

North Quadra News

North Quadra Residents Association



Annual General Meeting

7:30 pm Thursday, April 14

Church of the Nazarene - 4277 Quadra Street

Guest Speaker

Councillor Vic Derman
"The Challenges We Face"

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Volunteers Wanted

Upcoming Events

Once more, it's time for our annual general meeting. The AGM is an important event for our association. It's an opportunity for the executive to meet with the membership and update residents on major issues that face our community. In turn, it's an opportunity for you to bring your concerns to the executive's attention. Worried about traffic? Concerned about safety, the nature of development or any other issue? The annual meeting is the time to let us know.

Of course, the AGM is also the time when we elect a new executive and Board of Directors. We have one of the largest boards of any community association in Saanich, but we're always looking for new board members

If you're willing to serve or know "that perfect person for the job", we would really appreciate the help. The better our executive board is, the stronger our association and community will be.

This year we are fortunate to have Councillor Vic Derman as keynote speaker. Vic is a past president of our association and is well informed on community affairs. He will be speaking about the challenges that our community and municipality face as we move into the era of the Regional Growth Study. He will also be willing to speak to any other concerns that you wish to bring forward.

Help keep North Quadra Vibrant

SEE YOU AT THE AGM

NORTH QUADRA TRAFFIC STUDY

Over the last year, a traffic study was conducted in our area as part of Saanich's neighbourhood program. The purpose of the study has been to find traffic calming solutions to speeding and "cut through" problems on residential streets.

Our association was well represented on the project committee along with municipal staff, area schools and consultants. After many meetings and several open houses significant community support was evident for the following recommendations:

Speed Humps:

Cedar Hill Cross Road, Morris, Nicholson, McBriar, Ambassador, Lily, Rogers and Douglas

Raised Cross Walks:

Cedar Hill Cross Road, Morris, Rogers and Lily

Road Realignment:

Morris

Curb Bulges:

At raised crosswalks and at Beckwith

Improved Sight Lines:

At a number of intersections

Sidewalk Upgrades

Cedar Hill Crossroad and Nicholson

Potential Future Sidewalks

On Douglas, Lucas and Rogers

Quadra and McKenzie were not included in this study since they are major rather than residential streets. Quadra, in particular, is a problem for our area and, hopefully, will be the subject of a future major streetscape study.

CYCLE SECURITY

Cycling is a great way to get around our neighbourhood. Unfortunately, theft is a constant problem. Avoid problems by always locking your bike even when leaving it "just for a moment". If your bike is stolen, you have a much better chance for return if you have recorded serial numbers and engraved an identity number on key components.



The Hutchison House has the protection of heritage designation. Unfortunately, only part of the landscape framing it are protected.

HUTCHISON LANDS - AN OPPORTUNITY

Bruce Hutchison, who lived in North Quadra for most of his life, is arguably Saanich's most famous citizen. His list of accomplishments include:

- Three Governor General's Awards - the only British Columbian to accomplish that feat
- Three National Newspaper Awards
- The Bowater Prize for achievement in Commonwealth journalism
- The Canadian Authors Association Gibson Award
- Order of Canada and other awards too numerous to mention.

Mr. Hutchison's impact on Canadian journalists, authors and politicians was also remarkable. He was a valued confidant to ten successive Prime Ministers. Peter C. Newman called him: *"The Dean of Canada's political commentators"*. Pierre Berton acknowledged: *"It was he who taught me that the Canadian past could be*

interesting. His books of popular history have been my single most important influence".

Mr. Hutchison's house on Rogers Avenue has been protected through heritage designation. But his writing and passion make the landscape surrounding the property almost more significant than the house itself. Fortunately, when his property was subdivided, Saanich bought two lots to the east of the house and protected that part of the setting.

The lots to the west of the house remain natural but are unprotected and are currently up for subdivision. Our association is spearheading a move to achieve protection to the west along with Councillors Cubberly and Derman. What a great centennial project to further honour one of our municipality's most famous citizens!



The unprotected woodlands to the west of the house. Part of the landscape that inspired Mr. Hutchison.

ANOTHER NORTH QUADRA GRANT SUCCESS

Five years ago, Saanich began offering matching grants of up to four thousand dollars for neighbourhood enhancement. Each grant requires a community matching contribution such as volunteer labour or expertise. Largely through the efforts of director Lauraine Derman, North Quadra has benefited from this program through a number of tree planting projects.

Past successes include:

- In 2001, tree planting next to Lake Hill School on Morris and Lucas and residential boulevard tree planting along Tuxedo, Lucas, Leveret and Belevedere

- In 2002, trees planted in Beckwith Park to provide shade for picnic and playground seating areas.
- In 2003, twenty trees planted to delineate Lochside Trail from the Monkey Tree Pub to the Don Mann property.

The residents' matching contribution for these projects has included labour, tree maintenance and expertise provided by Don Mann.

Our latest project took place March 7-9, 2005 and involved:

- Six flowering plums planted on Lucas next to Lakehill School

- Thirty five native shrubs planted along the path at the south border of the park as a hedgrow
 - Thirty five native shrubs planted on the trail from Lucas to Quadra
 - Six large fir trees and twenty Garry Oaks planted in the soon to be completed new Bernard Park
- Special thanks to the LakeHill School students who so enthusiastically helped out, to the Saanich Parks Crew who were so professional, to Lakehill Principal Wendy Holob, teacher Kathy Sarton and volunteer diggers Lee Clackson, Jim Boyd, Rob Rounds, Graham Weir, Ron Warden, Vic Derman and Peggy MacLeod.

HOW TO ENHANCE YOUR COMMUNITY

If you have a project idea that you could spearhead for your street, local park or neighbourhood, please inform an executive member or contact persons: Lauraine Derman - 479 0302 or Peggy MacLeod - 727 2521. Unfortunately, capital projects such as sidewalk, curb and gutter or sewer repairs don't qualify. But there's all sorts of neighbourhood beautification, information and safety projects that could.

The North Quadra Association will prepare and submit the application for you. Projects are then evaluated by Saanich and, while there are no guarantees, we have been successful in the past.

Talk it up with your neighbours! All it takes is a small volunteer effort and another improvement to our neighbourhoods could be funded.

REMEMBER!

If we don't apply for grants other associations will. Let's keep North Quadra at the forefront.



Saanich staff help Lakehill students in our latest tree planting initiative

See more pictures at the North Quadra website

WE NEED YOU! - HELP US TO RID OUR PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS OF "UNNATURAL" INVADERS

Our North Quadra Association is always looking for volunteers to help us complete a number of tasks. Of particular concern at present is the problem of English Ivy, blackberries and other invasives in our parks and natural areas. The recently created park on the Hutchison land, unfortunately, is an excellent example of a natural area that desperately needs attention.

If you would be will to organize a group for an area near you or would be willing to be part of a group, Saanich Parks is willing to work with us to clean up our damaged areas, improve their ecology and make them more enjoyable for all.

Past President Haji Charania has volunteered to coordinate our cleanup efforts. He can be reached at 479 8072

BLOCKWATCH UPDATE

North Quadra continues to enjoy a very successful Blockwatch program with over 45 "blocks" currently signed on. Special thanks to area coordinator Jan Dong and all the block captains.

If your street is not already part of Blockwatch, you should consider signing on. Statistics prove that blockwatch neighbourhoods suffer considerably less break-ins and related crimes than do non-Blockwatch areas. In recognition of this, some insurance companies will give you a reduction on home insurance premiums if you

are a Blockwatch member. Also, it's a good way to get to know your neighbours and increase neighbourhood "spirit". As a bonus, Saanich will soon be running a program with summer students under which you can have your home evaluated and suggestions made to "harden" it against crime.

For further information on Blockwatch and how you can get it going in your area contact Saanich coordinator Karen Wallis at 475 4365 or visit: www.blockwatch@saanichpolice.ca

ENGLISH IVY - THE WORST OF "GARDEN THUGS"

Of all the invasive species that plague our gardens, parks and natural areas, English Ivy is undoubtedly the worst. In addition to wiping out natural foliage at ground level, ivy climbs trees and weakens its hosts by shading out new growth, competing for nutrients and so overloading the tree top that "blow down" is a possibility.

Once ivy begins to flower, particularly when it is allowed to climb, it is readily eaten by birds and spreads at will. It has become an undesirable feature of many of our forest floors.

Unfortunately ivy is difficult to control with hand pulling being perhaps the best method.

Bottom line, if you don't have ivy, don't get it! If you do have it, take the time to control it but don't compost it. Put it in black garbage bags or leave it on a non soil surface until it dries out and clearly dies. You'll do us all a favour. For more information on ivy visit our website listed under association information.



English Ivy is a particularly nasty garden pest

UPCOMING

*North Quadra AGM
April 14*

*Saanich Arts Week -
April 30 - May 6.
Opening ceremonies
at 11:00 - 3:00
Saturday, April 30 at
Cedar Hill Recreation
Centre*

SAANICH MAPPING ONLINE

Saanich is at the forefront of technology with its GIS online mapping system. Using this system, residents can get aerial maps and other information through their home computer. To use the system"

- go to: www.gov.saanich.bc.ca
- go to: *Visitors to Saanich*
- scroll to: *GIS Services*
- Use instructions to set the "pixel viewer" for your computer.

You will be rewarded with all sorts of useful information that can be readily printed out.

ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

All legally established residents of the North Quadra local area are members of the association. To operate, however, the association must gain much of its small budget through the generosity of residents. You can become a "supporting member" for an annual fee of five dollars. Other donations of any size are most welcome. We also continue to accept cheques to support acquisitions around Christmas Hill.

PLEASE DIRECT QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND CHEQUES TO:

Ron Warden - President - 936 Lucas Ave., Victoria, B.C. V8X 4L2 - OR

Haji Charania - Past President - 757 Genevieve, Victoria, B.C. V8X 3R4

Stan Brygadyr - Secretary - 847 Cameo, Victoria, B.C. V8X WM3