

Overview of Agreement with the City of Surrey

At the September 2019 General Membership Meeting it was brought to the attention of the members that the club was facing serious challenges with the continued operation of the club hall complex. These challenges were related to the lack of volunteers; reduced rental income; increased operational costs and some looming repairs that are well beyond the ability of the club to finance. It was also acknowledged that aside from the basement range facility the hall was rarely used for club activities.

This is an issue that has been building over the past decade. Unfortunately, it had reached the point where it has been consuming far too much of the club's resources and most of the club directors time. No one joins the Semiahmoo Fish & Game Club to manage a rental hall.

One of the solutions discussed at the September meeting would involve donating the club property and facilities to the City of Surrey as a biodiversity park. This would include passing to the City the responsibility for the hall complex and grounds. A motion was raised and approved by the membership that requested the club executive to open discussions with the City to negotiate a donation agreement. The donation was conditional on the ongoing operation of the volunteer hatchery as well as the club's existing archery and firearm programs.

Over the past year, despite the complexity of the discussions and the impact of COVID-19, the club President and Vice President have negotiated an agreement that meets the conditions set out by the membership. The agreements have been approved by the club directors and legally reviewed by the City of Surrey lawyers and a lawyer representing the club. The hatchery, archery and firearm directors have also had the opportunity to meet with the senior City representative. The agreement includes:

General

- The club will donate the club facilities and grounds to the City of Surrey as a public biodiversity park
- The City will have responsibility to maintain all the facilities and grounds
- All existing club programs will continue under the agreement with the City
- All existing hall rental agreements will be honoured by the City

Hatchery Operation

- Club volunteers will continue to operate the hatchery as has been the case over the past 36 years. This will be accomplished through the establishment of a new society, called the Little Campbell Hatchery Society. This society has been registered under the BC Societies Act.
- The City will assign a staff member to work with the hatchery volunteers and oversee the operational needs

Archery

- All existing archery programs will continue. This includes the indoor range programs; use of the outdoor range as well as the 3D tournaments (3) held each year on the club grounds
- A new society named the Semiahmoo Archers Association has been registered under the BC Society Act to manage the ongoing archery program
- The new society would set and collect membership and user fees and pay a rental fee to the City for the use of the indoor and outdoor range

Firearm Program

- The existing .22 rifle and handgun programs will continue
- A new society named the Semiahmoo Target Sports Society has been registered under the BC Society Act to manage the ongoing firearm programs
- The new society would set and collect membership and user fees and pay a rental fee to the City for the use of the indoor range