



North Quadra News

North Quadra Residents' Association - Spring 2015

Mayor Richard Atwell

To Meet With North Quadra Residents

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Annual General Meeting

7:30 pm Wednesday, May 27, 2015

Church of the Nazarene – 4277 Quadra

Keynote:

"New Directions for Saanich?"

**COME AND HEAR WHAT THE NEW MAYOR
HAS IN STORE FOR OUR MUNICIPALITY**

Speaker:

Mayor Richard Atwell

*Don't miss this valuable opportunity to hear Mayor Atwell's
address to North Quadra residents!*

What's happening in North Quadra?

It's no secret that North Quadra is a dynamic, resourceful, and friendly community that strives to ensure safe and healthful living! The North Quadra Residents' Association (NQRA) endeavors to represent and inform residents on local issues. This edition of *North Quadra News*, delivered to 2400 North Quadra households, provides a yearly summary of association activities, developments, traffic, community and neighbourhood issues.

Check out 8 pages of news and event details!

(Online version available at www.northquadra.ca.)

Meet Your Neighbours At The AGM!

Refreshments Served

a word from the President

It's time again to reacquaint North Quadra residents with current issues and area activities. As you know, the Municipal Election, one that heralded several Council changes, is behind us. We now have a new mayor, Mayor Richard Atwell, and two new councillors, Colin Plant and Fred Haynes. I took the opportunity, on your behalf, to tour all three new Council members and familiarize them with our important neighbourhood issues.

This newsletter summarizes past and ongoing events and activities. Suffice to say, NQRA had a busy year!

Several development proposals such as B.C. Hydro's site expansion, an office building rezoning at 779 Blackberry Road, Habitat for Humanity housing at 4000 Cedar Hill X Road, and Fatt's Food Processing Plant on Dieppe were brought to our attention this year. Since Saanich Council urges developers to consult with community groups we're able to provide more information on these issues. (See p.7)

I attended a day long workshop on your behalf to discuss land use and transportation issues along Douglas Street from Humboldt to Uptown. I also attended an evening of conversation on amalgamation. We have provided input regarding the 'Public Participation' process undertaken by Saanich.

Looking forward, I happily await our fifth 'Music in the Park' event at Beckwith Park on July 21st. This event is always well attended and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. (See p.3)

We also recommenced discussions with Saanich Engineering on the need to complete the missing sidewalk section on the west side of Morris Drive between Lucas and Ambassador. With the missing link, this corridor poses significant safety concerns for school children. We hope the new council and the new Director of Engineering, Mr. Harley Machielse, are listening to our concerns. However, we've been confused of late by the re-instatement of a plan to install a long and expensive length of sidewalk from Belvedere along Lucas Ave. to Morris. This segment, of lesser safety concern for pedestrians, was met with considerable neighbourhood opposition 10 years ago. (See p.6)

I continue to seek your support and active participation in community issues and events. Please come and join us to make us more effective. And finally, I must express my sincere thanks to all executive members and volunteers who helped immensely throughout the year. Without them our association could not function as well as it does.

Thank you. Haji Charania

AGM Keynote Speaker: Mayor Richard Atwell

7:30 pm Wednesday, May 27, Church of Nazarene

Does a new broom sweep clean?? If so, what changes are in store?

There's never a dull moment and surprise upsets in the world of politics! This is particularly true in Saanich with an election that saw Richard Atwell defeat former mayor, Frank Leonard, an 18 year incumbent. Mayor Atwell campaigned on the "Need For Change" in Saanich. He will present his new vision for our municipality to residents at our AGM.

So mark May 27th at 7:30 on your calendars and don't miss a valuable opportunity to hear Mayor Atwell's presentation and participate in a question/answer session!

The AGM will also address current neighbourhood issues, provide opportunities to bring concerns forward and allow for the election of officers and directors for the coming year.



North Quadra's 5th Annual *MUSIC IN THE PARK*

Tues. July 21, 2015 : 6:00 -8:00 pm

featuring "Shaky Ground"
Beckwith Park, 857 Beckwith Ave.

Last July's Beckwith *Music In The Park* concert and picnic lived up to previous experiences of large crowds, enthusiastic participants and excellent music. Our popular summer concert "happening" has become a North Quadra fixture that residents of all ages surely don't want to miss! We are happy to announce that ongoing generous funding and support from the Saanich Legacy Foundation, Thrifty Foods, Island Savings, spectator donations and Saanich Parks allows us to host our 5th annual event!

What exactly will be "happening"? Aside from grooving or dancing to the beat of lively music, there'll be a variety of food booths, information kiosks, and kid's activities. Face painting, crafts, water play (extended water park hours), police car and firetruck tours, animal mascots (Daisy the Cow, Marty

Marmot, Ace, Penny The Owl and Sally Ann), and interactive encounters with *Oasis* live animal ambassadors: tortoises, lizards, birds of prey....and even compost rigglers worms as highlights for the younger set!

So mark your calendar for TUES. JULY 21, 2015 from 6:00-8:00 pm. at Beckwith Park featuring the popular, local Folk/Rock band "Shaky Ground".

In addition to the generosity of sponsors we wish to acknowledge the incredible help of NQRA executive members and committee volunteers, who are all key to the ongoing success of this event.

We welcome volunteers for this 2 hour event! (Set-up, clean-up, face painting, booth rep, parking or traffic guide) It's a great way to engage, be involved and help out while grooving to music! If able, call Lauraine @250-479-0302. or email at laurainederman@shaw.ca .



“Boulevard Tree For Free” A Program Success



NQRA continues to encourage residents to find a spot for a tree on property right-of-ways or along boulevards.

A Tree For Free? *If you haven't participated in Saanich's "No Cost Boulevard Tree Program", please consider it! Free offers are rare these days! But, that's exactly what this "Tree for Free" program is!*

This Saanich Parks/BC Hydro funded planting program has met resounding success enhancing streetscapes and addressing 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 in order to receive a tree at no cost. Park staff later contact the resident to discuss tree selection and site location. In the fall, staff plant the tree while residents agree to water the tree for 5 years. It couldn't be easier!

Boulevard Trees Are Important! Trees serve important environmental roles such as filtering air and water, providing wildlife habitat, shading buildings, conserving energy and reducing the "urban heat island" effect, and providing flood control by retaining up to 60 percent of rainfall. They act as sound absorbers, reduce air pollution, provide curb appeal and increase property values. And an added bonus; tree lined street slow and calm traffic.



New magnolias planted on Borden. If space allows, 2-3 trees per lot are planted.

Further info or application form, visit northquadra.ca Or call Lauraine Derman for print copy (250-479-0302)

Be A Street Coordinator! Street coordinators help maximize this program's efficiency. Saanich Parks gives priority to applications involving multiple plantings. So chat with your neighbours, process multiple applications together and enjoy the benefits of improving your street's aesthetic and environmental value!

Friends Of Beckwith Park *Keep Pulling Together!*



Margaret Firth and Marina Isakori join a dedicated team of "pullers" at Beckwith who meet twice monthly: Sat. 9:30 -11:30.

For the past 5 years, volunteers have been working steadily with Saanich's Pulling Together Volunteer Program to remove invasive plants and restore the Garry Oak ecosystems in Beckwith Park. It's always a pleasure to see Camus, White Fawn Lily and Shooting Stars appear each spring. Removal of ivy, blackberry, Daphne and other invasive plants prevent them from taking over the meadows.

Next fall we hope to add new plantings to prevent further invasive entrenchment. Saanich is also interested in preserving the pathway around the duck pond to reduce bank erosion.

Please consider being a volunteer with the Friends of Beckwith Park and help keep this park a beautiful Garry Oak ecosystem with a flourishing pond to delight the community! Contact Eylin Gilbert at eylingilbart@hotmail.com or at 250-479-1617.

Hutchison Park Restoration Update

Last March, a keen group of Hutchison Park neighbours joined Pearson College students and local youth groups to begin the hands-on ecological restoration of Hutchison Park on Rogers Avenue. This 0.8 hectare park contains mature Garry Oak and abundant wildflowers, all part of the at-risk Garry Oak ecosystem that once existed over much of Saanich. It is a Saanich treasure and is named for respected journalist and author, Bruce Hutchison, who lived adjacent to the park on Rogers Avenue. Last March the team worked very hard over the course of a whole week and many truck loads of invasive plant material such as English Ivy, Scotch Broom, Daphne Laurel and English Holly were removed. It was a great boost to start this park's ecological restoration. The results are now clearly seen from Rogers Street where a newly uncovered rocky knoll now boasts spring wildflowers that were suppressed under a dense mat of English Ivy.



Thank you neighbours for your hard work last spring! Now it's time to get together once again and develop an ongoing restoration strategy for the park. If you'd like to be part of that discussion, or can lend a hand with invasive species removal and native species planting, contact Jenny Eastman, *Saanich Pulling Together Volunteer Coordinator* 250.744.1710 or ferns1@telus.net

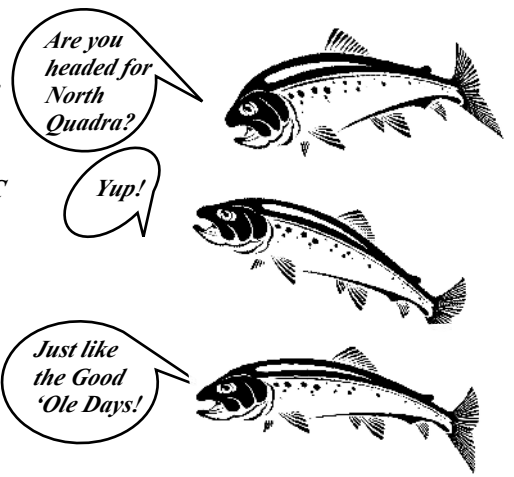
Claudia Parfitt volunteers in Hutchison Park and urges others to join her . Helping hands can restore this park to it's former glory!

Fish Habitat in North Quadra ?

NQRA Supports Peninsula Streams Initiatives

Recently, NQRA provided a letter to Council in support of Peninsula Streams Society's 2015 community operating grant application. Known as a leading environmental non-profit organization, PSS has a long history of successful stream restoration, including several projects in North Quadra's backyard. And, it's a fishy business as described below:

"Peninsula Streams has been busy in North Quadra fostering stewardship with the Friends of Swan Creek Watershed (FSCW) and the Friends of Blenkinsop Creek. FSCW is active constructing fish habitat in Swan Creek (counting 44 adult coho in 2014) and are currently enumerating out-migrating coho smolts. A potential partnership with BC Hydro may permit restoration of Blenkinsop Creek near the George Tripp Substation at 4070 Lochside Drive, building on last December's sighting of adult coho salmon upstream of Swan Lake. With additional funding, we will do further projects and stewardship in the Colquitz Watershed, including Colquitz, Gabo and Blenkinsop Creeks. Ongoing school projects include Gr. 3 instruction at Lochside and McKenzie Elementaries and our "Creatures of Habitat" Gr. 6 program at Colquitz and Royal Oak Middle Schools." Ian Bruce, Pres. Watershed Ecological Services



For info. or to volunteer, please contact: peninsulastreams@gmail.com or view website at www.peninsulastreams.ca.

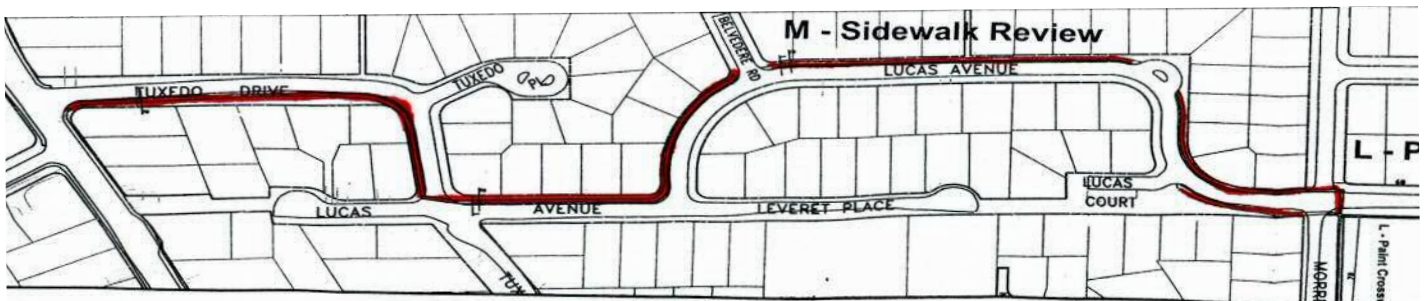
Sidewalk Dilemma: Morris/Cedar Hill X versus Belvedere/Lucas ?

Cedar Hill X/Morris remains one of North Quadra's busiest pedestrian and vehicle routes. Therefore, NQRA is pleased with the new concrete sidewalk from Lakehill Place to Ambassador, procured as part of the Brix Condos at Borden rezoning. This amenity replaced a poorly maintained asphalt pathway and has been well received by residents.

Nevertheless, NQRA continues to be *on record* urging completion of a remaining section along the west of Morris from Ambassador to the corner of Lucas. This short 165 meter portion 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 at Clatworthy. Lakehill Parents' Advisory Council, 4 area school principals, and 40 affected residents who signed petitions have lent support to our concerns. To date, Saanich Engineering has denied consideration of this request, stating many other areas of Saanich rank as higher safety priority and that budget restraints are a consideration.

Given this situation, Engineering's recent announcement that they may proceed with construction of a *different* sidewalk in North Quadra, from the park exit at Belvedere along Lucas to the corner of Morris has been both surprising and confusing. The Belvedere/Lucas sidewalk involves a far less hazardous pedestrian corridor, and was strongly opposed by area neighbours at the time it was initially proposed in 2005. In addition, the 2008 reconfiguration of schools to the middle school model has altered most walking routes to school and may have made this Belvedere/Lucas sidewalk less relevant.

Our question therefore remains: If funds are available to build a sidewalk on a route that is less travelled, less hazardous and objected to by residents, then why not divert funds and finish a critical piece which is 50 feet from the school property, poses a greater pedestrian risk and is supported by residents, our association and the schools themselves?



(Affected residents along the Belvedere/Lucas route are urged to make their views known regarding this proposed sidewalk construction to Saanich Engineering and/or provide email comment to NQRA at info@northquadra.ca)

What To Do About Graffiti ?

Many community associations, with Saanich support, encourage residents to be proactive in combating graffiti. Graffiti is an act of vandalism and the same "tagger" may place his "tag" in numerous locations, spread over wide geographical areas. Removing graffiti as quickly as possible is the best deterrent since it discourages repeats. This can be done 2 ways: If found on private property, email or phone ByLaw@saanich.ca or 250-475-5456 as it's the responsibility of the property owner to remove it. If located on municipal property, report the location, time, date to *Saanich Graffiti Removal website*: saanich.ca/services/graffiti.html but keep in mind that due to busy staff demands removal takes time.

But the most effective method to date is the "proactive" approach. Saanich will provide a free *Graffiti Removal Kit*, obtained from their Public Works Yard on Borden St. BC Hydro will also supply paints matching the colour of their boxes. Call 250-475-5599 (Saanich) or 250-727-5271 (BC Hydro) for supplies.

If you can assist in the suppression of graffiti in North Quadra let us know about it at info@northquadra.ca. Resident Brian Butterfield reported he's removed over 1000 tags in Saanich over the last 5 years! To learn how he managed this amazing feat read the latest BlockWatch News at www.saanichpolice.ca/images/blockwatch/Spring_Newsletter_2015.pdf

Development Updates

Keeping Informed Of Neighbourhood Changes

Rainbow Hill Development: The developer approached Planning regarding a new vehicle access to his proposed two 8 story phase 3 buildings. The issue of access was a key consideration at the time of rezoning. Vehicle access to and from McKenzie was not supported by Council or NQRA at the time and has since been precluded by the dedication of a Garry Oak park along McKenzie. The requested changes would require Council to approve a development permit amendment. NQRA remains concerned regarding potential loss of a rare habitat and is encouraged that Planning has not supported this request due to potential environmental and traffic impacts.

BC Hydro Substation: BC Hydro informed us last June of expansion work at the George Tripp Substation on Lochside Dr. We were concerned, along with several nearby neighbours, about the impact on the neighbourhood and environment. Despite considerable effort, we were unable to save two mature Garry Oak trees directly in line with Hydro's underground cables. This tree loss along Willow Street has negatively impacted neighbours. Currently, we are urging BC Hydro and Saanich to plant replacement trees along Willow. In addition, Peninsula Streams Society(see p.5) is seeking funds to restore Blenkinsop Creek, east of the site.

779 Blackberry: A proposal to construct a small office building is currently underway. We are concerned that virtually no amenity has been offered as part of this rezoning application. We've asked for a strong covenant to ensure future building usage does not significantly change should Council approve this development.

4247, 4253 and 4255 Dieppe: Island West Produce's property located at Douglas/Dieppe is up for redevelopment. The applicants held two Open Houses and met twice with NQRA executive. The proposed new and expanded food processing plant is not ideal land use for this residential area. Already, neighbours have expressed concerns about noise and hours of operation. However, the association has supported the Food Processing Plant due to its historical existence and commitment to protect 100 jobs for residents.

NQRA has concerns regarding density and height variances requested for the townhouse component. Furthermore, the association feels townhome density, 2 km away from commercial centers, is too high and three storey townhomes with height variances are out of character for a single family residential area. The third component of the application proposes eight single dwelling lots on the east side of the property backing residences on Kincaid. This component is acceptable to the association.

The association, therefore, takes a "qualified" stand regarding this proposal due to a variety of concerns from neighbours and non-unanimity amongst executive members. ***We urge residents, especially those impacted, to familiarize themselves with the development and express their views to Saanich Planning Department and Council.***

4050 Nelthorpe: Saanich Planning received an application to rezone this property from A1- Rural to RS- 8 and create a 5 lot subdivision on the south-east slope of Christmas Hill, an environmentally sensitive area. The proposal did not receive Planning's support. The association strongly concurs with the planner's report.

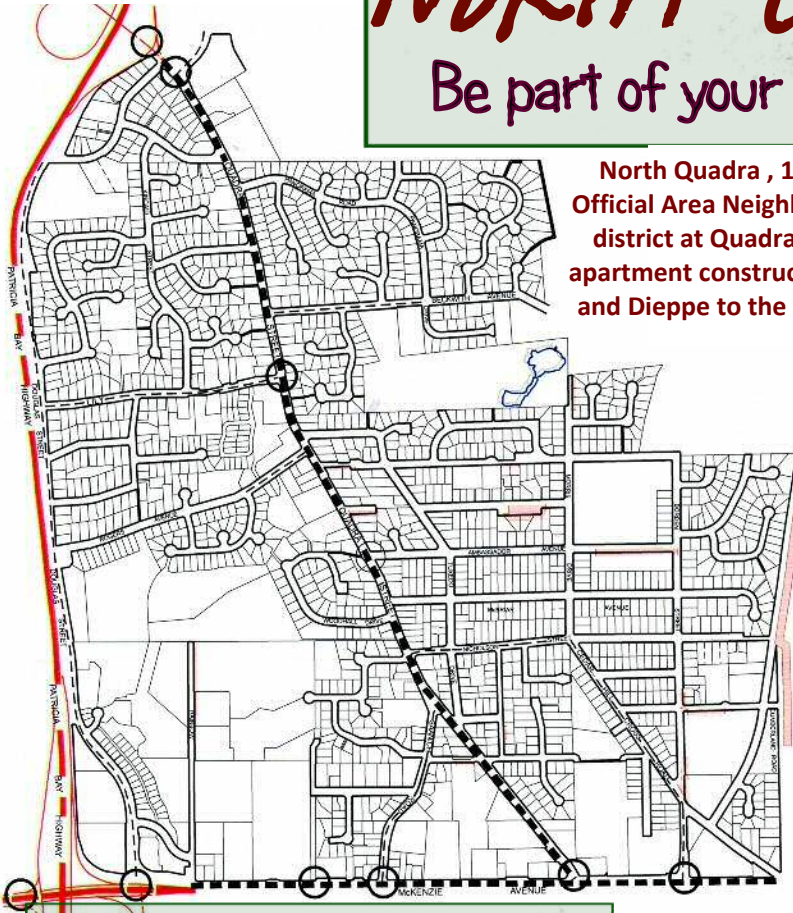
Habitat For Humanity Housing : 4000 Cedar Hill X Road

"Habitat for Humanity began construction of a 4 unit townhome on Cedar Hill X Rd. last Oct. and are pleased to announce that, with the help of Camosun College Carpentry students, framing is well underway. We estimate roof completion by May and occupancy by fall. Soon four new lower income families, including 10 children, will have safe, decent and affordable homes to call their own. Interested in being part of this project? There are many ways to get involved! Skilled trades persons are definitely needed. Or, why not put together a company team and sponsor an Adopt-A-Day team build! In February, we launched a fantastic new campaign called \$100k in 100 Days. One hundred women are invited to donate \$1000 each to reach \$100,000 to help build a home for the partner family of single mom Amanda. For more project info, our ReStore, or to get involved, visit habitatvictoria.com. Habitat Victoria thanks all our generous donors and volunteers for making this home project possible." -Regards, Sara Johnson, Office Admin/Homeownership Coordinator, (250) 480-7688 ext 101



North Quadra

Be part of your Community Association



North Quadra, 1 of 12 geographical zones delineated within Saanich's Official Area Neighbourhoods, contains approx. 2400 homes, a commercial district at Quadra/Mackenzie, 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.

NQRA 2014-15 Board of Directors

President: Haji Charania

Vice President: Jeff Bray

Secretary: Stan Brygadyr

Directors-At-Large

Trevor Barry	Mary Beamont	Susan Marcotte
Graeme Weir	Lauraine Derman	Rita Haehnlein
Arun Joshi	Evelyn Woodward	Sharon Leonard

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. Any size donation is always welcome!

The Spirit Of Volunteering

WE NEED YOU! NQRA has benefited from the generous spirit and energy of many volunteers in past years who deliver newsletters (2400 copies!), serve on our executive, and attend meetings representing community concerns at Council. Strength is in numbers and we can use more help! You may ask "What's in it for Me?" For starters, you'll have the satisfaction of improving your community, neighbourhood and quality of life. Whether your contribution is large or small, volunteering as a board member, assisting with parks and boulevard tree planting, being a Music In Park organizer, graffiti "spotter", or newsletter deliver, etc. provides a community voice and keeps NQRA strong and vibrant. So don't delay; join up now...you'll be

Just A Click Away

In the past, NQRA published and delivered *North Quadra News* twice yearly to 2400 homes. With online publications, our interactive website and Facebook/Twitter links, print versions are reduced to one spring newsletter yearly. This edition now gives a complete year review of events, activities, provides AGM notice and is available online for email registrants. Our intent remains to keep you fully informed. News alerts, notification of special meetings and bulletins are posted on our website, thanks to our new webmaster Arun Joshi. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our former webmaster Stefan Neimann who managed and maintained our website in the past. Thanks Stefan for sharing your tech talents!
To remain informed, we strongly encourage residents to "stay connected" by joining our email REGISTRY at www.northquadra.ca.

Join Us At Our New Location

NQRA monthly executive meetings are always open to the public. We are pleased to announce that Saanich has offered us a room at Saanich Commonwealth Place for future executive meetings. ***So why not consider a swim or work out, then attend our meetings and share your comments and ideas with us!***

Previously, exec. meetings were held at private residences. We are most grateful to our Registrar, Susan Marcotte, who generously provided her home to accommodate meetings for the past 6 years!

Association Information

Please direct Questions, Comments & Cheques to:

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

Jeff Bray- VPres. 250 595 0265 - 801 Rogers Way V8X5L1

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

email @ info@northquadra.ca



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