



North Quadra News

North Quadra Residents' Association - Spring 2013

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Annual General Meeting

7:30 pm Thursday, May 16, 2013

Church of the Nazarene – 4277 Quadra

Keynote:

"A Sanctuary Worthy of Attention"

Supporting

Swan Lake Christmas Hill's Natural Environment

Speaker - Barry Janyk

Exec. Director, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary

It's renewal time for our North Quadra Residents' Association (NQRA). **May 16th is our Annual General Meeting.** At the AGM, residents can receive updates on current neighbourhood issues, ask questions and express their concerns. Also, it's time to elect new officers and directors at large for the executive.

We have an exciting agenda and presentation planned for this year's AGM. Keynote speaker, Barry Janyk, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary's new Executive Director, will highlight impressive new plans for our neighbourhood's most spectacular natural gem. Swan Lake/Christmas Hill is an

urban oasis containing a precious treasure of plants, wildlife, creeks, a lake, trails, hills and meadows! Don't miss Barry's talk and learn how our community can expand its efforts to protect this important natural reserve. (see page 2 for more *Sanctuary Attention* write-up).

Also, please consider becoming involved in YOUR neighbourhood association. While we are most grateful to the 11 current executive members who give generously of their time and expertise, we always have a need for new members and volunteers for special events. (See p3 for other ways to become engaged in your community!)

We urge you to attend this year's AGM and, while you're at it, bring a few friends and neighbours as well!

-Haji Charania, President NQRA

Meet Your Neighbours At The AGM!

Refreshments Served

Beckwith Park Update

This Spring native flowers are popping up everywhere ...and Friends of Beckwith Park continue active work! During wet season before birds nest, the friends have been busy removing invasive species. Two years ago, Scotch Broom was our focus. We're delighted to report broom has been removed from most park areas. New shoots may spring up since broom seeds are long lived, however, we're determined to keep broom at bay through continued maintenance.

The new oaks planted at the Morris St. entrance, with the assistance of Lake Hill School students and Saanich Parks, have taken extremely well. This area, once covered with blackberries, now boasts an abundance of native plants. Several wood duck nesting boxes are in place and swallow nest boxes will join them soon. *Look for these boxes on your next "pond walk". You might see something exciting!*

We also tackle the 'English' variety of Holly and Hawthorne. To remove these invaders, roots must be removed. So, damp ground and specific tools are necessary. Saanich Parks has generously provided tools along with yummy goodies to keep volunteers energized! Then there's our nastiest villain, good old English Ivy! While ivy may be lovely to look at, it completely destroys the park's natural undergrowth and chokes out native flowers, shrubs and ferns. As it climbs, it eventually kills trees and shrubs.



Friends really appreciate the beauty of our nearby park and we always welcome new volunteers! If you love parks and want to help ensure the maintenance of natural areas, full of flowers, ducks and wonder, please join us! Our schedule is the 2nd and 4th Saturday monthly from 9:30-11:30 am. Please contact us at eylingilbart@hotmail.com or 250-479-1617.

AGM Keynote: A "Sanctuary" Worthy Of Attention

Local residents have long enjoyed the Swan Lake Nature House, trails around Swan Lake and hikes up Christmas Hill, North Quadra's most prominent landform. Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary is an "environmental jewel" that we all need to cherish and protect. We are delighted to feature Mr. Barry Janyk, the sanctuary's new executive director, as our **AGM keynote speaker May 16 at 7:30, Church of the Nazarene, 4277 Quadra**. Barry will outline the Sanctuary's new mandate and his plans to fulfill it.

Following the keynote, our executive will provide a brief overview of NQRA's long term involvement in preserving land and muting development pressures on the Christmas Hill slope. NQRA sees the Sanctuary as a vital part of our community and wish to expand cooperation in protecting this key natural environment. We will also discuss ongoing efforts to seek a connecting trail from Rainbow Road, through Rogers to Beckwith Park. **Don't miss this important presentation and discussion!**

Gabo Creek Watershed Walks:

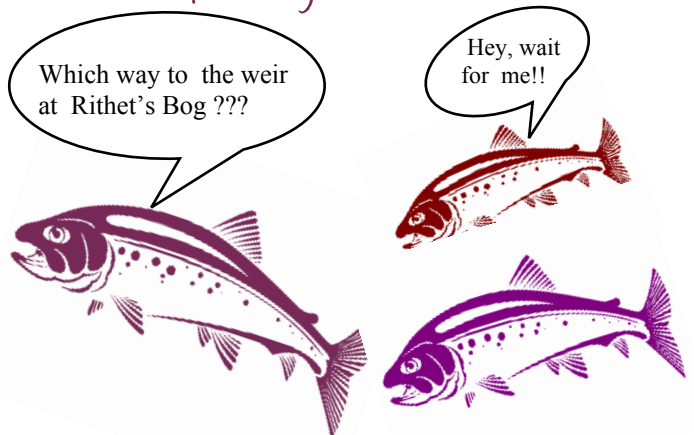
Harald Wolf continues to lead walks along Gabo Creek. Where's that, you say? Gabo Creek drains the North Side of the Christmas Hill summit and the Northwest section of North Quadra. The creek is part of the Colquitz system and joins a second creek draining into Rithet's Bog. It is in desperate need of restoration.

In places, it's little more than an overgrown ditch, and may need to have stretches of pipe removed. Last year, rumours surfaced that a few salmon were spotted trying to cross the weir at the mouth of Rithet's Bog. This suggests the stream should not be ignored and could be returned to better health. The walks provide a wonderful glimpse into a largely overlooked, but a vital aspect of our environment.

Salmon spawning in North Quadra?

Which way to the weir at Rithet's Bog ???

Hey, wait for me!!



For notificaton of group or personalized walks, or to arrange for a 30 minute presentation on the creek, please contact Harald at hwolf@wolfweb.ca or 250-479-9489.

If you haven't participated in our tree program yet, please consider it!

"No Cost" opportunities are rare these days! But, that's exactly what our "free boulevard tree" program provides.

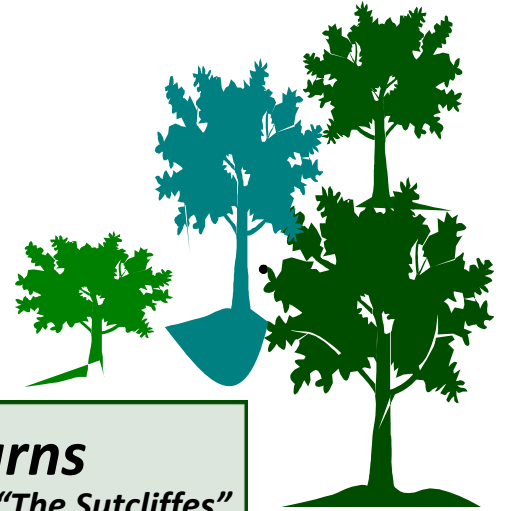
First initiated 6 years ago, it is a partnership planting agreement with Saanich Parks and BC Hydro. With resounding success, it has become a model to address global urban forest decline in our municipality. Saanich now partners with many community associations to plant trees on municipal frontages. The terms remain simple. Homeowners first fill out a form,

processed through the community association and then receive a tree at no cost.

Parks staff contact the resident to discuss tree selection and site location. In the fall, staff plant, stake and mulch the tree while the resident agrees to water through the months of May-Oct. for a minimum for 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* Returns Third Annual Event- July 23 @ Beckwith Park featuring "The Sutcliffes"

Our *Music In The Park* continues to be very popular for the whole family! Last July, about 900 residents enjoyed a picnic style, musical evening at Beckwith Park with family, friends and neighbours. The program featured family-friendly music from popular local band Voyageur as well as guitar musician/composer Eric Tolman and was supplemented by food and activities. A variety of booths offered something for everyone. In particular, face painting, waterplay, musical instruments, CRD prize wheel and a *climb aboard* Saanich Fire truck provided plenty of interest for youngsters.

Alternative Wildlife Solutions were on hand with animal ambassadors such as tortoises, lizards, birds of prey and snakes. Yes, even the snakes were a big hit. Guest appearances from Marty Marmot and Daisy the Cow added to the festive spirit and, as in the past, a volleyball tournament and soccer games on adjacent fields added excitement and dynamics to a "fun for all" event.

This wonderful neighbourhood get-together could not succeed without the generous assistance of volunteers and committee planners, as well as the sponsorship of Saanich Parks, Saanich Legacy Foundation, Level Ground Coffee, Thrifty Foods and Music for Young Children. We are most grateful for their contributions. Based on considerable positive feedback, we have applied for, and received, a new Saanich Parks and Legacy Foundation grant of \$1300.00. Please note **July 23, 2013 (6:00-8:00 pm)** on your calendar! It's our **3rd Annual Beckwith Park Music In The Park** featuring "*The Sutcliffes*" a hugely popular and award winning local band whose music provides a

"West Coast homage to the Beatles". Pass the word along! For more info check our website, www.northquadra.ca flyers and posters closer to the event date.

We continue to welcome volunteers for this 2 hour event! (Set-up, clean-up, face painting, booth rep, parking or traffic guide, etc). It's a great way to engage and help out while grooving to music!

If able, call Lauraine @250-479-0302.



Easter Bunny Visits Beckwith Park

Signs of Hope in Africa

Beckwith Park was the place to be on Easter Sunday for the 3rd annual *Community Easter Egg Hunt*. The hunt is hosted by *Signs of Hope in Africa*, a local non-profit supporting children and families in Jambiani, Zanzibar, Tanzania.

The day was a huge success with over 3000 people in attendance, many of whom were North Quadra residents. The 2 hour event raised an **amazing \$7,400** while providing fun and entertainment for adults and children. What a "happening" ...face painting, Easter crafts, bouncy castles, Saanich Police and

Firetruck tours, great food, vibrant African music, and more. Best of all, the Easter Bunny managed to hide **12,000** chocolate eggs and was even sighted making rounds and posing for photos!

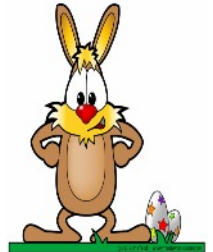
Signs of Hope in Africa continues to support a variety of initiatives such as: a Breakfast Program for 300 pre-school children, a Family Sponsorship Program allowing families to establish a business and become self-sufficient and a School Uniform Program. The organization also purchases goats and chickens for families to provide better nutrition and income. Last year, Signs of Hope

replaced a leaking and rotting school roof on in Jambiani when the Founder and President, Kristi Falconer, travelled there with her 2 year old son. *What an amazing organization!*

For more information about Signs of Hope in Africa or to learn more about their next event, The Amazing Race for Africa on November 3, 2013, visit their website at:

www.signsofhopeinafrica.org/

Also, be sure to mark April 20th on your calendars for next year's Beckwith Easter Egg Hunt!



A Simple Sidewalk with No Simple Solution

at Cedar Hill/Morris

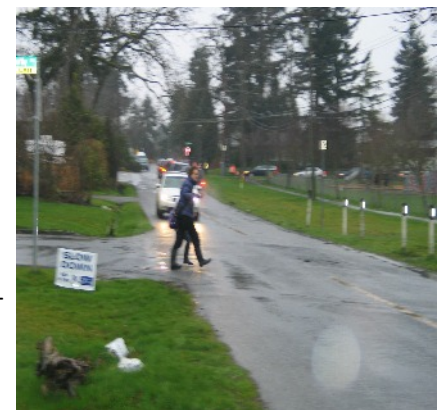
The condition of sidewalks on Cedar Hill X Rd and Morris has been of great concern to NQRA for a long time. Cedar Hill X/Morris, which serves 4 schools and a large number of residential roads, is one of our area's busiest "collector" streets. Unfortunately, it is poorly served for pedestrians. For much of its length, it provides an old, uneven and poorly maintained asphalt pathway along its west side. In places, this path is so tilted and uneven that it is actually a hazard to anyone with disabilities. Accidents **have** happened.

This was recognized in the 2005 *N.Quadra Traffic Management Study*. Consultant Richard James identified the Cedar Hill X /Morris corridor as a collector, describing it as: "*North Quadra's busiest, with high volumes of aggressive traffic and a number of pedestrian concerns*". He highlighted the need to upgrade and/or construct a Sidewalk on **one side** of Cedar Hill X Rd/Morris. The association was pleased, therefore, when as part of rezoning, the condo developer across from the Monkey Tree Pub agreed to construct a concrete sidewalk along the **west side** of Cedar Hill X/ Morris from his development to Ambassador. However, this left a short gap from Ambassador to Lucas with no sidewalk on the west side.

The gap is of particular concern since it occurs in front of Lake Hill School and leaves pedestrians, especially school children, with no option except to cross mid-block through heavy traffic. There's an existing asphalt path on the east side of the street. However, it does nothing to solve the Clatworthy problem, is inconsistent with the recommendation to have a continuous sidewalk **on one side** of Cedar Hill X/ Morris and is old, poorly maintained and near the end of its life span.

Our executive asked Saanich Engineering to consider completing this short gap as an addition to the developer's much longer section. Unfortunately, Engineering indicated the gap is not a priority and is unlikely to be completed in the near future. We were told this section of Morris is not a collector in spite of the fact that it was identified as such in the 2005 study. In any case, the stretch in question has implications for safe routes to schools, would connect to a long stretch of contiguous sidewalk leading to major destinations and would fill a gap between existing sidewalks and important pedestrian routes. All of these things seem to fit with Saanich's own criteria for high priority sidewalk projects.

We recognize that establishing priorities is entirely within the purview of Engineering. Nevertheless, we remain puzzled by the decision on this gap. We asked on several occasions for an explanation of exactly where the gap ranks as well as an explanation of how other specific projects rank above it. To date, we have received no such explanation.



1. Habitat for Humanity Townhouses in North

Recently, the District of Saanich and Habitat for Humanity Victoria announced a proposal to build an affordable housing project in North Quadra at 4000 Cedar Hill X Road. The triangular shaped lot, currently owned by Saanich, houses a small vacant bungalow and a garage scheduled for demolition. In keeping with their mandate, Habitat Victoria will mobilize volunteers, community partners and “soon to be owner” families to build a 4 townhouse complex consisting of 2 storey, 1200 sq. ft. units.

Habitat executives met with our executive Feb. 28 to outline plans and seek input. We were informed that immediate neighbours generally supported the project but had concerns regarding parking on the upper curved section of Cedar Hill X Road and protection of existing Garry Oak habitat.

The presentation was well received by the executive. In response, we provided a letter supporting the project and applauding Habitat’s effective model for

bringing affordable accommodation to deserving families.

The letter also included the following requests:

All Garry Oak trees be retained/protected during construction. Also, native plants be featured in the landscaping plan.

The front strip of the site be dedicated to Saanich to allow for construction of a pedestrian/cycle pathway

Native trees/hedges be planted along the south boundary to mitigate the impact of exhaust and noise from traffic on McKenzie Ave.

Driveways and parking surface areas use “permeable” materials

For more info. Re: the Cedar Hill X project, or to learn more about Habitat’s work and provision for “a hand up, not a hand out” visit www.habitatvictoria.com.



2. Fatts Food Processing Plant on Dieppe

Properties located at 4247, 4253 and 4255 Dieppe Rd, owned by the Fatt family, are currently subject to rezoning and redevelopment. Total area of these properties is 3.179 hectares or 7.9 acres, 1.7 acres of which is BC Hydro Right-Of-Way for a high voltage line. Most of the land is currently zoned A1 Rural with a portion at 4253 Dieppe Rd having industrial zoning. The owners have applied to rezone and redevelop the land in 3 components:

Component one consists of 2.22 acres along Douglas zoned M3 Industrial Park. A new 3,746 sq.m. or 40,307 sq. ft., two storey food processing warehouse and two storey office and Sales Division are proposed for this site. The second and third components cover approximately 4.12 acres. Thirty three attached townhouse units and 9 single family homes, 3 RS-6 and 6 RS-4, are proposed for this area. Twenty nine of the townhouses would be 9.2 m. or 30 ft. high. This is higher than currently permitted. The 4 remaining townhouses and single family homes would be within the permitted height of 7.5 m. or 24.5 ft. The land under a BC Hydro transmission line can't be developed and would be used for parking and strata community gardens.

The owners conducted two Open Houses and met twice with our executive to obtain input and feedback on their proposal. A detailed association response, dated Feb. 23, 2013, is available for view at www.northquadra.ca.

In summary, NQRA has not been able to support this proposal due to density, height of the townhouses and lack of appreciable public amenity. The association urges residents to study the proposal. Please form your own opinion, and express it to the Planning Department, to Saanich Council or to our executive. Since, the development application is currently being processed by the Planning Department this is a good time to make your views known.

Lake Hill School Serves Tea

On April 24th, family members and members of our Lake Hill Community enjoyed a Spring Concert and were entertained by classes, choir and strings groups. Following the concert, tea and goodies were shared and many beautiful butterflies painted. Look for our Rainbow Butterfly mural which will go up on the Lucas/Morris fence sometime in the next few weeks.

Our schoolgrounds provide a wonderful place for children and their families to meet and play during and out of school hours. We thank you for your support and for helping us care for this wonderful place. *-Jody Waldie, principal*



If you would like to sponsor a student to paint a butterfly we welcome donations at the Lake Hill School Office. All funds raised will go to playground equipment and/or expanding our gardens and green space. And an extra big thank you to Reynolds' students and shop teacher, Mr. Ken Packford, who cut out, sanded and primed our butterflies!

Rogers School's New Mural Celebrates Surrounding Ecosystem

Drive by Rogers Elementary School and you'll notice changes to the front cement wall of our school! Previously, we had greenery growing on this wall but it's been removed, and for good reason. An exciting "Mural Project" for this wall will engage the school and the community over the next 6 months!

The wall greenery was the dreaded and invasive **English Ivy**. Clearly, this was a serious risk to the rare Garry Oak Ecosystems beside Rogers on Christmas Hill. English ivy takes over ecosystems, eliminates native plants and habitat for wildlife, covers trees and eventually destroys them. In addition, the berries are toxic to humans.

At Rogers School, "*We care about ourselves, each other and this place*". With this in mind, everything we do aims at being good environmental stewards. We are fortunate our school is next to one of the most endangered ecosystems in Canada. It's our job to care for that precious ecosystem. Our mural will celebrate the Garry Oak Ecosystem. Watch the artistry unfold! We are accepting community donations to help fund this project.

*If you would like to donate to the Rogers Mural project, please send a cheque to Rogers Elementary Mural Project, 765 Rogers Ave, Victoria, BC V8X 5K6. We will provide a receipt for your donation and supporters will be acknowledged on our blog at: www.rogersmuralproject.blogspot.ca *Maryanne Trofimuk, principal**

(For more invasive plants and English Ivy info: <http://www.saanich.ca/living/natural/stewardship/invasive> and for Garry Oak Ecosystems info: www.goert.ca/)

St. Margaret's School performs ANNIE JR.

Leaping Lizards! The popular comic strip heroine takes center stage in one of the world's best-loved musicals. With equal measures of pluck and positivity, little orphan ANNIE charms everyone's hearts. Despite a next-to-nothing start in 1930s New York City the heroine is determined to find her parents who abandoned her on the doorstep of an orphanage run by the cruel, embittered Miss Hannigan. Come join Annie and friends as they charm their way into Daddy Warbuck's heart.

The performance features Gr.5-12 students, including Senior and Gr. 7/8 band performers. Come early to view wonderful artwork and photography by St. Margaret's Senior School students. Admission is free, and all are welcome. **May 22 & 23, 7pm** at 1080 Lucas Drive (South Gym) - *Jennifer Cook, St. Margarets Communications Director*

Reynolds is Open 4 Change

This year, the Open 4 Change Leadership students added to their list of ongoing award winning sustainable initiative projects with activities such as potato socks and shoe box hampers for the homeless, volunteer program at "Our Place" soup kitchen, book drives for Tanzania, fundraising for sustainable agriculture, and support for an adopted village in Ecuador. Several students within the program, also established an "Action Now" group, launching activist initiatives related to the Enbridge Pipeline. You can expect to hear more from them in the future encouraging you to get involved and make a difference!

But probably the biggest highlight this year was our "Get REAL Green" group's presentation of a huge community Eco-Fair "Where We Live". Hundreds of people attended listening to speakers such as Elizabeth May and Brandy Gallagher, and visiting over 30 booths including Sierra Club, CRD, Planet Organic, Pedal to Petal Compost Pick up, Victoria Compost Education Centre, and Healing Farm to name a few.

So what can we do next? We're thinking of raising red wriggler worms to sell for people wanting to worm compost! To learn more, keep posted at www.reynolds.high-school.ca/ - Heather Hoey, Reynolds Leadership Program Teacher

Congratulations to Reynolds students who continue to receive recognition as Canadian leaders for community and sustainability initiatives!



Engage Your Community spirit!

This newsletter wouldn't be complete without a renewed plea for new members. Although the current NQRA executive has given generously of their time and expertise, our numbers have decreased. New executive members with fresh ideas and new energy make for a more vibrant association! Is commitment to an executive position onerous and time demanding? Certainly not! Executive meetings occur once a month or less and last about two hours. **Can't devote time to meetings?** How about considering volunteering for initiatives such as:

- Beckwith Music In The Park Concert July 23th
- 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 registrant through our website at www.northquadra.ca .

Mary Milne, a long standing retired member and volunteer who's always ready to pitch in!



If you can't attend our AGM meeting but are willing to let your name stand for office, please call a NQ member listed on page 8. We'd be most delighted to have you join us!

Hutchison Park Update

Hutchison Park recently joined Saanich's *Pulling Together Program*, an initiative designed to engage local residents in invasive plant removal and active ecological restoration of natural areas. Now, we need a coordinator to fully launch activities. Hutchison Park is located on Rogers Avenue next to the Bruce Hutchison heritage home. It was procured through the efforts of NQRA in the 1990's and contains rare Garry Oak habitat in need of rehabilitative help.

For Hutchison Park involvement, contact Harald Wolf at 250-479-9489 or hwolf@wolfweb.ca.

Newsletter Format Change

In the past, we published and delivered print copies of the "North Quadra News" twice a year to about 2400 homes. With the advent of online publications and development of our interactive website, Facebook/Twitter links, the need for print versions has been reduced. From this point on, a printed newsletter will be delivered each spring.

This spring newsletter will be more comprehensive, reduce pressure on volunteers and, by reducing paper use, help us become more sustainable. The newsletter will give a complete year review of events, activities, provide AGM notice and be available online for email registrants.

Our intent remains to keep you fully informed. News alerts, notification of special meetings and bulletins will continue to be posted on our website thanks to webmaster extraordinaire, Stefan Niemann. In addition, flyers to alert residents of development proposals, upcoming events or other concerns will be distributed as needed.

To remain fully informed, we strongly encourage residents to "stay connected" by joining our email REGISTRY at www.northquadra.ca

Blockwatch Update

Are you a member of the Blockwatch Program? If not, it's time to get on board. Blockwatch helps ensure neighborhood safety, and earns you a \$50 yearly discount with most insurance companies. Other benefits including enhanced communication with neighbours, regular police reports of neighbourhood incidences and emergency preparedness support. For more details on how to become a REGISTERED BLOCKWATCH call Sue Marcotte at 250-744-5675.

Association Information

Please direct Questions, Comments & Cheques to:

Haji Charania- Pres. 250 479 8072 -757 Genevieve, V8X 3R4

Harald Wolf- VPRES. 250 479 9489 - 4169 Kincaid V8X 4M7

Stan Brygadyr-Sec. 250 727 2243 - 847 Cameo V8X 4M3

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

Dates To Note:

- NQRA Annual General Meeting - **May 16**
- Scattered Artists Tour 12-5pm- **May 18 & 19**
- St Margaret's School, ANNIE and Student Art Show -7pm **May 22 & 23**
- Rogers School Bottle Drive - 9:00-noon. Drop off in school parking lot - **May 25**
- Bike To Work Week - **May 27-June 2** - Info at www.biketowork.ca/victoria/home
- St Margaret's School, K-12 Choirs performance 7pm **May 29**
- Beckwith Music In The Park Picnic- **July 23**
- Mt. Tolmie Artist Tour - **May 25-26**

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's also a Google Map at g.co/maps/cctw5 with heritage homes, significant trees 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 \$5. Any size donation is always welcome!

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