

FLASH NEWS

MID-VANGOUVER ISLAND ELECTRIC VEHICLE ASSOCIATION

2020 – December 31st, V1– I9 – *Ideas and Responses to: Editor - MVI EVA Flash News – info@islandev.org*

Hello again MVI EVA enthusiasts – time to close off 2020 - **Hip Hip HOORAY!**

2019 was our formative year, with two initial meetings at Harris Kia. We closed off 2019 with a steering committee (board) meeting to start setting up our constitution and bylaws. Then 2020 hit. As I write this, it was exactly a year ago to the day that the CCP officially reported a new viral strain on the loose in the area of Wuhan City. We know now, that by the time they made the announcement it had already been spreading globally. Needless to say, the resulting pandemic seriously impacted the activities of our lives and your Association - but we soldiered on nonetheless.

We managed to hold two face-to-face general meetings, chaired by Co-President Joyce Lee before everything shut down in late March.

Your executive has been busy. There have been eight board meetings this year - Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 15 (no quorum, the last face-to-face meeting), Zoom on-line meetings chaired by Co-President Barbara MacLellan were held Apr 5, May 3, Sept 13, Oct 4 and Nov 15.

There have also been two meetings between board members and Jamie Rose, Manager of transportation for the City of Nanaimo, as well as continuing conversations held with other EV Clubs in BC. Some other significant events on the 2020 time-line were:

January 21st - Constitution and Bylaws were completed and submitted when we filed for incorporation under the Societies Act.

February 15th - our last face-to-face general meeting, held at the Nanaimo Library.

February 29th - the first of 9 FLASH NEWS editions was emailed out to the members.

March 5th - Display banners were completed and stands constructed to give the Club some visibility at public events. At the time we had plans to attend three events - In April, Earth Day at Barsbee School, Earth Fest in Cedar and in June, the Seaside Cruisers show and shine in Qualicum Beach. These events were to be our introduction to the public and many members were keen to participate.

March 19th - VANDALS STRIKE THE EV COMMUNITY as charging station cables are reported stolen in various mid-island locations.

April 5th - Our first Zoom meeting where we had to reluctantly abandon our plans for the three public events due to their cancellation.

April through June - Member Fred Ligeti was hard at work putting our web-site together and getting it live and de-bugged. he did an outstanding job, and if you have not visited it yet - go have a look at: www.islandev.org

May 5th - Vandalized chargers in Qualicum Beach were repaired - thanks to those who jumped on this and got it done so quickly.

May 15th - The famous physically-distanced MVI-EVA Member's photo shoot took place with 12 vehicles and their owners in attendance. This was the last large-ish gathering of club members and was held outside in a responsible way.



Since then - a few, smaller socially-distanced coffee meetings and get-togethers were held with mixed results. In July, some of our members attended the EV support rally in Victoria and in September a few of us checked out the Comox Club, National Drive Electric event in Courtenay. The last event was a MVI-EVA mini-rally to tour Chemainus in early November. 4 vehicles and their owners participated, respecting the physical distancing rules at the time. The photo shows Board member Bernie LaFrance and Glen MacLellan enjoying the late Fall sunshine on the day.

Surging COVID cases in recent months have made it improper to continue physical meetings of any kind and in the short term, these will be put on hold until the case counts get back under control and Dr. Bonnie Henry gives us the all-clear.

This is by no means a complete list of what we have done in the year past. We have been lobbying and writing letters to politicians while participating in other EV industry events to promote our cause. Our thanks to Larry Boldt,

who joined the Board early in the year and has been a very valuable addition with a high level of active participation. He quarterbacked the printing of 2,000 MVI-EVA business cards, which are ready to hand out to members. We will figure out how to get them to you soon.

There has been a rapid increase in new EVs here on the Island with many new owners getting electrified. Some existing owners now purchasing second EVs. Thankfully, many new models come with extended ranges, reducing the burden on public charging stations. BUT, we are all noticing that the public charging stations are getting busier and travel delays are starting to become a more serious problem. One of your Association's prime initiatives is to lobby for more public charging stations, and we are seeing some success.

Be Kind, Be Calm, Be Safe, and have a happy New Year at home. I will get back to you early in the New Year, hopefully with some better news. Hopefully here on the Island we will be responsible and be able to continue to avoid the worst of this pandemic.