li>• Tomorrow corporate workplan session re managing all projects.</li> <li>• Feb 13 agenda contains interesting stats. Take a look here: (<a href="https://pub-scrd.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=4ab095ee-884d-4d96-a5f5-">https://pub-scrd.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=4ab095ee-884d-4d96-a5f5-</a></li> </ul>	Donna



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including: IT 5,000 help requests, 6.6% residents don't pay utility bills, 121 job postings, water usage, recycling volumes, secondary suites etc. Area A has the most bylaw files. Bylaws – lunch and learn very interesting. Bylaw dept is now fully staffed. How many dogs apprehend by SCRD – 4 and one was a wolf, community hall bookings etc.

- Go to MYSCRD Online – to get utility bills electronically – will be linked to water usage - <https://www.scrd.ca/>
- Chaster well offline for repairs back on line by June.
- Donna will attend the Electoral Area Director's forum in Richmond.
- Tomorrow – report re OCP update.
- Ditch cleanup – Lee Carter again organizing, save the date - Sat April 6. She is looking for volunteers and asking for help to purchase grabbers.

Donna introduced Kylie Hutchinson from TraC to give an update on safety improvements proposed at the intersection of Chaster and Pratt Roads. Here's some information about TraC:

### **Who we are**

### **Our Vision**

Sunshine Coast residents enjoy a safe and efficient network of sustainable and active transportation options.

### **Our Mission**

TraC is a member-based organization that works to support healthy communities and reduce the Sunshine Coast's carbon footprint by promoting more active and sustainable transportation alternatives to private vehicles, including cycling, walking, and transit.

Here are a few notes from Kylie's presentation:

- Active travel for kids in partnership with VCH and school district. Trying to get kids out of cars – get them walking and cycling.
- Hired a consultant re school crossing safety – Langdale and Cedar Grove elementary were schools chosen. Pratt and Chaster crossing of concern – collected data re volume and speed of road users – recommendations included – speed

	<p>limit is 50 they found 85% were going 59 to 63k.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roads are designed to encourage speeding.</li> <li>• The official Guide requires a crossing every 2-400 meters near a school – Cedar Grove is way over the threshold. For number of vehicles the threshold is 25 per hour– recorded at 45 per hour. Daily threshold 1500 they recorded 4300 – 7300 way over threshold. Yes, a crossing control is warranted at this location. Volumes will increase with development of Gospel Rock.</li> <li>• Recommended rectangular flashing beacon or a 4-way stop – cost of beacon \$25,000, 4-way is less. This was raised with MOTT years ago.</li> <li>• Tamara – she has been working on this for years and wholeheartedly thanked TraC. What can we do further – to get the beacon vs 4-way – because of seniors and very young children managing crossing a 4-way is onerous. Kylie indicated they are presenting to the school board, Silas White (mayor of Gibsons) is aware, Randene Neall (BC MLA) also aware. They are really pushing for a beacon.</li> </ul> <p>Q – have any other measures have been considered to help reduce speed?</p> <p>A – not really – ministry views pedestrians as the problem because they want a smoother passage for vehicles. This approach is changing throughout the province now because of the health impacts.</p> <p>Q – Michael wants to see a stronger call to action from the community. Asked Donna in her next newsletter to call the community to action.</p> <p>A. TraC working on connect the coast – trying to find people in MOTT who have the power to support change. Making slow progress.</p> <p>Donna said she is seeing progress with new MLA and making connections higher up the chain. Randene is having some talks with MOTT.</p> <p>ICBC also aware of the study and they can be helpful.</p>	
4. Guest Speaker	Rod introduced Christina Wilson from Blue Act Marine who	



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kindly shared her PowerPoint presentation – see separate file which will also be circulated and posted on our website. Here are a few notes from the presentation:

- Last year – rebranded and changed name – BlueAct Society is a nonprofit operating Nicholas Sonntag aquarium. See their website <https://blueact.org/>
- Steward for a healthy ocean - 3 pillars: Conservation Education and Community.
- Conservation – Gibsons harbour, Howe Sound and Salish sea. Working on marine debris cleanup, healthy harbours, invasive species management last year focused on area from Bonniebrook to secret beach, Keats Island etc. healthy harbours eel grass beds and cleanup of marine debris under the harbour – found things like a toilet, old boats. Lots of work still to do. Invasive species management European green crab monitoring – looks like it's working.
- Education - school programs, field trips, hands on learning, fun get kids interested - pro-d day camps, spring camps, summer camps, older kids go to Thormanby, Porpoise Bay, Keats Island. They also include activities for seniors.
- Community – collect and release program – all very controlled, vets involved before they are released. Release day coming up.
- Nonprofit charity – they rely on volunteers. If you are interested get in touch – in winter you could be helping with animal care, habitat maintenance, interpretations, feeding, cleaning tanks. In the Fall and summer shoreline activities. If you are interested in education please get involved.
- Upcoming dates: Mar 1 Beer Fest, aquarium open to attendees – this is a fundraiser for GPM; Mar 12, 19 – Climate Action speaker series; Mar – Spring break camp; May 10 Release Day.

Christina's team then facilitated our attendees to view the tank with live creatures.

Rod thanked Christina with our usual card and gift.

Social break – general only



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5. Adoption of previous minutes	The minutes of the November 20, 2024 general meeting were adopted as posted on the website <b>Shanela/Tamara carried</b>	
6. Correspondence	Under New Business	
<b>7. Reports</b>		
1. President	No update.	Rod
2. Vice Pres.	Currently vacant	
3. Treasurer	Trish is away and provided the following accounting - As at January 31, 2025: Chequing \$1,166.37, Savings \$1,028.08.	Trish
4. Secretary	No update.	Lucie
5. Membership	No update.	Jonathan
6. PAC	<p>Tamara reports lots of activity at Cedar Grove School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another successful egg drop – Techfest group of retired engineers and scientists organize 2 events for schools. The intermediates have to design a fully compostable package which houses an egg in the middle. Firefighters join in the fun and drop the packages from an extension ladder. The winner's egg survives the crash landing.</li> <li>• Successful literacy week in partnership with parents.</li> <li>• Pancake breakfasts – they had one on Valentine's Day and another is planned for this Friday.</li> <li>• Div 1, 2, 3 – fundraising for a ski day in Whistler. They need \$3,000 and so far, have raised \$2,000.</li> <li>• Movie night and year end fair being planned.</li> <li>• Howe Sound Pulp and Paper are offering \$500 donations for PACS to use at their discretion– Tamara will put a proposal in.</li> <li>• Gord mentioned that there are neighbourhood grants available through the Vancouver Foundation for local projects.</li> </ul>	Tamara
7. APC	No update.	Anthony



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8. Members at Large	No update.	
<b>Comm Reports</b>		
Chaster House / Park Standing Comm.	<p>See Committee Reports below.</p> <p>Brian is asking for design information so we can have input to it which could include dealing with certain trees. We could also offer to plant the native species in exchange for input to the design. He wants to offer idea of garden boxes on the property – there is good soil on site that can be used.</p> <p>Noted a comment about how dangerous it is to walk across the existing road bridge and that these changes might make it worse. Brian – hopefully these changes will actually improve the safety. Commenter doesn't think it's a viable solution.</p>	Brian
Website Standing Comm.	Updates are ongoing thanks to David.	David
Socials Standing Comm.	Rod thanked Clint for organizing a fun social evening.	Clint
Trails Standing Comm.	<p>Clark Trail update – see also Committee Reports below.</p> <p>Trail between Sunnyside and Chaster Road – it's very wet, can't really walk and this trail is heavily used by teachers, parents and students. Brian spoke with SCRD and asked if they plan to upgrade. SCRD is asking for help from the community to maintain the trail – do we have volunteers and when available and what sort of things could we do e.g. removing existing brush and undergrowth, drainage etc. securing donations for materials, spreading aggregate? Brian thinks we are willing to do some of that. Tamara indicates that groups already do repairs and maintenance. Brian and Tamara will discuss further. Comment that this could be promoted through the SCCA.</p>	Brian



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Area E Roads Standing Comm.	<p>Pratt Road issues – refer to TraC report above.</p> <p>Crosswalk at Poplars and Woodcreek – see the draft letter below. Rod reviewed the letter – looking for approval to send the letter – the idea is to send the letter to each recipient rather than using cc. <b>Motion: to approve this letter be sent to Randene Neall, MLA and other recipients – Tamara/Janet – carried.</b> Suggestions to send the letter to the Coast Reporter as well as circulate as widely as possible.</p> <p>Thank you letter to Jeremy Waksell at MOTT see below – <b>Motion: to approve sending this letter to MOTT Lucie/Janet carried.</b> Rod sent the letter – this item is complete.</p>	<p>Tamara/David</p> <p>David</p> <p>Board</p>
Neighbourhood Associations	No update.	
8. Old Business	New projector tested and in use tonight. Thank you to Brian and Rod.	Brian
9. New Business	<p>BCTS update re TA0519 – see also Brian’s committee report below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare for March 19<sup>th</sup> – response to our letter, they basically say they’ve done everything properly and will go ahead and auction off this portion at head of Chaster Creek. They will present their rationale at the meeting on March 19 - who they are, mandate from govt, work they go through to determine why they would log certain areas etc. Good news, not planning to clearcut, rather a 33% thinning of that area. They want to meet in person and engage the community. Willing to do a tour for people interested in touring the cut block – get in touch with Brian if interested. Want to reassure that they’ve done all their homework.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Rod will draft a statement regarding respectful behaviour at the March general. Remembering that respect cuts both ways.</b> Brian will get a copy of their letter out to members with the minutes– get comments and feedback from members and then he’ll invite BCTS to meet with Rod and Brian two weeks before the meeting. Brian has kept Town of Gibsons and SCRD in the loop and also</p>	Brian

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	<p>invited them to the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BCTS really want to come to our meeting– be prepared to be civil – and have really good questions.</li> </ul> <p>Suggestion to call for people to submit questions in advance. It was agreed to devote the entire meeting on March 19 for this issue. Confirming the walkthrough on March 19 is at 10am – let Brian know if you are interested.</p> <p><b>Faye Kiewitz / Coast Reporter Column</b> Faye is looking for someone to write the column – 300 words min – if someone or someone we know would like to take this on please get in touch with Faye. Big thanks to Faye for taking this on and doing such a great job.</p> <p><b>Guest speaker idea Conservation Officer – Gordon Bishop</b> Gord was asked to make the connection, discuss what might be presented and get back to the board.</p> <p><b>Emergency Preparedness or PODs?</b> Gord and David to connect and research this topic.</p> <p><b>Snow removal</b> – see request below Brian will follow up with Donna.</p> <p><b>West Gibsons Ratepayers – see below info from Donna for the museum.</b> This item is complete.</p> <p><b>Zoom account paying Clint</b> Just here as a reminder.</p>	<p>Faye</p> <p>Rod</p> <p>David/Gord</p> <p>Brian</p> <p>Rod</p> <p>Board</p>
10. Next meeting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>February 19 General Meeting 7 PM Frank West Hall – Speaker Christina Wilson Blue Act Marine.</li> <li>March 12 Board Meeting 7 PM Zoom</li> <li>March 19, General Meeting 7 PM Frank West Hall – Speaker(s) from BCTS re logging.</li> <li>April 9 Board Meeting 7 PM Zoom</li> </ol>	





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	5. April 16 General Meeting 7 PM Frank West Hall – speaker TBA – possibly Quality Garden 6. May 14 Board Meeting 7 PM Zoom 7. May 21 AGM 7 PM Frank West Hall – speaker TBA 8. June 11 Board Meeting 7 PM Zoom 9. June 17 General Meeting 7 PM Frank West Hall – speaker TBA	
11. Adjournment	1. 9:13pm meeting adjourned	

### Committee Reports

1. Chaster House has some access improvements approved by SCRD Board 2025 budget as follows:

As per Board Resolution #177/24, this budget proposal is for upgrades to the alternate access to Chaster Park (eastern side of the park) and includes: upgrades to the gravel pathway to better improve safety and durability (e.g. grading, lighting), improvements to accommodate loading and unloading of supplies for booked events, parking improvements to the existing spaces along Ocean Beach Esplanade Road and improved signage.

The proposal also includes decommissioning and removal of Chaster pedestrian bridge, concrete abutments and other associated infrastructure, as well as revegetation of impacted areas with native species to restore riparian habitat along Chaster Creek.

Do we want to volunteer to help out with revegetation? We could also ask to make community garden boxes or ground level plots for nearby gardening enthusiasts as I know there is old stone free soil in the area where the access is going to be located. How much do we want to be involved? Should we apply for funding from the Vancouver Foundation (if that fits)?

2. BCTS update:

We need to prepare for BCTS presentation on March 19 regarding how to advertise the presentation, what we want presented, question format and safety of the speaker/meeting control. Also there is an invite available to examine the logging block which I would like to advertise at the Feb GM. Further, I'm hoping we will receive a written BCTS response to our letter soon. We should distribute that for comments when we get it as I'm supposed to provide more feedback to BCTS before March 19.

3. Clark Trail or Chaster connector trail:

This is the one that goes from Sunnyside near Clark to Chaster Rd near Cedar Grove school. SCRD has asked me what ECA might be able to provide to help with this maintenance as follows:



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Is there an interest from volunteers to assist with aspects of the project?

- What is the capacity for volunteers to assist with the project? How many volunteers would be available? Are weekdays possible or are volunteers only available on weekends? Do volunteers have preferred times of day?
- Would volunteers be available to assist with the following activities (activities are contingent on final design plans and will be confirmed prior to the start of the project): removing current infrastructure, brushing (FireSmart treatments), spreading aggregate, installation of boardwalk, securing donations of materials (possibly aggregate, culverts, etc.), clean-up activities post-work.
- If there is interest, please provide the names and email addresses for those interested and what tasks they are interested in.

How should I answer? Rod has approached the credit union for funding. Do we want to apply? Another source might be the Sunshine Coast foundation but they only give funds to CRA charities. Does anyone know a charity to partner with?

4. Projector purchase and testing is complete.

### **Correspondence from Donna:**

hi, Rod,

I was going through my files and found the original incorporation documents for the West Gibsons Heights Ratepayers Association (attached). They were so cool, that I shared with the museum and asked Matt if they had any interest. He says yes. So, over to you. If the ECA is happy to donate this PDF to the museum, you would fill out a donation form. (I asked Clint if anyone has the original documents and he says no, but he could be wrong...)

Looking at the signatures on the form was a bit of a jolt. I don't think of 1970 as being that long ago, but looking at the typewritten document and the signatures of "Housewife", it seems like a distant era.

Cheers,  
Donna

### **Correspondence from Gord Bishop:**

Gord Bishop request – Letter to MoTT

MOTI and Capilano Maintenance are failing to maintain Safe passage on Snow/Ice free hills on Gower Pt. Road and Bonniebrook area in 2025. An extended Bus route that includes these roads and areas will have No more SCRd and BC TRANSIT excuses not to expand, as the S-Bend has been recently rebuilt only leaving Harry road from Grandview down to Ocean beach esplanade in Dire need of rebuild.



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The SD 46 School bus has been on this same route for 4 decades carrying school children safely to and from schools.

Moti would have No Excuse not to attend to snow removal on Public Bus route as we have witnessed. Recently all students have been offered Free bus pass, is it not Common Sense that Safe and Accessible bus routes and Stops be prioritized in order to accomplish goal of bus use for the students?

Please come up with a real plan to make a positive change in Elphinstone! Please raise this at next Elphinstone and SCR D meetings during Budget and Transportation planning.

Thanks ...Gordon and Leslie Bishop. 45 years on Mabel rd.

=====

Would Elphinstone like to engage with Solar group to host a gathering at Frank west hall to engage with our members about emergency preparedness and learn about roles of groups whom are active.

There is a Neighbourhood grant of \$500 to go towards the costs of such an event. Call me to chat ...778-233-8250.

Thanks Gordon



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February 20, 2025

Jeremy Waksel  
Area Manager, Roads  
Ministry of Transportation and Transit  
Sechelt, BC

Dear Mr. Waksel,

Further to our letter dated November 27, 2024 regarding the S Bend repair on Gower Point Road requesting a foot path alongside the road.

We wish to say thank you. While the bottom section is a bit narrow, we really appreciate there being a “delineated safe section” for pedestrians.

Yours truly



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February 20, 2025

The Honourable Randene Neill  
Powell River-Sunshine Coast  
#109 - 4675 Marine Ave.  
Powell River, BC V8A 2L2

Dear Minister Neill,

We write to you on behalf of the residents of Elphinstone (SCRD Area E), the community in which, on December 6, 2024, another pedestrian was struck and killed by a motorist while attempting to cross Highway 101 west of Gibsons.

The section of 101 adjacent to Woodcreek Park and The Poplars has been the site of at least three similar fatalities, one of a 12-year-old child. The residents of these two densely populated developments on the south side of 101 have been pleading for a safe crossing to the west bound bus stop for years. Many have concluded that using public transit is too risky, creating a Catch-22 reality in which ridership is too low for the transit authority to justify bus stop redesign.

In our view, a reduction to the speed limit on this section of road will not, by itself, be adequate. Observations of motorist behaviour shared with us suggest a widespread belief that using the shoulder or bus stop on the north side of 101 to pass left turning vehicles is both legal and appropriate to maintain the flow of traffic. This belief is also commonly expressed by a subset of local motorists on social media.

We believe that a reduction in speed must be accompanied by additional traffic calming measures such as a well-lighted pedestrian-controlled crosswalk. The residents most affected by this deadly crossing have experienced too much loss and waited much too long for their safety to be addressed. We urge you to support a solution that will finally result in safety for this community.

Yours truly,