



# North Quadra News

North Quadra Residents Association - Spring 2010

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## ***Annual General Meeting***

***7:30 pm Thursday, May 27, 2010  
Church of the Nazarene – 4277 Quadra***

**Keynote Topic:  
“Shaping Our Community’s Future  
Speaker:  
Saanich Planning Director  
Sharon Hvozdzanski**

### ***Sharing The Community Spirit***

Spring often motivates us to appreciate the outdoors, interact more with neighbours and consider neighbourhood issues. So why not mark May 27 on your calendar to attend North Quadra Residents’ Association’s upcoming AGM? You could even become a new member of our friendly, helpful and community spirited executive! Or, perhaps you have limited free time but could occasionally volunteer for projects such as Friends of Beckwith Park, boulevard tree coordinator, tree planting, or newsletter delivery! Maybe, you could even spearhead a neighbourhood enhancement project, by organizing a boulevard clean-up, being a blockwatch coordinator for an area not yet signed up, or providing cultural, arts or heritage info. for our website at: [www.northquadra.ca](http://www.northquadra.ca). In short, getting involved in your neighbourhood is a perfect way to **Engage Your Community Spirit!** The AGM is an opportunity to meet association reps and bring your

concerns to their attention. Worried about traffic? Concerned about safety, the nature of developments in your neighbourhood, or any other issue? This annual meeting is a good time to bring those pressing concerns forward.

Aside from electing new officers, the AGM also provides updates on major issues facing our community and reports upon presentations made on your behalf to Saanich Council. On May 27th, we also welcome keynote speaker, Saanich Planner Director Sharon Hvozdzanski. She will address questions such as: *What will our future community look like? What is Saanich’s template to manage climate change issues, growth and density without compromising existing values and amenities?* and *How can citizens be involved in the planning process?* For answers, join us at the AGM!

***Meet Your Neighbours At The AGM!***

***Refreshments Served***



*Friends of Beckwith on a work party*

## ***The FOB Model***

Your residents' association strongly supports community enhancement projects such as the fine work conducted by Friends of Beckwith Park(FOB)! Their initiative is an excellent template for enhancement of other small parks and green spaces within North Quadra, such as Hutchison, Rogers, and Ambassadors Parks or Rithet's Bog.

Anyone interested in spearheading a work group dedicated to restoring a needy site, is encouraged to contact 250-386-0832 or [patrick.chenier@telus.net](mailto:patrick.chenier@telus.net) for association support. Saanich Parks also offers volunteers technical and educational assistance

The North Quadra Assoc. supported FOB with a \$200 donation for much needed clipping tools. We feel this investment has already paid off, having received comments that this spring's Beckwith Park's native flower display is the "*blooming best ever*"!

## ***Rogers School Bottle Drive***

**Saturday, May 15th: 9 am-noon**

Rogers Elementary will host it's third bottle drive of the year. Bottle drop-offs are welcome at the school parking lot. The goal is to win the Encorp Elementary School Recycling Program Challenge! Rogers already has a large tally. Now, let's add to it! Bottles donated later than May 15 can be dropped off at the Bottle Depot on Glanford. Just specify that the donation be directed to the Rogers Tally for the Encorp competition.

## ***Friends of Beckwith Park Update:***

The Friends of Beckwith Park (FOB) have been busy, twice monthly since February, tackling invasive plants in the natural section of Beckwith Park. Volunteers are getting great enjoyment restoring the park to its natural beauty. Spring is also showing us the abundant natural flowers still in the park. We began working in sections identified as the most easily restored, currently at the east end of the park. Already, the difference made is SUBSTANTIAL!

Some residents have noticed that a number of trees have been trimmed or topped. Two things were at play here: to protect the volunteers, Saanich Parks removed or trimmed trees assessed as hazardous, and coincidentally, BC Hydro trimmed trees under towers and lines to their specifications.

Volunteers currently meet mornings (9-11 am) on the 1st Saturday and afternoons (1-3 pm) on the 3rd Saturday of each month. We welcome new volunteers wishing to join us, once or many times. We meet at the Morris Street path entrance. Contact 250-479-1617 [eylingilbart@hotmail.com](mailto:eylingilbart@hotmail.com) for further info. ...until next time, Eysin.

## ***Reynolds School Wins Greening Award***

**Congratulations** to Reynolds School for the ongoing development of two environmental projects that enhance our community: the Garry Oak park along Reynolds Road and the Courtyard enhancement project. These projects, under the direction of teacher/coordinator Heather Coey, recently received \$2000 in Green Games Contest awards for excellence, sensitive treatment and restoration of natural environments. But the Reynolds volunteer staff and students aren't finished yet! More is planned, especially for the courtyard which will soon enjoy "extra touches" such as plant labels and a stepping stone pathway through the native species garden. Soon the split rail fence protecting sensitive flora will be continued along Reynolds Road.

Another significant Reynolds Green Action is their "*Depot Recycle Program*". Students host a "by donation" drop-off collection in the school parking lot 9am-1pm every 4th Sat. This makes it easy to recycle items not covered by curbside recycling such as styrofoam, foil lined bags, heavy plastics, TV monitors, and a host of other things.

## ***Lake Hill School-A Doggy Issue***

Lake Hill School requests public support to help curb *doggie-doo* not responsibly removed from school property and neighbourhood routes to school. This practice violates Saanich bylaws, creates a health/hygiene hazard and is, to say the least, most upsetting for the young children affected. We love our pets and 99% of owners are always responsible. However, if you witness a "doggie dropping", please support your community by reporting the dog owner to school or police authorities.

## *Development and Rezoning Updates*

**Developer Requests Changes for Rainbow Slope:** As reported last issue, Rainbow Hill developer, Mr. Daniel Doore, desired to change existing covenants to eliminate 27 town homes, approved as a part of the original development scheme, in favour of 24 single family homes on smaller lots. He would also add 3 condominiums for a total of 67 units in two eight storey buildings. Our association, supported by many other community associations, expressed strong public opposition to such an amendment which could set a dangerous precedent. We do not wish to see attractive projects offered to get Council's approval, only to have substantive changes requested once that approval has been received. We are happy to report the developer has withdrawn the amendment application and it appears the development will follow the original comprehensive development scheme approved by Council in the fall of 2007.

**Recently, builders of 2 lower Rainbow Hill** lots sought Council's approval for an increase in allowable height for flat roofs, from 8.5 to 9.5 m. on lots 11 and 12, at the bottom of Rainbow Street. Our association felt that there was not justifiable reason for an increase in heights of those two homes which are already permitted to somewhat higher than the standard for Saanich. Council agreed with our views and turned down the request to change the development variance permit.

**Music School at 4089 Quadra:** The applicants, Christine and Christopher Taber, have proposed a music school for their newly acquired property at 4089 Quadra Street. They wish to retain Onex Computer as a tenant while adding four music studios for music lessons. The property is currently zoned C1 with a covenant registered against it to allow for limited office use. Our association is willing to consider the music school proposal, but have expressed the following concerns to the applicants:

1. We would prefer an amendment to the existing covenant allowing the music school rather than removing the covenant since removal could allow less desirable uses.
  2. There is a need for an easement from the neighbouring property to access the parking behind the building from Nicholson. The newly proposed parking lot surface should be pervious so run off will not effect neighbours.
  3. There should be a no drop-off or stopping policy on Quadra Street itself and the current driveway off Quadra should specify no left turn.
  4. The applicants must approach the immediate neighbours to obtain their comments and/or consent.
  5. While the applicants indicate their building will not include assembly use, this commitment should be included in the amended covenant.
  6. Hours of operation indicated are 2:00 to 7:30 pm. Monday to Friday, and afternoon lessons on Saturday. Also, the applicants have committed to insuring that noise levels are acceptable and within Saanich by-law requirements.
- We are awaiting further information and dialogue with the applicants.*

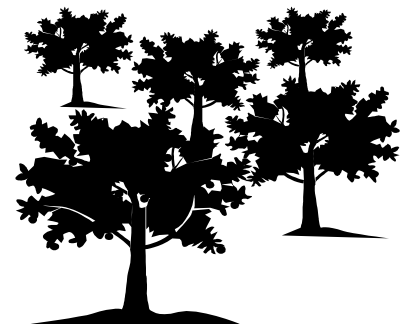
### *North Quadra Boulevard Trees for Free*

Your association continues to seek funding for streetscape enhancement and "Urban Forest Renewal". To date, nearly **100 residents** have received boulevard trees under our *Tree for Free* program and over **200 new trees** have been planted along North Quadra trails and parks! Check the corner of Nicholson/Morris and Woodhall/Quadra to view our latest trees that have nicely budded out!

Application forms, previously in our newsletter, are available by download

at [www.northquadra.ca](http://www.northquadra.ca). Applicants need only prepare 2x2x2' planting site and commit to tree watering for the 2 years. For those unable to dig, volunteers can assist. Our project partner, Saanich Parks, approve site locations and provide technical and logistical support. Tree selection must also meet Park's Urban Hardy Species guidelines but the choices are many. We anticipate approval soon for additional plantings in the fall of 2010. For further info. or if you wish a

"paper" application form, please call Lauraine Derman at 250-479-0302.



### *Secondary Suite Initiative*

Recently, Council moved an initiative to legalize secondary suites south of McKenzie forward to Public Hearing. This means that Council has likely accepted an initiative to use the area in question as

a trial for legal suites in Saanich. Staff will now prepare a by-law and bring it to the hearing.

Your association realizes suites do provide affordable housing but also realizes there can be downsides to this initiative. In any case, most areas moving to legalization find that the vast majority of suites do not choose to register. We will monitor the issue closely.



## ***Saanich Police Strategic Plan:***

**Enter An Ipod Nano Draw!** Saanich Police are surveying residents to help identify policing priorities for the next 5 years within their mission to: *“provide police service by working in partnership with the community”*. Assistant Deputy Police Chief Downie recently met our executive, outlined the many services provided by Saanich Police and stressed community awareness of their service delivery model *“No Call Too Small”*. Although law enforcement and safety concerns remain their greatest priority, much policing time is also devoted to coordination of many supportive and rehabilitative programs. The blockwatch program, in which North Quadra is a strong participant, is an example of a highly successful Saanich model adopted by many Canadian cities.

Our police value your thoughts and opinions and request your participation in the survey process aimed at shaping their 2011-2015 Strategic Plan. Fill out a survey and get a chance to win 1 of 10 iPod Nanos! Surveys can be accessed at:

[www.saanichpolice.ca](http://www.saanichpolice.ca); or at 250-475-4365 for a paper version.

## ***Scavenging & Identity Theft - A Curbside Recycling CRD Alert:***

**Why should YOU be concerned about scavenging from my recycling containers?** An issue of growing concern is identity theft. Scavengers may take documents with personal information to use without your knowledge or consent. This poses a serious threat to your privacy.

**How can YOU protect yourself against identity theft?** We recommend that you shred or tear all papers containing personal information prior to recycling. You can also use a permanent dark pen to cover up confidential information. We recommend that you place your recyclables at the curb close to 7:30 a.m. on collection day. This reduces the opportunity for scavengers to rummage through your blue boxes and bags.

**What should YOU do if you notice or suspect scavenging?** Immediately call the CRD Hotline at 360 3030. Do **NOT** engage with the scavenger. All reports will be investigated.

## ***Blockwatch Update***

**Are you a member of the Blockwatch Program?** If not, it's time to get on board! Blockwatch not only helps ensure neighbourhood safety, it also earns you a \$50 yearly discount with most home insurance companies. There are many more benefits including enhanced communication with neighbours, regular police reports of incidences that impact your neighbourhood, and emergency preparedness support. For more details on how to become a REGISTERED BLOCKWATCH call Sue Marcotte at: 250 744 5675

## ***Email Registration***

### ***Just a “Click” Away***

*Your association endeavours to stay “connected” with residents. As your elected reps, we frequently advocate and report on your behalf to Council. In order to make the best informed decisions, we try our best to contact residents most impacted by development or policy changes. This is often a difficult and time consuming process, involves extra meetings and requires extra work such as door knocking, phone calls, target bulletins, etc.*

*Many resident associations increasingly rely upon electronic media (email) to communicate and inform. Electronic mail is by far, the quickest way*

### ***“to get the word out!”***

*Please consider signing on to our recently established EMAIL REGISTRY program. Check our website at [www.northquadra.ca](http://www.northquadra.ca); for the Terms of Reference /Registration form.*

## ***At the AGM***

Our May 27th AGM will include ample time for personal interaction, goodies, refreshments and viewing informative displays such as: recent solar panel technology, guide to raising backyard chickens, and the advantages of cultivating mason bees. Hope to see you there!

## ***Association Information***

All legally established North Quadra residents are association members. Operating the association depends, however, on your generosity. Become a “supporting member” for an annual fee of five dollars. Other donations of any size are always welcome.

**Please direct Questions, Comments & Cheques to:**  
**Patrick Chenier-Pres. 386 0832-930 Tuxedo Pl., V8X 4T2**  
**Don Hamilton-Vice Pres. 744 4281-1143 Nicholson, V8X 3L5**  
**Stan Brygadyr-Sec. 727 2243 -847 Cameo, Victoria, V8X 4M3**  
**Haji Charania- Past Pres. 479 0872 -757 Genevieve, V8X 3R4**

*We deliver over 2400 newsletters by volunteers. If you can help, please contact Lauri Derman @ 250 479 0302*  
**Visit our website @ [www.northquadra.ca](http://www.northquadra.ca)**