

Desert Cove Homeowners Association

Annual Report

Interim Social Director: Marilyn Richardson

April 2021 to Present

I'd like to start by thanking Diana Fortier (our previous Social Director) for her contribution to the DCHA during her term on the Board and for spending time getting me up to speed on the role. I took over the social director role on an interim basis as of April this year. We were in the midst of COVID lockdown with all events cancelled.

My primary focus over the last number of months has been to educate myself on the many different phases of BCs Public Health Orders and share a summary of that information with the community. I interpreted the orders (as best I could) that were applicable to Desert Cove and developed COVID protocols for the many activity's folks love and have missed for so many months, in order for us to safely open. I (along with Maggie Lyon) put a lot of effort in keeping the swimming pool open. I have been working with all the Event Coordinators to ensure they have the information and documents they need to follow the protocols. A big thank you to all the Event Coordinators who stepped up to the plate and took on a much bigger role than they expected!

The back and forth on cancelling events, scheduling them, then cancelling them again, has been frustrating for everyone. We keep hoping we can get back to normal soon.

We were able to get a few activities in this year which provided some much-needed social fun for folks. Some of the few are:

- Outdoor music nights
- Pup Strut
- Car show and Shine
- Diamond painting
- Bocce

With the new protocols introduced on September 13th we are in the process once again of opening up many of the fitness activities.

And, added to the stress of COVID, we faced an even bigger challenge, our situation with the wildfires and our subsequent evacuations. We realized very quickly that getting out information to folks as fast as possible and putting some kind of plan together, although not perfect, would assist our community. An 'ad hoc' team was formed and hit the ground running. Horn blowers were recruited to help in an early warning system. When the word came the second time, most folks were prepared, ready to go and knew where to go and what to do. We were successful in cutting our evacuation time by about 50%. Folks left orderly and calmly; it was a site to see. Desert Cove is truly a community of caring people, ready to help friends, neighbours and the community on a moment's notice. Thank you to Mary Matus for making it happen. We plan to take what we learned and make sure we have a solid plan for the future.

Thank you for your patience and support over the last number of months and thank you for allowing me to serve you in the capacity of Social Director!