

a word from the President

2016 NQCA Activities in Review

This year has been relatively busy for your community association. As per a resolution at our May 2015 AGM, we changed the Association's name to *North Quadra Community Association* (NQCA) and amended our constitution effective July 15, 2015. Another welcome change has been our upgraded website at northquadra.ca. I'm sure you'll be pleased with the site's new layout and organization, a credit to our techie wizard webmaster, NQCA member Arun Joshi.

Two developments were approved by Council this year. We were fully supportive of the first proposal, a small office building at 779 Blackberry Road. However, the second rezoning for a development at 4247, 4253 and 4255 Dieppe Road was a major disappointment since it offered very little in the way of community amenities; no cycle lanes and no sidewalk connection to Quadra despite requests by Dieppe/Caen residents and NQCA.

We've engaged in preliminary discussions regarding development and rezoning proposals on the Peninsula Bulldozing Site located at the end of Beckwith Ave. We've also reviewed a proposed road through 804, 812 and 820 McKenzie Avenue to the future Rainbow Hill Condo Towers and expressed our concerns.

Due to NQCA's ongoing lobby efforts and renewed support of four school principals, Engineering has budgeted for completion of the remaining section of sidewalk on the west side of Morris Drive. It's been a six year wait and we'll be happy to see it completed.

We also presented our position on the EDPA bylaw to Saanich Council. As you may know, this bylaw has been controversial and hotly contested by many impacted property owners. NQCA recommended the EDPA bylaw be retained but its administration be

modified. It is our view that the administrative process should be science based, transparent and fair. In terms of Council news, Saanich has hired a new CAO, Mr. Paul Thorkelsson who will be the keynote speaker at our AGM on May 12. We hope you will be able to attend, listen to the new CAO and question him on issues of concern. In other news, we have not made any progress updating the North Quadra Local Area Plan which dates from June 2003 and is in need of an update. However, Saanich has many pressing issues on their agenda and many other Local Area Plans have not been updated for at least 15 years. We will have to wait our turn.

I'm pleased to report that our 5th Music in the Park Concert last July at Beckwith Park, was very well attended and extremely successful. We offer our sincere thanks to Saanich Parks, Saanich Legacy Foundation and all donors, vendors and volunteers for this success. We are now busy organizing this year's July 19, 2016 concert. Join neighbours to enjoy a summer evening of music and fun! It's also a great opportunity to meet our executive members who work very hard to ensure the success of this event. On July 19, from 6:00 -8:00 pm you'll find us at the NQCA booth tent at Beckwith Park.

I continue to ask for your support and active participation in our community and in the events your association organizes. Your active participation is needed and is very important for us. You are also most welcome to attend our 7:30 pm executive meetings, held on the last Thursday each month (excluding July, August and Dec.) at Saanich Commonwealth Place Douglas Pacific Room. I want to convey my most sincere thanks to NQCA executive members and volunteers for their active participation and contributions to managing our activities.

Thank you. Haji Charania

For more details on the above see NQCA Spring 2016 newsletter.