



## Council Update

2015 has been a very busy year for council with Sonoma Pines continuing to be the toast of the Okanagan Valley. Our volunteer spirit is outstanding and every resident should be grateful for the commitment of those actively involved in the operation of our community.

We were successful in completing an RFP for a landscaping and irrigation contractor and think the community will be well served having Asahi back under contract. The Landscaping Committee was very active at introducing new landscaping guidelines, pruning specs and an acceptable species list.

The Maintenance Committee successfully introduced a new Alteration Process that detailed the acceptable specifications including the forms necessary for home owners to secure approval. The committee was responsible for getting the catch basins and our gutters cleaned and putting a process in place for single family homes to take advantage of our contract rates. They also refined the processes around general community maintenance that has simplified much of how our community operated into the future. They are currently working through our

depreciation report and many of our maintenance standards for the future. The Welcoming Committee was introduced late in the year and has been very successful at bring an information package to new owners and providing a means for them be comfortable in our community.

The Social Committee continues to be active and each new social event seems to be better than the last. There were many events throughout the year with the New Year's Eve event showing that there are many in our community that are prepared to dance past the midnight hour.

The Clubhouse Committee has been very active at working with the Social Committee to ensure many projects are completed without any draw on strata funds. The shuffleboard, lighting, kitchen shutters are examples of the projects brought forward through the cooperation of these two committees.

The Finance Committee continues to be the custodians of our financial welfare and have introduced a series of process and to help manage our operations and budgets. They are currently working through the budget preparation for next year and looking at possible cost allocation models that we could consider in the future.

The Communication Committeee successfully produced a monthly newsletter that has been very well received. They have updated our WEB site

and introduced Facebook as additional tools to help keep our residents informed and up to date. They are currently working on new tools that will simplify and manage our distribution.

An Administrative Advisory Committee was introduced at the end of the year with a key objective to help with the selection of a Community Services Coordinator to be our onsite resource and assist with the processes and document management practices for Sonoma Pines.

Council has been in constant discussion with APM regarding the service levels we are experiencing and as a result APM introduced Kevin Jersey as our new replacement property manager in November. Council will continue to work with APM to ensure the service level expectations that were agreed to in June are being met.

Finally there has been significant attention to the transition as Rykon is expecting to be complete in late May 2016. Council has met with Carrington regarding the next steps and has also met with WestBank First Nations to ensure our collective understanding of both the documentation and processes are clear. Expect to be in a position at our May AGM to have Carrington transition the corporate directorship to the sitting council of the Sonoma Pines Home Owners Association.

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### Sonoma Pines Website and Sonoma Sun Newsletter

[www.sonomapines.info](http://www.sonomapines.info)

You can check here for most recent articles on the community, back issues of the newsletter, or copies of Council minutes and financial statements. Some pages are password protected so use sonomapines and you should be fine. If there is something that you would like to see on the site or in the Newsletter please email us at [sonomapinesnews@gmail.com](mailto:sonomapinesnews@gmail.com).



## Procedures For Street Light Maintenance

Volunteers from the Maintenance Committee will check for burnt out lights and other streetlight issues around the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month, and email the list of streetlights requiring attention to APM. APM will forward the appropriate work order to Kreuger Electric who will send a crew to replace burnt out bulbs. If you see any recurring problems with streetlights please send an email to APM at [sonomapines@associatedpm.ca](mailto:sonomapines@associatedpm.ca) Please be sure to indicate the street address or closest landmark to the light requiring repair. It is also helpful to know if the light is out or cycling on and off.

## Snow Removal Update January 2016



It looks like we have managed to survive our first series of snowfalls and Council would like to address one of the issues that has come up.

We have received some emails regarding the issue of snow being pushed onto lawns and boulevards throughout the community.

As there is not a lot of spare room in Sonoma Pines for piling or "storage" of snow, much of it has ended up on boulevards or lawns. Given current circumstances, Council considers this the most reasonable option until the snow melts.

If these piles become too large we will resort to trucking excess snow out of the community, however, snow removal entails additional expenses related to rental of trucks and fees to dump the snow. We hope to avoid incurring additional snow removal expenses.

If you are concerned about damages to fences, or sprinkler heads, our contract with Interior Snow Removal calls for those being repaired come Spring. Please bring any damage to the attention of Associated Property Management at [sonomapines@associatedpm.ca](mailto:sonomapines@associatedpm.ca) and we will ensure it is taken care of.

We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding.



## SUDS CLUB (SP, Craft beer tasting club)

The Sonoma Pines Beer Tasting Group met on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> to

sample "Porter". For a full report on the evening and our thoughts on the products tested [click here](#)

Please join us for our next Beer Tasting on Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in the SP Clubhouse at 7:00 pm when we will sip and sample, "Brewed in BC Pale Ale". There should be lots of choices available at our local liquor outlets. You are requested to provide a 650ml or 2 x 340ml of BC Pale Ale to share with the group.



Here is a question to residents: Would you be interested in an announcement section in the Newsletter? (It was mentioned that we could be listing births, milestone birthdays and passings). Please let us know your thoughts on the topic and if you are interested in helping out with the newsletter in any way please mention that as well. Please send your thoughts, ideas and/or contact details to [sonomapinesnews@gmail.com](mailto:sonomapinesnews@gmail.com)

## SOMOMA PINES SNOWSHOE GROUP



The Snowshoe Club has ventured out three times this year. We have been blessed with near ideal conditions for our hikes in the winter wonderland at the nearby Telemark Nordic Club.

We are always open to new recruits and invite you to join us for fitness and fun.

Contact George at [dfsquaredf@gmail.com](mailto:dfsquaredf@gmail.com) for our schedule or for more information.

See you on the hill.  
George

## Letters



Please send your comments and letters to [sonomapinesnews@gmail.com](mailto:sonomapinesnews@gmail.com)

If you are interested in past copies of the Newsletter or more information on

The Sonoma Pines Community please check out the website at: [sonomapines.info](http://sonomapines.info)



Join us on Facebook

Have some news that you'd like to share with your neighbours?

The Sonoma Pines Facebook group is growing and you can join by [clicking here.](#)



Locally owned and operated by Steve & Sara Corothers

Check out our website at [www.homehardware.ca](http://www.homehardware.ca) OR

Visit us beside Save-On Foods,

Tell us you live in Sonoma Pines to save 5%

Proud sponsor of the Sonoma Sun

Store Hours  
Monday to Saturday  
8:30AM - 5:30PM  
Sunday & Holidays  
10AM - 4PM

**250-768-3125**

## Mission To Haiti Update

In our December issue Mary Trueman told us of the Tonn and Riewe's planned visit to Haiti to assist in the "Mission Of Grace." Here is an update:

Hi Mary,

Just thought we would send you some photos from our Haiti Mission trip. There were a total of 28 in the group that headed out for Haiti on the 30th of December. A great mix of youth all the way up to us seniors. We arrived to unseasonably hot weather with 30+ temperatures every day. Everyone got their fair share of sunshine. The guys had no problem filling their days as we were greeted with the daunting task of building 46 foot trusses (without a plan I might add), then carrying them about 100 yards up the hill where we had to lift them onto the roof, all by hand. We were fortunate to be able to work along side of the locals who prove to be a very tough and resilient people. We were able to get all the trusses in place on the new home for the elderly in preparation for the next group to come in and complete the metal sheeting.

The gals also filled their days providing helping hands at the orphanage, school, medical center, teen home, elderly home, and soup kitchen. As you can see from the picture, it didn't take long to make special connections with the little ones. They are like little sponges, soaking up all of the learning and loving that could be provided.

Our reward at the end of long, hard, hot days was a cooling dip in the beautiful ocean of the Caribbean. On behalf of Roger and Carrie Liegmann and Westmount Church our thanks to all of the support received from the residents of Sonoma Pines through the bottle drive and their generous donations. You have helped to make a difference in their lives.

Gerry and Debbie Tonn and Willie and Diana Riewe



## New Email System

The Sonoma Pines Communication Committee is looking at a new email system for Sonoma Pines residents.

This system will allow the Committee to send community updates to homeowners bypassing the property manager. One of the options offered with this system is the ability to do email opinion surveys on important community issues. If you have any thoughts on the matter please feel free to tell us at

[sonomapinesinfo@gmail.com](mailto:sonomapinesinfo@gmail.com)

We will be doing a trial of the system in the next few weeks.



New Year's Eve Greeters



## Markets may change. Good investing advice is timeless.

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## Sonoma Pines Calendar Of Events

Calendar click here: <http://www.sonomapines.info/calendar/>

### Lower Entrance Presentation

Michel Coutu of Sonoma Pines made a presentation to Council regarding the lower RV lot and the lower entrance to Sonoma Pines at their January 14 meeting. To see a summary of that presentation [click here](#)

That same week another Yahoo in a 4x4 didn't let the closed gate deter him and took a short cut over the boulevard into Sonoma Pines, (see photo). For a short term solution Council has asked Rykon to extend their temporary fencing along Sonoma Pines Drive.



Over-view of path taken by 4x4 that avoided the closed lower gate.

### New Equipment Donation!

Future residents of Siringo Lane, Robert and Carol McDonald, have donated a very special piece of equipment to our Sonoma Pines Fitness Centre. The equipment is a Precor commercial Elliptical Trainer that can also be used as a "stair climber." It allows the user to vary their stride length making it ideal for cross country ski training and many other cardio workouts. On behalf of Sonoma Pines Home Owners Association we would like to thank the McDonalds' for their outstanding generosity.



Alan Brown  
Fitness Centre Manager

### Clubhouse Rentals

If you are interested in reserving the Sonoma Pines Clubhouse and require any information please call Tom McEwen at 250-768-3439 or Jean Scheidl at 778-754-1884. Rental Forms and Insurance Information are now on line at [www.sonomapines.info](http://www.sonomapines.info) under the Clubhouse tab.



Welcome Committee With New Residents - December 10, 2015



### Sonoma Pines Activities & Contacts

**Photography Club**  
Lyle and Karen Larrigan  
250-768-2555  
[heritageimaging@shaw.ca](mailto:heritageimaging@shaw.ca)

**Quilting**  
Gaye Hunter at  
250 768-0996

**Painting Club**  
Glen Heming  
[250-768-0991](tel:250-768-0991)  
[glenheming@telus.net](mailto:glenheming@telus.net)

**Snowshoe Group**  
George Forshaw  
[778 214-6002](tel:778-214-6002)  
[gfsquaredf@gmail.com](mailto:gfsquaredf@gmail.com)

To place notices, on the Bulletin Board, please contact:  
Leslie Asselstine at 778-754-1397 or drop off the item at 2163 Serrento Lane