



Howe Sound

PULP AND PAPER LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

NEWS & VIEWS • APRIL 2007

IN THE COMMUNITY

Sunshine Dragons Abreast plant sale

Remember to set your alarm clock for before 9 am on Sunday, May 6. On that day a plant sale, organized by the Sunshine Dragons Abreast, will offer for purchase some limited-quantity items including a large herb planter, climbing hydrangea, white lilac, and giant gunnera. There will also be a variety of hostas, astilbes, hens & chicks, and rhododendrons—as well as some houseplants. If exotic greenery doesn't inspire the early bird in you, come for the garage sale featuring bird feeders & baths, crystal items, cookbooks & kitchen implements. The event's proceeds will help defray some of the expenses of the Sunshine Dragons Abreast team of 22 women, participating in "Abreast in Australia" on the Sunshine Coast of Australia in September 2007. Howe Sound Pulp and Paper is a bronze sponsor of the Sunshine Dragons Abreast.

Date: Sunday, May 6
Time: 9 am – 2 pm
Location: 4798 Laurel Ave. in Davis Bay

Pride in our Playground at Cedar Grove



Diane Henley, Angela Sears, and Wendy Morris (pictured), and Jill Launder and Arlene Longman (not pictured) are on the volunteer board for Cedar Grove's Pride in our Playground project.

"The Coast has so many wonderful people," playground coordinator Diane Henley enthuses when asked how fundraising is going for the *Pride in our Playground* project. So far a total of \$36,000 has been raised from a recent silent auction (nearly \$12,000), penny drive (a whopping \$1,800 of coinage!), bake sale (featuring gold-standard banana bread), and donations.

The goal of the volunteer playground committee is to create the region's first universally-accessible playground and park-like setting on a scenic site at Cedar Grove Elementary School. "This location has such great potential," Diane declares. But there are also many obstacles to overcome, such as the fact that there is not one shade-giving tree or structure on the hot, sunny playground.

As for accessibility: it is the playground committee's dream to provide black-topped paths and ramps instead of stairs so that children, parents and grandparents of all abilities can come and enjoy the park. To find out more about the playground project go to www.sd46.bc.ca/cgweb/. Howe Sound Pulp and Paper recently provided a donation to the project.

Taking on the trades



Howe Sound first year apprentices Dave Rose, Brad Helgesen, Craig Beerling, Dan Gentry, and Matt Davis.

"Trades keep the world running," Dave Rose replies when asked why he's decided to become a welding apprentice. Before being chosen as one of Howe Sound's five new apprentices, Dave worked at the mill for eight years in a variety of positions, most recently in shipping. He's looking forward to the hands-on creativity his new trade will offer.

Electrical apprentice Dan Gentry refers to his two young daughters for motivation. "I'm thinking about the future," he says. Trades offer portable, flexible skills that will make him more employable. Fellow electrical apprentice Craig Beerling

also has a young family with two boys, aged two and four. Both Dan and Craig acknowledge their "very supportive wives" who will be playing such a crucial role in their success—the school portion of their apprenticeships may mean being separated for up to 10 weeks.

To qualify for Howe Sound's apprenticeship program, employees need to have worked at the mill for at least one year. This year, five apprentices were selected from a pool of 32 interested candidates. "We plan for our retiring trades people," Greg Dosenberg, who is responsible for the apprenticeship program, explains. "The appren-

ticeships we offer directly relate to who in our work force has put in for retirement."

Brad Helgesen chose millwright for his apprenticeship because of the diversity of equipment he'll be working on. "I like to always be learning," he explains and millwrighting will offer expansive opportunities.

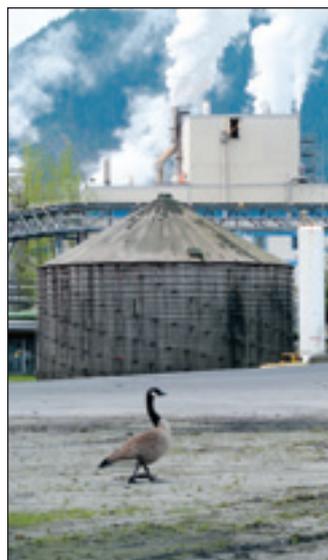
"Not everyone should be a lawyer or doctor," fellow millwright apprentice Matt Davis concludes. "If you like to work on cars, why not become an auto mechanic?" The key to employment success is to pick something you like, and then keep on learning.

New study reports on the status of waters and sea life in Howe Sound

Howe Sound Pulp and Paper has been carrying out regular studies to determine the impact of its operation on the waters and sea life of Howe Sound for many years. The studies are designed by Hatfield Consultants with input from Environment Canada, BC Environment, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the environmental group Reach For Unbleached.

The studies show that Howe Sound's current waste water discharge is having no measurable impact on water quality and fish in the Sound. There are some effects found from historical discharges, however, and the report makes the following conclusions:

- Toxicity testing indicates that effects on fish would only be seen at concentrations of effluent not found in the Sound;
- Concentrations of dioxins and furans in fish tissue generally show a decreasing trend (in fact much of the Sound that was closed for fishing in the late 1980s has been re-opened); and
- Nutrient enrichment is



observed in the vicinity of the mill, but this effect is likely due to historical fibre deposition from the mill and/or the booming grounds in Port Mellon, not to current ongoing discharges.

Sampling for this study was carried out in 2005, while analysis and report writing was conducted in 2006. Copies of the report have been sent to both the Gibsons and Sechelt public libraries and the executive summary can be found on Howe Sound's web site at www.hspp.ca.

Day of Mourning is April 28.

Last year 160 British Columbia workers lost their lives as a result of a work-related injury, illness, or disease. The Day of Mourning on April 28th is a day to commemorate workers who have been killed or injured on the job. It is also an opportunity for all of us to renew our commitment to health and safety.

Annual Day of Mourning Ceremony

Hosted by the Sunshine Coast Labour Council

Date: Saturday, April 28, 2007

Time: 11:00 a.m. until noon

Location: Dougall Park in Gibsons

Everyone welcome.

QUICK FACT

Canada is the world's largest exporter of wood pulp, with key markets in the United States (40%), the European Union (20%), and China (15%). Howe Sound Pulp and Paper is one of the largest single exporters of kraft pulp to China—approximately 30% of our production is sold to Chinese paper manufacturers.

CONTACT US

Howe Sound's News & Views is published once a month in the *Coast Reporter*. Issues are also available on our website at www.hspp.ca.

Questions? Comments? We'd like to hear from you! You can call or email Tina Sebert, Community Relations Assistant. Tel: 604-884-2575
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