



Heron Rocks Friendship Centre Newsletter

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Jordan and Emi leading the Wassail minstrels.

Photo by Cath Grey

Heron Rocks AGM

The Heron Rocks Friendship Centre Society
Annual General Meeting will be held on

Sunday, June 12, 2016

at 2:00pm

at the Heron Rocks Friendship Centre Annex.

Committees will report on the year's activities
and new board members will be elected.

Heron Rocks

Plant Sale & Berry Tea

Sunday, May 22

11:00am to 2:00pm

Come early for the best selection of plants!
Sale starts at 11:00am sharp.

Enjoy scones covered in whipped cream

Wonderful Wassail Party

By Reina LeBaron

The seventh annual Wassail Party was once again a great community party with much costume, music and merriment. Orchard Wassailing is a midwinter festival from Anglo-Saxon times to drive away the "evil spirits", burn the branches (which reduced the spread of disease) and offer a gift of toast soaked in apple juice to ensure a good harvest.

Wassailing was traditionally held on Twelfth Night (mid-January). The Heron Rocks Wassail Party, started by Florette Maclean, has developed into a unique Hornby event.

This year, a group of dedicated islanders practiced English Wassail songs and added greatly to the celebration. Sadly it was Jordan Mackenzie's last public appearance.

The costumed musicians, and Lady Rowana, led the joyful procession in a tour of the Upper Orchard, starting with the small saplings in the East and circling around to the big old tree in the North. Each tree was "toasted" by name (thanks to the signs made by the school children) and the crowd chanted together:

*"Apple tree, apple tree
We all come to wassail thee
May your future unfold
With health and strength
And abundance untold!"*

Two young maidens assisted by carrying the goblet of juice and the tray of toast. When all the apple trees in the Upper Orchard had been wassailed, there was a moment of quiet hushing to put them back to sleep until spring. Then the merry-making continued around the bonfire with music, snacks and good-cheer.

Several young children kept the fire bright with fir branches and tops dragged up from the Middle Orchard. Some of the older children also did their own wassailing of the trees across the driveway.

Thanks to the Board members and volunteers for organizing, setting-up and cleaning-up for

Farewell Jordan McKenzie

By Gemma Colin

Jordan is remembered by all of us as a creative, kind, and loving person.

He died mid-January, here on his beloved new home of Hornby Island.

Jordan was our helper with all things wooden at Heron Rocks, including our much discussed and finally actualized, new composting out-house.

Jordan enjoyed working at Heron Rocks and he and Emi came to our workdays and events.

We miss him; we mourn him and rejoice we had him in our lives.



Young helpers hauling trees to the Wassail fire.

Photo by Cath Grey

Educational Grants

Heron Rocks offers grants to islanders for educational activities. Some bursaries are administered by G.P. Vanier Secondary School for the benefit of Hornby youth graduating from high school. Others types of educational pursuits are assessed on an individual basis.

For more information, or to apply for funding, contact Heron Rocks Friendship Centre.

