



North Quadra News

North Quadra Residents Association - Spring 2011

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Annual General Meeting

*7:30 pm Thursday, May 19, 2011
Church of the Nazarene – 4277 Quadra*

Keynote Topic:
“The Natural City”

Speaker:
Saanich Councillor
Vic Derman

Sharing The Community Spirit

Wondering what's new in your neighbourhood? The North Quadra Residents Association strives to keep you informed! This edition of *North Quadra News* provides development, traffic, neighbourhood, and community updates ranging from such items as: *Borden/McKenzie intersection upgrades, 4050 Douglas Street Apartments, North Quadra's first Music In The Park event at Beckwith Park, Saanich's latest boulevard tree planting initiatives, local school and playground reports, to our new backyard “chickens” bylaw*

As spring always heralds time for renewal and growth, so too, its time for the association to renew its quest to rebuild, engage and expand community involvement by inviting residents to attend our annual AGM. **So mark May 19th as an important date on your calendar!**

The AGM will inform you on current neighbourhood issues and is a valuable opportunity to bring your concerns to our attention. Worried about traffic? Concerned about safety, the nature of developments proposed for your neighbourhood, or any other issue? This annual meeting is a good time to bring those pressing concerns forward.

At the AGM, we will elect table officers and directors at large for the coming year. We're always on the look out for new talent. If you know someone who would be great to have on the executive, please encourage them to step forward.

Finally, our keynote speaker, Councillor Vic Derman, has an excellent, timely and “thought provoking” PowerPoint presentation called *The Natural City* that is sure to inform you. This is a presentation you won't want to miss.

Meet Your Neighbours At The AGM!

Refreshments Served



Students working hard to improve our parks!

Beckwith Farm Cannons

Propane cannon firing as a deterrent to geese at the Island Berry Co. farm west of Blenkinsop Lake is still under review by the BC Farm Industry Review Board. A hearing was held followed by a site visit in January, but no ruling has been given to date. Saanich is also involved with this process.

We hope the matter will be resolved before this year's growing season. In the interim, we continue to watch this situation, and will provide representation as the opportunity arises.

Island Berry Co. published their 2011 plan at: www.islandberrycompany.ca and promised a spring open house. We will publicize this event when it happens. Be sure to be on our e-mail list, so you can be notified. The company also indicated they aren't receiving many complaints from residents. If you have concerns contact their website above or Duncan Chiu of CNBF (*Concerned Neighbours of Beckwith Farm*) at chiuduncan@gmail.com or 250-386-6477

McKenzie/Borden Intersection

Saanich recently completed improvements at the McKenzie/Borden intersection. A cycling lane was added to the SE corner, the lawn area was improved and a concrete pad was added for transit users. The bike lane is now complete between Borden and Cedar Hill X Road. In 12-18 months, concurrent with the completion of the Cedar Hill X/Borden condos, Saanich will improve the north side of the intersection with bike lanes and sidewalks. Although this will improve traffic flow somewhat, it may not solve peak hour traffic congestion.

Lake Hill School Enhance Park

On April 8th, Lake Hill Elem. partnered with Friends of Beckwith Park and Saanich to plant 32 Garry Oak trees throughout Beckwith Park. Many thanks to the dedicated efforts of the students and staff who all "did their part" to enhance the park's ecology while learning valuable environmental stewardship skills! On another eco note, Lake Hill's Green Team also led a new in-school program to reduce garbage going to landfill by over 75%! Bravo! Lake Hill School staff and parents wish to thank dog owners for respecting their request to pick up after pets and to keep pets off the school grounds when school is in session.

"Our playing fields are much cleaner and we are very appreciative of the respect the community has given to these requests" Jody Waldie, Principal

Friends of Beckwith Park

The Friends of Beckwith Park continue tackling invasive plants in an effort to restore the natural areas of Beckwith Park. Volunteers receive great pleasure and satisfaction in seeing areas returned to their natural beauty. Spring is showing the abundant natural flowers still in the park as well as the additional colourful blooming of new camus and easter lily bulbs planted last fall. Volunteers meet (9-11am) on the 1st Sat. and (1-3 pm) on the 3rd Sat. of each month. New members are most welcome to join once or many times. Contact: eylingilbart@hotmail.com 250-479-1617

Debris Dumping In Our Parks

With increasing urbanization and development, our treasured natural areas are in need of support. Saanich requests your help to decrease the occurrence of residential waste disposed in our parks. This problem frequently exists along park borders where dumping garbage, garden and animal waste occurs. In addition, some residents use park natural areas as extensions of their private property by installing compost bins or creating pathways. As neighbours to these special places, we are encouraged to protect our natural spaces by reporting such abuses to Saanich Parks who will contact Bylaw Officers if necessary. Also, supporting the free use of Saanich's Yard Waste Disposal Facility at 1040 McKenzie goes a long way to keeping our parks sustainable.

Development News: 4050 Douglas



Construction has now begun at the condominium project at 4050 Douglas. As reported in the last newsletter, Council approved the project after the applicant offered a number of improvements including: permeable surfacing for parking areas, improved sound proofing for units facing the highway, creation of a small garden area and commitment to "Build Green" silver certification.

It's Happening!! Music In The Park ...is a GO!

We are most pleased to report our application to host a Saanich "Music In The Park" event was successful. **Tuesday July 26, 5:30-8:00 PM** will feature great music at a picnic style evening gathering in Beckwith Park. Bring your picnic basket, blanket or chairs and enjoy a summer evening with relatives, friends, and neighbours. Family friendly music with popular local band, Voyager, and guitarist Eric Tolman will be featured. Food and refreshments will be available for purchase, along with free children activities and information booths. It should be a great time for all.



This event marks the first arts and recreation activity sponsored by the North Quadra Residents' association. Your executive has long felt the need for this type of event in our community. Here's your chance to network, share talents, and enjoy the splendor of our local parks. In the past, cost and manpower held us back. Thanks to 5 volunteers who responded to last newsletter's plea for help to plan and coordinate the event and Saanich Parks and Legacy Foundation's generous grant of \$1300, the event is a go!

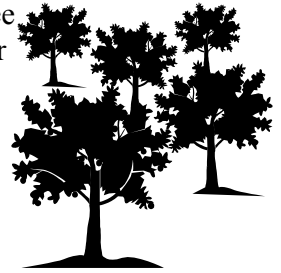
"Music In The Park" celebrates its 6th year in Saanich and is now eagerly anticipated by local residents. Concerts are scheduled Tues. evenings through July and August at a variety of park locations. Refer to flyer insert for further details regarding other series performances.

North Quadra Boulevard Trees for Free

Our "free boulevard tree" program has been restored for another year! By last fall, our local grant monies were virtually depleted. However, there's good news! BC Hydro offered a funding partnership with Saanich to ensure plantings will occur on a larger scale in Saanich.

Under a new Urban Forest Strategy, Saanich will partner with community associations to plant trees on municipal frontages. For us, the model remains almost the same as in the past. Homeowners can contact us or Saanich Parks to enroll and will receive a tree at no cost. Parks staff will

plant, stake and mulch the tree while residents agree to water May-Oct. for a minimum of 2-5 years. For further info. and application form, visit www.northquadra.ca; or call Lauraine Derman 250-479-0302. Respond soon since trees quantities are limited to 200 this year.



Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Improvements: A History

Over the past 10 years, the association has worked to address traffic concerns and improve pedestrian safety. Vehicle speed control, cut-through traffic and safety for school children have been particular concerns. Although progress at times has been slow, requiring long hours of consultation with municipal staff, we feel the overall results have been significant. Our accomplishments to date include:

A traffic light at Beckwith, speed humps and traffic bulges on many residential streets, a completed raised sidewalk along Douglas, a commitment for a raised sidewalk from McKenzie to Ambassador on Cedar Hill X Road and Morris, and plans to improve parking and sidewalk issues along Lucas at Lake Hill School's fire gate.

One wonders how we managed Quadra traffic hazards without that Beckwith traffic light! And now, the Douglas sidewalk is well used as a much safer route for Rogers and Pacific Christian students. While Saanich appears to prefer installation of cheaper asphalt sidewalks, our association supports raised concrete sidewalks which last longer and are much safer for all involved. For strollers and those with disabilities sturdy concrete sidewalks are especially important. In this matter, we have been encouraged by Saanich's decision to increase their sidewalk budget to address pedestrian concerns.

Currently, we are seeking funding to ensure completion of the last segment of sidewalk from Ambassador to the school corner at Morris and Lucas. Completion of this section is an important safety measure for school children. Lastly, the traffic situation on Quadra seems particularly difficult to solve but we continue to pursue improvements in Quadra's pedestrian environment.

Chickens In Saanich



After 18 months of research and public consultations, the proposal to allow backyard hens on smaller lots (down to 6000 sq ft) has been accepted by Council. Bylaw changes are being crafted and will soon be implemented. This new bylaw brings Saanich in line with neighbouring municipalities and a

trend across North America to re-introduce local food production into the urban setting. Potential concerns from neighbours resulted in a cautious plan, so it is clearly important for anyone bringing hens into their area to respect those concerns. If you are contemplating getting chickens and would be interested in a North Quadra workshop, please contact Harald Wolf at: hwolf@wolfweb.ca

Rogers Park Upgrade

Saanich Parks will construct a new playground in Rogers Park this summer. The existing equipment will be removed as it does not meet current safety standards. The new playground including: a set of swings, a fire engine with a slide and a crazy cup will meet current safety standards for children under six. There will be a trail connecting paths from Genevieve and Chesterly. A bench will be installed for the parents to sit and supervise children at play. *For further details and small scale drawing please contact Haji Charania at 250-479-8072.*

Rogers School Bottle Drive

On Sat. May 14th: 9 AM-noon, Rogers will host its annual bottle drive. Bottle drop-offs are welcome at the school parking lot. The goal is to again win the Encorp Elementary School Recycling Challenge! Last year Rogers placed 1st in BC and aims to win again with your help. Rogers has many other ways of acting *Green*. Read about their eco initiatives at: <http://gogreenatrogers.blogspot.com/>

Reynolds' Community Recycle Depot

Its now difficult to count the many awards and accolades Reynolds School has received for their community and environmental outreach initiatives! From projects such as *Building A Culture Of Less and Local*, solar panel installations, school front and boulevard enhancements, to hosting the popular *North Quadra recycle drop-off program* every 4th Sat. (9 AM-noon). By donation, it's now so easy to recycle items not covered through curbside pick-up such as styrofoam, foil lined bags, heavy plastics, electronics, and more.

All legally established N.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.

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 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 EMAIL REGISTRY at our website: www.northquadra.ca

Engage Your Community Spirit

Our outreach campaign encourages residents to become active in local volunteer programs. You could become a new member of our friendly, helpful and community spirited executive! Or, perhaps because your free time limited, you 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, joining our "Music In The Park committee, or providing cultural, arts or heritage info for our website at:

www.northquadra.ca; In short, getting involved in your neighbourhood is a perfect way to *Engage Your Community Spirit!*

Association Information

Please direct Questions, Comments & Cheques to:
Haji Charania- Pres. 479 0872 -757 Genevieve, V8X 3R4
Harald Wolf-Vice Pres. 479 9489 - 4169 Kincaid V8X 4M7
Stan Brygadyr-Sec. 727 2243 - 847 Cameo V8X 4M3

We deliver over 2400 newsletters by volunteers. If you can help, please contact [Lauraine Derman@250 479 0302](mailto:Lauraine.Derman@250.479.0302)
Visit our website @ www.northquadra.ca