

North Quadra News

North Quadra Residents Association - Spring 2006

Annual General Meeting

7:30 pm Thursday, April 6, 2006
Church of the Nazarene - 4277 Quadra

Keynote Topics

*Community Policing in North Quadra -
Blockwatch and Safeproofing Your Home*

Saanich Centennial Events - Tracy Ryan

INSIDE

*North Quadra
"Centennial Gift"*

*North Quadra Traffic
Plan Implemented*

*Douglas Street
Delayed*

*Past President - Award
Winner*

*4149 Quadra
Development Proposal*

*Sidewalk
Improvements Needed*

*Neighbourhood
Cleanup*

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. Like all associations, we need to replace members who have served and moved on.

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 two keynote presentations. A representative of our excellent police force will discuss community policing programs, the Blockwatch program (If you're not part of it, you should be) and how you can go about "safeproofing your home". These are always timely topics.

By the way, IT'S SAANICH'S CENTENNIAL! Centennial co-ordinator Tracy Ryan will be on hand to let us know what to expect during the year.

*Help keep North Quadra Vibrant
SEE YOU AT THE AGM*

NORTH QUADRA TRAFFIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

After 18 months of consultation, two open houses and two presentations to Council, recommendations from the North Quadra Traffic Plan have been accepted. Implementation of these recommendations will see the following changes in our neighbourhood:

Already Installed:

Speed humps at Nicholson, McBriar and Ambassador

In Progress:

Traffic circle and road re-alignment at the intersection of Morris and Nicholson

Coming Soon:

Raised crosswalk at Rogers and Lily
Curb bulges and crosswalk at Beckwith
Speed humps along Cedar Hill Cross Road

The North Quadra Association appreciates this financial commitment to traffic concerns in our area. Aggressive, speeding traffic on neighbourhood streets has been an ongoing concern for our residents.

Unfortunately, Quadra, our biggest traffic issue, was not included in the plan which was limited to residential streets. For this reason, the association has asked, by letter and formal presentation, that Council consider Quadra for a future streetscape study.

DOUGLAS STREET DELAYED

After considerable discussion, a decision was made to install a raised concrete sidewalk on the east side of Douglas Street in lieu of traffic calming measures.

Unfortunately, since funds are limited, the proposed sidewalk will be built in three phases with the first phase from Cameo to Lily to be built this year. We continue to urge Council to make phases two and three a high priority.



Mr. Bruce Hutchison's heritage designated home will be the subject of a special Centennial painting that North Quadra will present to Saanich

NORTH QUADRA'S "CENTENNIAL GIFT"

Bruce Hutchison, who lived in North Quadra for most of his life, is arguably Saanich and North Quadra's most distinguished 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*

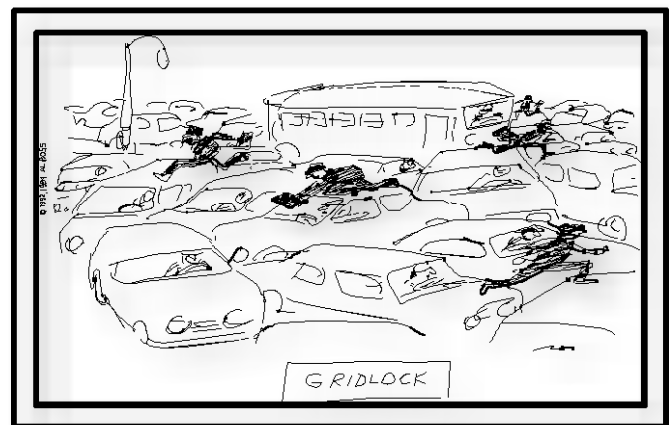
interesting. His books of popular history have been my single most important influence".

Saanich's Centennial provides a perfect opportunity to celebrate Mr. Hutchison's contributions. For this reason, we have commissioned Barbara Weaver-Bosson, a renowned watercolour artist, to paint the Hutchison home on Rogers Avenue.

North Quadra received a \$2000 centennial grant from Saanich. We are seeking sponsorships from local businesses to match this grant to cover the \$4000 cost of the project which will also include the presentation of a giclee copy to the Hutchison family.

When it is finished the painting will be presented to the municipality and exhibited at key locations. At the end of the centennial, it will find a permanent home in the Bruce Hutchison Library at Saanich Commonwealth Place.

Seem Familiar?
Aggressive Traffic has been the number one concern expressed by North Quadra residents in recent years



SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED

Our municipality has done a lot of things well. However, in the area of sidewalks and other pedestrian amenities there is room for considerable improvement in North Quadra and elsewhere.

Our recent neighbourhood traffic study identified the Morris, Cedar Hill X Road and Borden corridor, running from Lucas to McKenzie, as being particularly hazardous and heavily trafficked. Speeding was mentioned as a special concern and sidewalks were identified as being inadequate and in need of replacement or repair.

We need decent concrete sidewalks in this corridor which services three schools and is a primary pedestrian route to services at Quadra and McKenzie. The current asphalt sidewalks do not stand up well and do not last even if they are "patched up". In their current state, they are unsafe and completely inadequate for those who have physical limitations or use wheelchairs.

HAJI CHARANIA RECOGNIZED

Our past president, Haji Charania, has been a member of the association for 30 years and has served as director, vice-president and president. Beyond the association, his extensive past community service includes many years as an advocate for multiculturalism and two terms on the Saanich Police Board.

Currently, Haji serves on Saanich's Board of Variance, is Secretary of the Saanich Volunteer Services Society and is a member of the Victoria Airport Authority. On January 24th, his outstanding service to our community was recognized with a "Rotary Community Leadership Award. Congratulations Haji!

Other parts of our neighbourhood have similar problems. In many places along Quadra, for example, sidewalks come up far short of what should be expected on the sides of a major road.

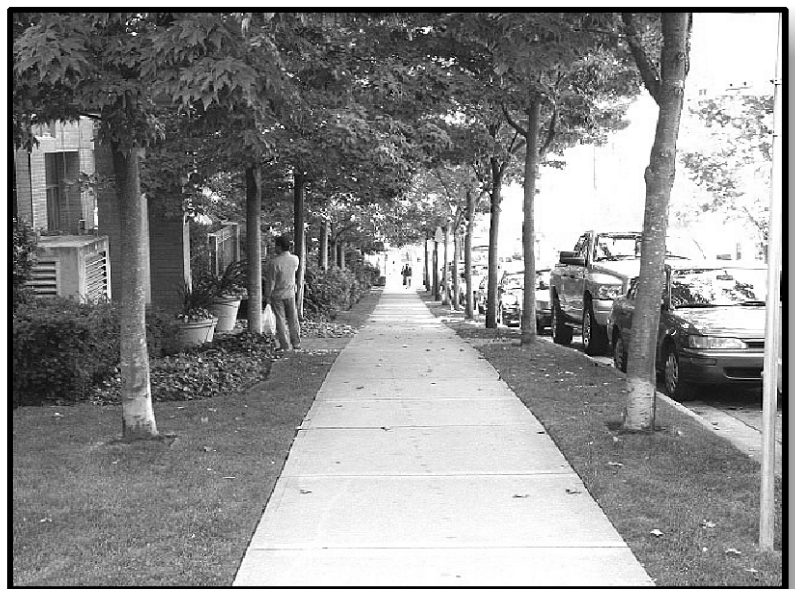
Unfortunately, Saanich's engineering budgets, over the last decade or so, have provided very little for the upgrade of sidewalks and other pedestrian amenities.

Under the Regional Growth Study we are supposed to be encouraging walking as a transportation option. That's all well and good, but citizens won't walk unless they feel safe and comfortable in doing so.

With modern design, pedestrian areas **can** provide an environment that is safe, attractive and welcoming. The "boulevard sidewalk" pictured below provides an example of what we should see far more commonly in our neighbourhood and the rest of the municipality.

Please feel free to voice your concerns about pedestrian problems in your area at the annual general meeting. Alternately, express your views in a letter to Mayor and Council.

We need to let our elected politicians know, that while we appreciate much of their work in the past, it's time to provide the resources to address pedestrian issues in our municipality.



Provision of suitable sidewalks and a high quality pedestrian environment continues to be a pressing need in North Quadra and throughout the municipality

NORTH QUADRA RESIDENTS - LET'S SHOW OUR PRIDE IN A SPRING CLEAN-UP

Your North Quadra Association hopes that all residents will assist us in a "North Quadra Spring Cleanup". On Saturday April 8th at 10:00 am, let's take a half hour or so to tidy things up in the public areas of our neighbourhood.

North Quadra is an attractive neighbourhood but, from time to time,

we do get a bit of "garbage build up" on streets and in parks, school yards and other public areas. So, let's pitch in, clean things up, and do Saanich a good deed in this, the centennial year of our municipality.

April 8th at 10:00 am

Let's Show North Quadra Pride

4149 QUADRA

Recently, our association was approached concerning a proposal to subdivide property at 4149 Quadra. A prior owner of this property, which is zoned RS6, approached Council with a request for a variance several years ago. Since this lot is heavily treed in some sections and the variance would have required the removal of more trees, the association objected. The Council of the day agreed with our stance and refused the request to grant the variance. Currently, a new owner of the property has revived the request to subdivide.

The association remains concerned about the number of trees including

Garry Oaks that would be affected by this request. We asked the applicant if he would consider covenants to control house size, protect some of the natural features on the property and insure that only one driveway would access Quadra. Such protective measures are quite common now in Saanich infill developments.

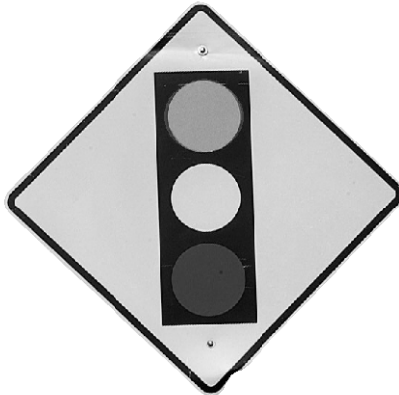
Unfortunately, the new owner declined the request to consider covenants. Given his refusal, the association cannot support the proposal to subdivide and has informed Saanich staff of our position.

POTPOURRI

Our association has heard concerns about a lack of senior's facilities in our area. We are pleased to report that the Church of the Nazarene runs the SHARPS (Sincerely Happy Retired Persons Society) program every Tuesday from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm. The program includes exercises, games, speakers and a homemade lunch.

The association is more than pleased to report that by the time you read this, the long promised traffic light at Quadra and Beckwith will be active. Thanks to Councillor Vic Derman, Mayor Leonard, Ross Holloway and others who have helped to make this a reality.

Finally, many thanks to Harald Wolf, our long serving web master, who has retired. Please contact us if you could help us find a replacement for Harald.



At Long Last - We Have a Light At Beckwith. Thanks to All Concerned!

All 2200 copies of our newsletter are delivered by volunteers. If you would be willing to help, please contact Lauraine Derman at 479 0302

ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

All legally established North Quadra residents are association members. To operate, however, the association depends on the generosity of residents. You can become a "supporting member" for an annual fee of five dollars. Other donations of any size are welcome. We also continue to accept donations to support acquisitions around Christmas Hill.

PLEASE DIRECT QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND CHEQUES TO:

Ron Warden - Pres. 727-6106 - 936 Lucas Ave., Victoria, B.C. V8X 4L2

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

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

North Quadra Website - www.victoria.tc.ca/community/northquadra

UPCOMING

March 30 - Livable and Sustainable Saanich Forum - Uvic David Lam Auditorium

*North Quadra AGM
April 6, 2006*

April 16 - Centennial Easter Parade on Shelbourne

April 22 & 23 - Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary Native Plant Sale - 10:00 - 3:00

Saanich Arts Week - April 29 - May 7.

May 6 - Royal Oak Heritage Tea at the Fireside Grill

May 13 - Police Parade at 11:00 am

May 25 Healthy Saanich Pioneer Tea 2:00 - 4:00 pm

June 25 - Centennial Trail Walk

July 1 - Gorge Canada Day Picnic

July 9 - 40th Annual Strawberry Festival at Beaver Lake

Aug. 26 - Centennial Closing Ceremonies - University of Victoria