



North Quadra News

North Quadra Residents Association - Spring 2012

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Annual General Meeting

**7:30 pm Thursday, May 24, 2012
Church of the Nazarene – 4277 Quadra**

Keynote:

**“Are We Ready For The Big One?”
Lessons Learned From Christchurch**

**Speaker - Brock Henson
Saanich Emergency Program Officer**

As spring heralds a cheery invitation to re-engage with nature, we look to re-engage our residents! This newsletter, a biannual message from your North Quadra Residents Association (NQRA), endeavors to keep you informed, updated and engaged in recent neighbourhood events, opportunities and issues.

As well, it's renewal time for NQRA, and for our Annual General Meeting. We urge you to attend the **May 24th AGM** where you can: become informed about current neighbourhood issues, bring your concerns to the executive's attention, and participate in electing board members for the coming year.

Please consider becoming involved in YOUR neighbourhood association.

While we are most grateful to the 13 current executive members who give generously of their time and expertise, we always have a need for new executive members and volunteers for special events. Many hands make light work!

Disaster preparedness is an important issue facing our community. We welcome AGM keynote speaker, **Brock Henson**, Saanich's Emergency Program Officer, who will reflect upon his first hand experiences assisting in response and recovery efforts for two 2011 New Zealand earthquakes. Brock's valuable and updated information will address the issue in relation to "Lessons learned from Christchurch".

(See page 2 for further write-up)

Meet Your Neighbours At The AGM!

Refreshments Served



Lake Hill students assisting Beckwith Park restoration efforts by planting trees/shrubs at Morris trail entrance.

Hutchison & Beckwith Parks “Pull Together”

Thanks to Vice President Harald Wolf, Hutchison Park has recently joined Saanich’s *Pulling Together Program*. This park initiative is designed to engage local residents in invasive plant removal and active ecological restoration of natural areas in Saanich. Hutchison Park, located on Rogers Avenue next of to the Bruce Hutchison heritage home, was procured through the efforts of NQRA in the 1990’s. It contains rare Garry Oak habitat in need of rehabilitative help. Harald expects work parties to commence in July, once inventories and assessments are completed.

Friends of Beckwith Park, nicknamed *FOB Pullers*, continue to work under the able stewardship of coordinator Eylon Gilbert. This dedicated group of 8-10 volunteers started up 3 years ago and meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and have succeeded in cleaning the park of debris and invasive species. The group’s efforts have bolstered the return of many native plants and flowering shrubs. Attention will soon be directed to fortifying duck pond banks to improve nesting conditions and protect against erosion.

New members for both Hutchison and Beckwith Park Pulling Together Programs are most welcome to join once or many times! For Hutchison Park, contact Harald Wolf at 250-470-9489 or hwolf@wolfweb.ca. For Beckwith Park, contact Eylon Gilbert at 250-479-1617 or eylingilbart@hotmail.com

Cannon Noise

Last spring, we reported that Island Berry Company’s use of propane cannons to deter geese at their farm west of Blenkinsop Lake was an unresolved matter. Subsequently, *Concerned Neighbours of Beckwith Farm (CNBF)*, a citizen’s group opposed to the noise and its effects on residents’ well being, requested a position statement from NQRA to accompany formal complaint to the BC Farm Industry Review Board. Our qualified response read as follows:

The North Quadra Residents Association has historically supported maintenance of The Blenkinsop Valley as a “rural oasis” within which farming is appropriate as a primary activity. We continue to support that position. Nevertheless, we do not support the use of propane cannons in the valley.

We believe it is necessary to recognize the unique status of the valley as an isolated rural area within an urban community. As such, it is poorly suited to the use of propane cannons which have a serious negative impact affecting the health and wellbeing of surrounding residents and, in our opinion, should only be used in more remote areas and even then as a tool of last resort.

In conclusion, we note no historical tradition of propane cannon use in the valley and believe it is inappropriate to consider introduction of such a disruptive use given the nature of the surrounding area.

Are We Ready For THE BIG ONE ?

Brock Henson, our AGM keynote speaker, travelled twice to Christchurch, New Zealand in the aftermath of their devastating 6.3 magnitude 2011 earthquake. As part of a response/recovery team, Brock assisted Kiwi counterparts, observed how relief efforts unfolded and was able to assess how improvements could be made.

His presentation contains insightful experiences that can help plan for the “inevitable big shake” on our coast. It’s a matter of when, not if. Now’s the time for preparation! Earthquake insurance and a preparedness kit (containing food, water, money, a battery-powered radio, flashlight, first-aid supplies, toiletries, blankets and clothing) are only part of readiness in the event of a disaster.

Don't miss Brock's talk to learn more!

Watershed Walk: Discover Gabo Creek!

Did you know North Quadra is located entirely in the Colquitz River watershed? All rain that falls here ends up in that river to the west, but by 2 different routes. North and west of Christmas Hill is little known, and under appreciated, Gabo Creek watershed including Rithets Bog. Soon, Harald Wolf, a geologist and North Quadra historian, will again lead walks along the creek to raise awareness of the need for rehabilitation. For notification of walks or if you have an interested group, contact Harald at hwolf@wolfweb.ca, or catch updates on our web site or Facebook page.

2 We'd also love to find a champion and guide for Blenkinsop Creek, another watershed gem which drains the eastern half of our area .

North Quadra Boulevard Trees for Free

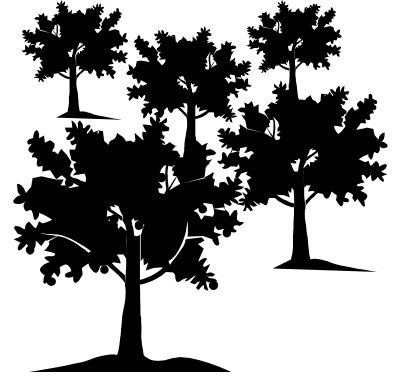
A No Cost opportunity is rare these days! But, that's exactly what our "free boulevard tree" program is. First initiated 5 years ago, it is a partnership planting agreement with Saanich Parks and BC Hydro. With resounding success it has become a model to address global urban forest decline throughout the municipality. Saanich now partners with community associations to plant trees on municipal frontages. The terms remain simple. Homeowners first fill out a form, processed through the community association,

in order to receive a tree at no cost. Parks staff later contact the resident to discuss tree selection and site location. In the fall, staff plant, stake and mulch the tree while residents agree to minimal site preparation and agree to water May-Oct. For a minimum of 3-5 Years.

For further info and application form, visit www.northquadra.ca
Or call Lauraine Derman
250-479-0302.

Respond soon since quantities are limited. Group plantings that

provide streetscape enhancements will receive priority. So consider signing up with neighbours to improve your chances!



Popular Music In The Park IS BACK!

We are most pleased to report that NQRA's first sponsorship of a large community event, last July's *Music In The Park* concert and family picnic event, was a resounding success! Your executive long felt the need existed for a North Quadra public gathering to share talents, network, and enjoy the splendor of our local parks. In the past, cost and manpower held us back. But thanks to volunteers who responded to past newsletters and online pleas for help as well as Saanich Parks and Legacy Foundation's grant of \$1300.00....the event "was a GO!"

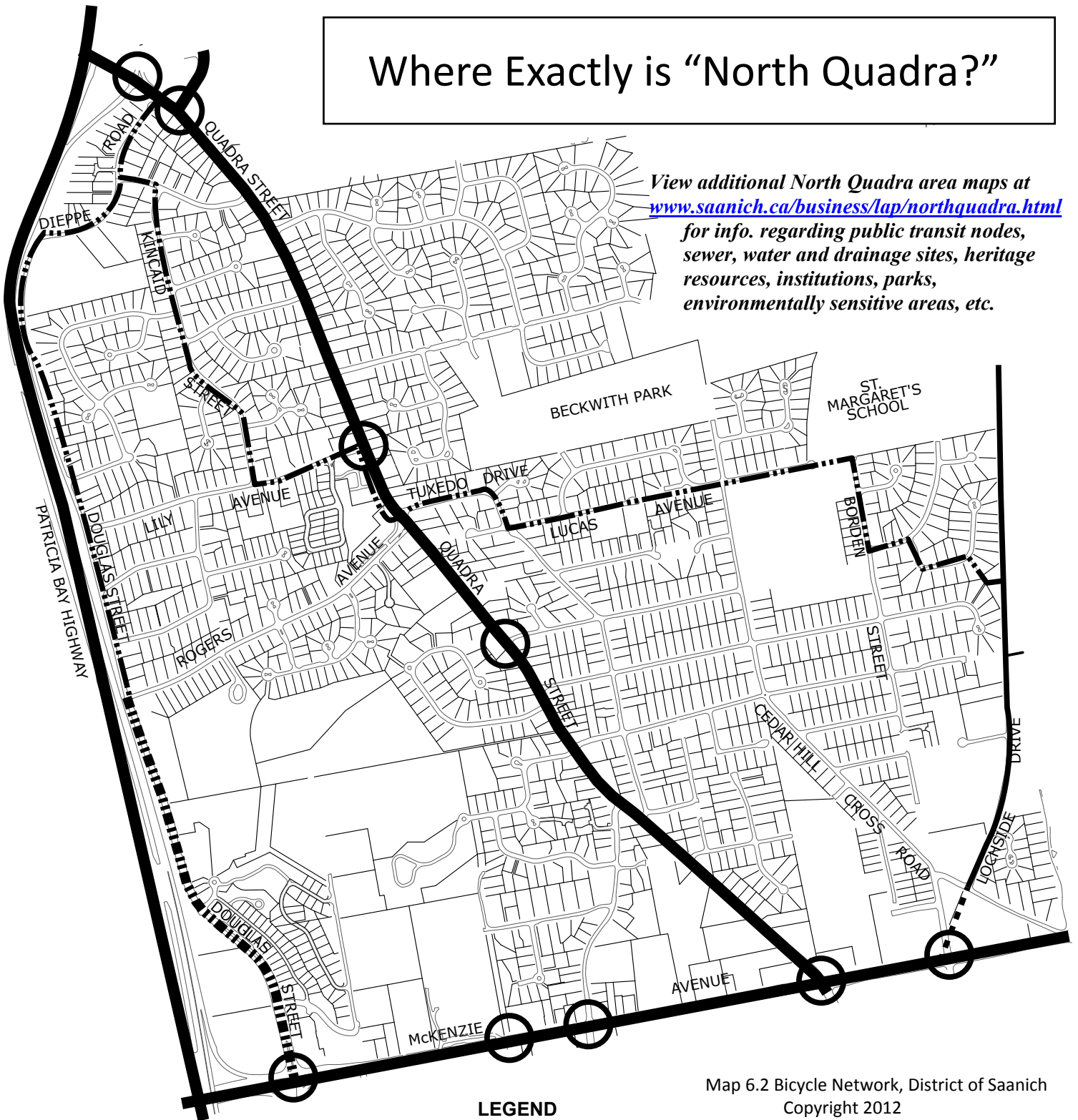
And what a fun party it was for folks of all ages! Approximately 700 people enjoyed a picnic style, musical summer evening at Beckwith Park in the company of family, friends and neighbours. The concert program featured the family-friendly music of Voyageur, a popular local band, and guitar musician-composer, Eric Tolman. The food and event booths proved equally popular. Activities such as face painting, water play, CRD Prize wheel, Child Find ID Clinic, Alternative Wildlife Solutions with animal ambassadors such as tortoises, lizards, birds of prey, snakes and a "climb aboard" Saanich Fire truck provided plenty of interest for the younger set. A volleyball tournament and soccer game on the lower fields also added excitement and dynamics to this "fun for all" event. But probably the best outcome, aside from appreciating great music, was the opportunity to re-connect with old and new neighbours and make new friends. As one resident said, "I met my boss at the concert....and I didn't even know she's been living 6 doors down from me for the past 5 years!"

Based on very positive feedback, we recently received a new Saanich Parks and Legacy Foundation grant to host a 2012 concert. So please note **July 24, 2012 (5:30-8:30)** for our Second Annual **Beckwith Park Music In The Park** event and pass the word along. Also check our website and flyers/posters closer to the event date for further details.









Where Exactly is "North Quadra?"

View additional North Quadra area maps at www.saanich.ca/business/lap/northquadra.html for info. regarding public transit nodes, sewer, water and drainage sites, heritage resources, institutions, parks, environmentally sensitive areas, etc.



Map 6.2 Bicycle Network, District of Saanich
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LEGEND

- TRAFFIC SIGNAL 
- DEVELOPED COMMUTER BIKEWAY 
- DESIGNATED COMMUTER BIKE ROUTE 
- LOCAL BIKEWAY CONNECTOR 
- REGIONAL TRAIL (Developed) 
- REGIONAL TRAIL (Proposed) 

Our North Quadra local area, 1 of 12 geographical regions delineated within Saanich's Official Local Area Neighbourhoods, comprises approx. 2400 homes and 7 large apartment complexes, with more apartment construction in stream. Boundaries are roughly Chatterton Way and Dieppe to the north, Douglas to the west, Lockside and Martha to the east and McKenzie to the south.

Please note: **Designated Commuter Route and Local Bikeway Connector** do not, as yet, denote cycle lanes separated from vehicle traffic. Cyclist must ride with caution.

What's "HAPPENING" in North Quadra?

Our large neighbourhood faces numerous issues affecting the daily lives of many citizens. Traffic and transit, pedestrian safety and development applications, especially those for "infill" lots and higher density developments, take up considerable association time.

Other issues such as Beckwith Farm cannon noise, deer, graffiti, the need for park, playground and natural area upgrades and efforts to curb urban forest decline are also of concern.

Your association lobbies Council and advocates on these issues and more. Your involvement in association affairs is crucial to the betterment of our community. You can help us by joining the executive or volunteering for initiatives such as:

- *Beckwith Music In The Park Concert July 24th*
- *Beckwith Pullers and/or Friends of Hutchison Park*
- *The Gabo Creek Awareness Initiative*
- *Being a Boulevard Tree Planting Street Coordinator*
- *Helping deliver this newsletter*
- *heading up a new initiative, or simply being an email subscriber through our website at www.northquadra.ca.*

Incidentally, we're still hoping to tackle graffiti issues in North Quadra. If that's an area of interest, we will need a coordinator and committee members to investigate



Intrigues, misadventures, and rescues are part of neighbourhood excitement. Mr. Thumbs, the celebrated Morris St. cat, is now home safe!



Developments And Rezoning

4050 Nelthorpe: There is a proposal in stream to build 8 town homes on the south slope of Christmas Hill behind Sacred Heart Church. The 0.55 hectare site is currently zoned as A1 (Rural). The association's executive attended both of the public meetings held to date and have concluded that the proposal as presented is **not supportable**.

- The proposal does not meet the density and amenity requirements of the Christmas Hill Slope Study, and therefore is not consistent with the North Quadra Local Area Plan.
- Historical, ecological and environmental issues such as: preservation of mature trees, wild life corridor and bird habitat are not adequately addressed.
- A proper connection to the [Christmas Hill](#) trail has not been adequately considered.

Ideally we feel this site should be acquired by Saanich and incorporated into the Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary. Alternatively, but reluctantly, the association can support a maximum density of 6 town homes provided that: sufficient amenity in the form of land on the site's north side is preserved and dedicated to Saanich, and a 3 to 5 metre Right-of-Way is reserved on the east side of the property for continuation of the existing trail.

Sidewalk on Cedar Hill/Morris: Several years ago, Council approved the condominium project across from the Monkey Tree Pub. Our association felt some of our concerns were ignored. Nevertheless, we did secure, as an amenity, an upgraded sidewalk on the west side of Cedar Hill/Morris from the project to Ambassador. The sidewalk, to be built by the developer at his cost, would not be started until project completion, which may be as early as July.

Construction as approved would leave a small section from Ambassador to Lucas incomplete and "orphaned". We have lobbied engineering, unsuccessfully to date, to fill in this gap while equipment and manpower are in place. Now we find that engineering, without community consultation, has told the developer to move a section of this sidewalk from west to east, forcing yet another unguided crossing for students on route to schools. We find this process unacceptable and are seeking to see it corrected.

St. Margaret's School Early Childhood Education Speakers

St. Margaret's School invites the public to attend the final event of their popular 2011/12 **Early Childhood Education Speaker Series**. *Let's Play*, featuring UVic Professor, Dr. Werner Liedtke. This last session takes place June 7 from 6:15-7:15 pm. There is no cost to attend, child minding is available and a pre-session dinner is offered for \$3 per person. For registration info, visit www.stmarg.ca

Reynolds Sustainable Community

Congratulations to Reynolds students who once again received recognition as Canadian leaders for community action and sustainability initiatives! Aside from their award winning solar panel project, Garry oak eco system reclaimed on school property, community recycling service in the school parking lot every fourth Sat. monthly and their courtyard garden food security initiative, they have recently initiated a chicken fostering project; raising chicks, constructing coops and supplying local families with backyard chickens and fresh eggs!

Lake Hill School Cleans Up!

Lake Hill students continue to show community responsibility and commitment toward our shared environment. Recently the entire school participated in a Community Clean-Up day by clearing debris off surrounding grounds and the ball park. In addition, Div. 1 students carried out a habitat rehab project planting native shrubs and small trees at Beckwith Park. *We enjoy the beautiful local trails and it's exciting for our students to observe plants thrive and grow. If you are in the school vicinity please feel free to drop in to visit. We'd be happy to share ways we are working to make our North Quadra area a green place to play and learn.* -Jody Waldie, Principal

Rogers School 5000 Book Drive

Teaching Reading - Yes or No? You can leave the teaching of reading to teachers but it's never too early or late to teach children to love reading! Please consider donating books to this important preschool (100 Books by Age 5) reading project. Bright, colourful, rhyming books are most suitable for little ones. Drop box is located in the school's mail foyer at 756 Rogers. So far, the project has collected 12000 books in Victoria! - *Maryanne Trofimuk, Principal*

6 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 \$5. Any size donation is 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.

Most resident associations increasingly rely upon electronic media (email) to communicate and inform. Email has become the quickest and most efficient way to "get the word out"

**Please consider signing on to our EMAIL
REGISTRY at our website:
www.northquadra.ca**

Facebook

Like everyone else, we now have a Facebook page! Search for "North Quadra neighbourhood" and ask to join. We post interesting tidbits, notices and there are Google Maps at www.g.co/maps/cctw5 with heritage homes, significant trees and more.

Dates To Note:

- NQRA Annual General Meeting - **May 24**
- St Margaret's School Fine Arts Week -**May 23-25**
- Rogers School Bottle Drive - 9:00-noon.
Drop off in school parking lot - **May 26**
- Bike To Work Week - **May 28-June 3** - Info at www.biketowork.ca/victoria/home
- Early Childhood Education Speaker Series at St.Margaret's School; Topic *Let's Play* -**June 7**
- Beckwith Music In The Park Picnic- **July 24**

Association Information

Please direct Questions, Comments & Cheques to:
Haji Charania- Pres. 250 479 0872 -757 Genevieve, V8X 3R4
Harald Wolf-Vice Pres. 250 479 9489 - 4169 Kincaid V8X 4M7
Stan Brygadyr-Sec. 250 727 2243 - 847 Cameo V8X 4M3

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