



North Quadra News

North Quadra Residents Association - Fall 2010

Becoming Engaged in Your Community

There's always lots happening in North Quadra and our region! This newsletter not only provides the latest association info and updates but also seeks to engage residents with broader community issues and volunteer opportunities. Last spring, your association launched a "Share The Community Spirit" campaign to strengthen our ability to facilitate neighbourhood needs.

On that note, we invited Saanich Planning Director, Sharon Hvozdzanski as our 2010 AGM keynote speaker. Her presentation on how residents can impact policy making provided valuable insight into municipal processes and confirmed that "proactive community involvement and effective communication" is, by far, the best means to strengthen neighbourhoods.

This fall issue: *provides park, traffic, playground, school, development updates, describes recent concerns regarding cannon noise affecting the Beckwith Park area, and outlines an exciting opportunity for the North Quadra community to become part of Saanich's popular "Music In The Park" series.* Also, we again invite residents to join our email service which provides regular newsletters and electronic updates. Finally, while we're most grateful to the current 12 executives who give generously of their time, we are always looking for new executive members. *See last page for more member contact information.*

Also check our website @ www.northquadra.ca for past and present newsletters, area history, maps, and other community links.

INSIDE

***Developments & Rezoning:
4050 Douglas
4089 Quadra Music School***

Cannon Noise

Friends of Beckwith Park

***Volunteer Outreach and
Electronic Registration***

***Sidewalk Proposal Update
@ Morris/Cedar Hill X***

Boulevard Tree updates

***Local School reports and
Greening Projects***

Music in the Park Program

***Quadra Traffic Calming
Initiatives***

Association News and Events

Taber Music School Open House

It has been a very busy summer and fall for us, but we are finally nearing completion on our renovations at 4089 Quadra Street. We have constructed four sound-resistant teaching studios, two wheelchair accessible bathrooms and a new entrance at the rear of the building for our students to enter safely from the back parking lot. We still have a friendly agreement with our neighbors to allow our students to enter the property off Nicholson. The parking lot has been graded and a road base has been laid down in preparation for permeable pavers to be laid as soon as possible.

**We are holding an open house on Sunday, November 28
1 - 4 pm. We invite the neighborhood to come by and
see our new school, share a cup of hot cider, and hear
some good music.**

Regards: Christine and Christopher Taber



Eylin planting native camus bulbs at Beckwith Park

Rogers & Ambassador Parks

We continue to await significant upgrades, promised in Spring 2009, to Rogers and Ambassador Parks. Staffing issues for Saanich Parks have affected their projected schedule for upgrades, however Parks staff have recently assured us that work will commence "soon".

Ambassador Park will receive a new swing set, reconstruction of a playground edge to contain sand, enhancement of natural groundcover to protect Oaks, and a granular surface trail from the parking area to the playground. Rogers Park will see the removal of older equipment deemed unsafe, an entirely new playground installed in the center area and the addition of a new trail. Hopefully, this work will be completed for next summer.

Music in the Park Program

North Quadra needs at least one annual gathering event for residents to connect with neighbours, make new friends and celebrate our community. In the past, costs and manpower have held us back. Now, we may be close to solving these challenges! The association recently submitted an application to Saanich's "Music In The Park" program for an event in Beckwith Park next summer. *Music in the Park* has been hosted by several other communities such as Gorge-Tillicum, and Quadra/Cedar Hill and has enjoyed a rapidly growing following. Each event typically features two hours of musical performances, refreshments, children activities and community information booths.

Our association is seeking volunteers to help with the event coordination and planning. To date, one North Quadra Director has volunteered, however, she can't do it alone. Being on a committee would not be onerous. Only a few hours would be required to meet in early February and mid June and participation could be as easy as making phone calls or delivering notices. This is a great opportunity to share musical talents, network, or supply an activity and help provide a great event for our community.

Please contact Lauraine Derman @ 250-479-0302 or laurainederman@shaw.ca to help get "**Music In The Park**" "happening" in North Quadra.

Friends of Beckwith Park Update:

If you don't mind getting your hands dirty, fall is the best time for working in the park! The newly formed *Friends of Beckwith Park* met twice monthly for the last 8 months to restore Beckwith Park's natural balance and beauty. Good News... the digging and tugging is getting easier with softer ground for pulling ivy, blackberry roots and broom shoots. Lately, native Camus bulbs and seeds have been planted in key park areas to bolster spring bloom. The friends have benefited from renewed Saanich Parks support for restorative efforts resulting in action plans such as planting live willow stakes along the pond shoreline to reduce erosion. Eylin Gilbart, lead friends steward, attended a recent Saanich Parks "Pulling Together Workshop" which focused on restoration and provided a valuable networking forum for Saanich park volunteer groups. Amongst future plans are grant applications to augment our toolset for the upcoming year.

Interested in fresh air, exercise, camaraderie, and eco-enhancement? The friends meet very 2nd Saturday at 9:00 am and 4th Saturday at 1:00 am. New members and drop-ins are most welcome. Contact Eylin Gilbart at 250-479-1617

Sidewalk Issues

With completion of the condominium project now started across from the Monkey Tree Pub, we will see a new sidewalk on the west side of Cedar Hill X Rd and Morris from the project to Ambassador Avenue. Intuitively, with the contractor having equipment already on site, this would be an ideal time to add a sidewalk on the west side of Morris from Ambassador to Lucas.

The current situation creates safety problems for school children. With Lakehill School support, we have requested several times in the past that this "gap" be addressed. Unfortunately, to date, we have not managed to convince Saanich Engineering to move. We will keep trying. This opportunity is not to be missed.

Development and Rezoning Updates

Music School @ 4089 Quadra

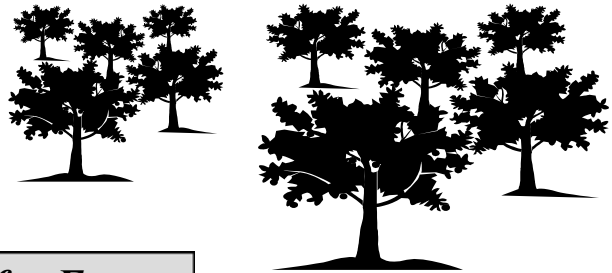
Last spring the owners of 4089 Quadra sought to amend the covenant limiting the C1 zoning on their property. Their proposal requested reconfiguration of the site from limited office use to a music school with the retention of Onex Computer as a single tenant. The association favoured a limited change since the full removal of the covenant could have allowed less desirable uses. To their credit the applicants agreed to association requests for covenant limitations, permeable parking surfaces and parking behind the building on Nicholson. Recently, Council accepted these recommendations in granting approval for the Taber Music School.

Council Approves 4050 Douglas

On Nov. 1, Council considered a 3 storey condominium building for 4050 Douglas near the Salvation Army Church. However, many features described by the applicant such as garden plots had not been guaranteed. For this reason, the item was referred to the Council meeting on November 15. At that meeting, the applicant provided new guarantees for the items suggested and the project was approved. Our association has been supportive of this project and is comfortable with Council's decision.

"Cannon Noise"

Is a phrase, coined by affected residents of Broadmead, North Quadra and the Blenkinsop Valley. It refers to the frequent disturbance from firing of propane cannons by the Island Berry Company Limited at Beckwith Farm adjacent to our North Quadra neighbourhood. At the end of August, our association was approached by the *Concerned Neighbours of Beckwith Farm (CNBF)*, a citizen's action group, to support their efforts in filing a formal complaint to the BC Farm Industry Review Board. We agreed that the issue of cannon noise merited investigation and agreed to support their complaint, in principle, subject to reviewing the official document. Since the CNBF has now filed an independent complaint, the association will wait for the outcome of the review and will also monitor the results of actions by MLA Lana Popham and others. We hope the avenues of recourse applied to date may result in future noise abatement.



North Quadra Boulevard Trees for Free

Your association continues to seek funds for boulevard trees and streetscape enhancement. In early December, approximately 20 new trees will be planted to fulfill the remaining 2010 tree grant requests. Unfortunately, this grant program is now depleted. However, Saanich's Urban Forest Department have embarked upon a program to supply boulevard trees for streets with a low tree canopy ratio. Several North Quadra neighbourhoods qualify. Again, successful applicants must agree to water new trees for two years. The awarding of these "free trees" would also require several applications per street. To enhance our chances for this grant, we are looking for residents to serve as neighbourhood tree coordinators. If you are interested in a "free tree" or could coordinate, please contact Lauraine Derman @ 250-479-0302 or Urban Forestry Manager Cory Manton @ 250-475-5488 or cory.manton@saanich.ca;

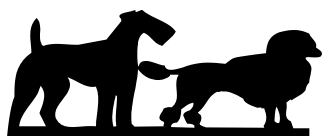
Message From Concerned Neighbours of Beckwith Farms

A formal complaint has been filed with BCFIRB (BC Farm Industry Review Board) and the barrage of cannon fire seems to have at least temporarily subsided. However, unless we act together on this issue it will likely begin again. Our group, the *Concerned Neighbours of Beckwith Farm*, has been meeting with municipal and provincial officials, neighborhood associations and directors of Island Berry Co. to prevent cannons from becoming an everyday, all day practice. ***Now we need your help.*** We all know of neighbours who are bothered by this noise but don't know what's being done. To reach more people, keep informed and lobby, we request you consider hosting small gatherings of your neighbours. We seek to expand our group to keep up the pressure. We had a good turn out last June at St. Margarets School, but need more people and greater involvement. If you can assist in hosting a casual neighborhood get-together please notify Duncan Chiu at chiuduncan@gmail.com. He and/or other committee members will gladly provide pertinent information to your meeting. Sincerely, Jay Crawford and Duncan Chiu, CNBF 250-386-6477

Lake Hill School News

Lake Hill School administration and parents continue to press for safer sidewalks and safe parking practices. This includes supporting our drive for additional sidewalk construction on Morris and issuing reminders to parents that it's parallel parking only on Lucas Avenue in front of the playground.

School officials remind us that not all children are familiar and comfortable with dogs. Saanich By-laws require dogs on playgrounds to be on-leash and properly controlled by owners at all times. Also, a reminder that keeping school



Reynolds School Greening Projects

Reynold's courtyard garden flourished this year, producing a bountiful harvest! The remarkable efforts of students involved aim to raise community awareness of how easy it is to reduce your "ecofootprint" by eating and growing local produce. Students will build an outdoor deck and pergola the length of the cement pathway by next year. Also, they have partnered with Madrona Farm <http://madronafarm.com/> and Healing Farm <http://www.healingfarm.ca/> to supply the produce for a weekly salad bar.

A School Front beautification project along Borden Street is almost complete—with benches, pathways, peace pole, fencing and plants. The final planting of native species and trees will occur in late November with the final split rail fence in front of the theatre to follow. Why stop there? What's Next? --Tile mosaic art work at the front...

Congrats to Reynolds students! **Contact teacher Heather Coey or email @ hcoey@shaw.ca for further project info. Check out their Green Spaces Website:**

greenspacesproject.org/ and www.sunnyportal.com/Templates/PublicPagesPlantList.aspx Put Reynolds School in as the plant name to track

We deliver over 2400 newsletters by volunteers. If you can help, please contact Lauraine Derman @ 250 479 0302

Visit our website @ www.northquadra.ca

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, try to contact residents most impacted by development or policy changes. This is often a time consuming process, involving extra meetings, door knocking, phone calls, delivery of target bulletins, etc.

Many resident associations increasingly rely upon 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 @ our website at www.northquadra.ca;

Good Luck, Patrick !

With great regret we bid farewell to our President, Patrick Chenier who accepted an exciting, new business opportunity in the Parksville area last July. It's not easy to find able, committed individuals willing to assume the demands associated with the presidency of a large community association so we regret this loss! Patrick's talents and dedication to the community over the last 4 years has been greatly appreciated and will be greatly missed.

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 5 dollars. Other donations of any size are always welcome.

Please direct Questions, Comments & Cheques to:

Stan Brygadyr-Sec. 727 2243 -847 Cameo, Victoria, V8X 4M3

Haji Charania- Acting Pres. 479 0872 -757 Genevieve, V8X 3R4

Harald Wolf- Vice Pres. 4169 Kincaid, V8X 4N7