

East Sooke has a community hall for all seasons

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By Staff reports



Dale Morrison at the piano along with Leslie Leus (right) and Dixon Number make up the East Sooke Community Hall Task Group. (Pirjo Raits/Sooke News Mirror)

When the East Sooke Fire Hall opened in 1985 no one thought it would become the central meeting place for residents, it was for fire trucks and firefighters.

Fast forward 32 years and the community boasts a [new fire hall](#) and a “new” community hall. The old fire hall had always been used as a place to hold meetings and now it is designated as a public hall under the auspices of the East Sooke Fire Commission.

Three people make up the East Sooke Community Hall Task Group and their mandate is to manage rentals of the hall for whatever group wants to use it.

Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue is renting the upper portion of the hall and the lower level is rented out and contains a commercial kitchen and a hall which holds 75 people.

"The rent allows us to do some improvements," said task group member Dale Morrison.

And improvements it has seen, with upgrades to the kitchen and the washrooms.

As the only place in East Sooke with space for meetings and community events, the calendar has many ongoing classes and events but it can still be used more.

"It's the only place out here really, and the community is growing," Morrison said. "We want the hall to be used."

The calendar on the web page and on Facebook (eastsookecommunityhall.com) shows karate, yoga and pilates classes plus meetings of search and rescue, and the Seagirt Ponds Park Preservation Society. There have been musical coffeehouse nights, monthly seniors' lunches, various speakers on issues of interest to the community, Books for Breakfast, craft markets, and the hall was used for the last election. They haven't booked a wedding yet but the hall could accommodate a small intimate wedding.

One important series beginning on June 28 at 7 p.m. at the hall will be on emergency preparedness which will focus on individual households and what residents can do to be prepared. The series will be a partnering with the East Sooke Neighbourhood Association.

Coming on Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. will be the Rough Voice Singers based on a similar group in Metchosin. The idea behind this is to get community members out for a camp fire sing out.

"You don't have to be a really good singer," said Morrison. "Just come out and sing songs."

The ongoing classes include karate every Tuesday at 6 p.m., pilates every Wednesday at 9:15 a.m.; and yoga every second Thursday at 7 p.m.

For more information, please call 778-352-4774 or email: eastsookecommunityhall@gmail.com

