



## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Cedar Hill Recreation Centre and Golf Course**

See page 5 for details.

### **March 24th – QCHCA Annual General Meeting**

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre 7:00pm.  
See article this page.

### **April 26th – Times Colonist 10K Run**

### **May 9th – Graffiti Clean Up**

Saanich Police has organized a graffiti clean-up in our neighbourhood. Meet at Playfair Park at 11:00am to 1:00pm. See details in article on page 3.

### **May 26th – QCHCA General Meeting**

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre 7:00pm

### **July 19<sup>th</sup> - QCHCA Playfair Picnic**

QCHCA annual picnic at Playfair Park

### **August 4th and 11th – Music in the Park**

Rutledge Park (Cloverdale and Inverness) on August 4th and August 11<sup>th</sup> from 6pm until 8pm. See the article on page 7.

### **Playfair Park Invasive Pulls**

See “Our Parks news update” on page 3 for details.

## **QCHCA Annual General Meeting - March 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Mark your calendars!!** Next Annual General Meeting is March 24th at 7:00 pm, Cedar Hill Recreation Centre, seniors’ wing. Everyone is welcome to attend. **Please note that members will elect officers of the QCHCA at this meeting.**

**Speaker: Jody Watson, Chair of the Bowker Creek Initiative** will speak on the Bowker, Colquitz and Cecelia watersheds and restoration plans for Bowker Creek.

## **ANNUAL REVIEW 2014-2015**

### ***John Schmuck – President QCHCA***

Dear Neighbours,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as QCHCA President. I hope you feel that your Association has met your expectations in 2014. If you are not a member, I encourage you to join and help us shape the future of our community. Please come to our Annual General Meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

It has been a busy year for QCHCA with development applications, neighbourhood consultations, participation on numerous committees, planning community events, holding meetings, maintaining the website and creating and distributing newsletters. We were proud to host a well-attended ‘All Candidates’ meeting prior to the November civic elections and look forward to working with the new Mayor and Council.

*Cont’d page 2.....*

## **Annual Review: Continued from Pg. 1**

I am pleased to report that the QCHCA is doing well. We are in good financial shape and our membership is growing.

QCHCA's involvement in Land Use development applications allows the community to influence the Municipality and outcomes. Over the past year, QCHCA was involved in proposals for 4 condo projects, 4 commercial developments, 3 townhouse projects, 2 social housing projects, and 8 subdivisions. We met development proponents, neighbours, Municipal Council, Engineers and Planners to provide community input to their decisions.

The Association hosted many community activities including Playfair Community Picnic, Music in the Park, hot dog fundraisers and Playfair and Cedar Hill Parks cleanup events. The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual QCHCA Christmas Party at the Cedar Hill Golf Course Clubhouse was a big success.

We represent you in our collaboration with other community groups including the Saanich Community Association Network, Bowker Creek Initiative, Shelbourne Valley Action Plan, UVIC Community Association Liaison Committee, Friends of Blenkinsop Creek and Friends of Cedar Hill Park.

We have an exciting year ahead with the following special projects:

- working with Saanich to build a water park and washroom at Rutledge Park,
- creating a Master Plan and Charter for Cedar Hill Park, and
- assisting Saanich to update our Local Area Plans.

If you're interested in getting involved, please contact any Executive member.

Best wishes for the year ahead,

John Schmuck: johnschmuck@shaw.ca

## **Valuing Community Associations**

### **Rebecca Mersereau: Member QCHCA**

I grew up in New Brunswick, where over half of the province is designated as unincorporated rural area that falls outside of the boundaries of municipal governments. While it's tempting to romanticize life without the demands of water bills or the constraints of by-laws, when nearby developments or cuts to provincial services threaten your relatively autonomous lifestyle, you quickly realize the value of becoming organized. It's important for residents, individually or collectively, to have an avenue through which they can speak up for their interests.

While democratically elected Municipal Councils exist to serve this purpose, it is difficult for large municipalities to be agile enough to respond to the needs of many distinct communities within their boundaries. Saanich's community associations are extremely important for this reason.

Community associations have great potential with broad mandates, inclusive approaches, and long-range visions. While they are often focused on the most imminent challenges, such as development proposals, they are also a vehicle to make new residents feel welcome, to foster a greater sense of community, and to identify the particular needs and aspirations of their constituent groups.

Thank you to the members of the QCHCA Executive Committee, who selflessly spend countless hours working toward these ends on our behalf.

It is a privilege to be a member of an organization with so many individuals who are passionate about retaining our community's unique features, improving the quality of our services, and our lives. Help shape our future by becoming a member today.

## **Graffiti Clean-up Event**

**Mark Paminger: Saanich Police Dept.**

You are likely familiar with the “broken window theory” which suggests that maintaining and monitoring urban environments helps prevent small crimes such as vandalism and graffiti, and creates an atmosphere of order and lawfulness. As a result, more serious crimes are discouraged. It is our experience that neglecting graffiti results in more graffiti and “tags” on telephone poles and other areas within our community.

Cleaning graffiti in our neighbourhoods shows that the community cares about aesthetics and safety. In 2014 the Saanich Police Bike Section and Saanich Public Works coordinated events with local residents to remove graffiti from telephone poles, private businesses and numerous other locations.

The Saanich Police Bike Section with the QCHCA President John Schmuck and member Brian Butterfield are planning a Spring Graffiti Clean-up event in the Quadra Cedar Hill neighbourhood.

**WHEN:** 11 am to 1pm on Saturday, May 9, 2015. We will meet at Playfair Park parking lot, 1198 Rock Street, Saanich. Please walk, cycle or car-pool to the park to reduce parking issues.

We need volunteers to help paint over graffiti and to eliminate it from the Quadra Cedar Hill area. Graffiti locations will be identified in advance of the cleanup. If you want to rid our neighbourhoods of graffiti, please give us a hand. Please wear old clothes. Paint and brushes will be supplied.

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Butterfield at 250 383 9441 or by email: **butterfieldbg@shaw.ca**

If you would like more information about the removal of graffiti in Saanich, please check out the Saanich Police website:

[www.saanich.ca/services/graffiti.html](http://www.saanich.ca/services/graffiti.html)

## **Our Parks... a news update**

**Susan Haddon: VP QCHCA**

### **Friends of Cedar Hill Park:**

The spring cleanup of Bowker Creek’s west bank took place in February. Many thanks to everyone who came out to help. Previous efforts in 2014 resulted in a large section of the east side of the creek being cleared and indigenous species being planted. Friends of Cedar Hill Park plan a further major clean-up in the Fall. Our on-going work to remove invasive species in the park takes place on most Mondays at 9am. For information email: [FriendsofCedarHillPark@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofCedarHillPark@gmail.com)

### **Playfair Park Pulling Together Team:**

Your help removing invasive species is greatly appreciated! Please meet at the Judge Place entrance to Playfair at 9:30am  
Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>,  
Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>, Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup>,  
Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>, Monday June 1<sup>st</sup>, and  
Monday June 8<sup>th</sup>. For information email:  
[johnschmuck@shaw.ca](mailto:johnschmuck@shaw.ca)

Saanich Parks has closed their Playfair paths reconstruction survey. Work will not start until August. Detailed plans are yet to be published.

## **Cloverdale Neighbours on Facebook**

### **Stephanie Ferguson:**

For residents in the "Cloverdale Triangle" bordered by Blanshard, Tolmie, Quadra and Cloverdale, there is a new Facebook group to help you connect with your fellow neighbours. The group will allow residents to share, swap, organize events and better communicate within the area. Anyone living in this area welcome to join at:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/cloverdale.neighbours](http://www.facebook.com/groups/cloverdale.neighbours)

## Thanks from Marsha Henderson

I ran for Council in November 2014. It was the most fun I've ever had doing something more challenging than I've ever done! I'm grateful for the opportunity to be part of the election process in this great Municipality.

My favorite part of the campaign was listening to my fellow Saanich residents' concerns, hopes, regrets, opportunities and encouragement. Rarely did I encounter lack of interest or animosity. This was truly a positive and inspiring experience.

I encourage everyone to get engaged in Municipal affairs. Be an informed voter!

## Thanks from Shawn Newby

I was a candidate in the Saanich municipal election in November 2014. It was a pleasure to meet with many of you throughout the election. The experience has helped me better understand the issues and concerns of Saanich residents.

We saw an increase in the voter turnout for this election and one hopes that the trend will continue. Municipal government affects our lives more than any other level of government. Let's keep engaged and committed to vote in the next municipal election.

The 2014 election demonstrated that Community Associations serve an important role in sustaining our democracy by holding local meetings on local issues, providing forums for public discussions, encouraging voter participation and hosting All Candidate meetings.

As a member of the Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association, I will continue to be involved and look forward to helping our community in the years ahead.

Many thanks, Shawn Newby

## Restoration of Playfair's Garry Oak Meadow

### *Colleen O'Brien: Volunteer Lead Steward*

The deep-soil Garry Oak meadow in Playfair Park is a small remnant of one of the most endangered ecosystems in Canada. Despite major problems with invasive alien grasses and herbaceous weeds, the meadow is the best example of this ecosystem in Saanich and worthy of restoration. I live within 200 meters of the meadow and this restoration is my retirement project.

Over the late fall and early winter, regular park users will have seen selected areas of the meadow covered with either black plastic sheeting, cardboard or Garry oak leaves. These 'mulches' are temporary, left for only five to seven weeks to smother the non-native grass and weed seedlings that sprouted during the fall rains. The areas covered were selected because they have the highest native values and diversity (i.e. lots of Common or Great camas, White fawn lilies, Shooting stars, Western buttercup, etc.). Many hours of hand-pulling tufted perennial grasses were necessary before coverings could be laid down to tackle other invasive species.

At the beginning of March the meadow may look like grasses but it's not. There are native plants at work, emerging from winter dormancy, busy storing energy reserves so they can flower and set seed.

In March a couple of native species will be in bloom and others bloom into July and August. However the meadow will be in its glory at the end of April and early May. If you take a stroll along the meadow's paths at that time, it will be obvious where restoration work has started (Hint: Look for straight lines along treatment edges) and nothing has been done.

So far, I have done most of the restoration myself. Two other volunteers who also enjoy doing the picky work of weeding-by-hand have joined the team. Saanich Parks helps with materials, debris removal and line trimming. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me, Colleen O'Brien: [cob@shaw.ca](mailto:cob@shaw.ca), 250-388-4520.

## **Cook Street Construction Update**

***Ivan Leung, P.Eng: Saanich Engineering, Transportation Division***

Cook Street reconstruction from Quadra Street to Maplewood Road is 5 months into construction and still on track for completion in May 2015, barring delays due to weather.

Key improvements include wider, concrete sidewalks on both sides of the street; new pedestrian crossings; consideration for future transit stops (if BC Transit decides to add routes here); protected, raised cycle tracks; fifty-six new trees and planted boulevards; four planted rain gardens; improved roadway lighting; planted median islands; and upgraded underground infrastructure (water main, storm drains and sanitary sewers).

Work first started at the north and south sections of the project to reduce disruption to businesses and Cloverdale Traditional School. To date, new underground infrastructure, curbs, sidewalks and raised cycle tracks have been installed in these sections.

The middle section of the project is now under construction with work on underground infrastructure, curbs, sidewalks and raised cycle tracks. The final stage will follow, involving asphalt paving, landscaping, line painting and traffic signage.

Project completion and road re-opening is still estimated to be May 2015, subject to clement weather. More information and future schedule updates can be found on the project website at: [www.saanich.ca/completestreets](http://www.saanich.ca/completestreets).

## **Seen our website? [www.QCHCA.org](http://www.QCHCA.org)**

***Kevin House: Webmaster***

### ***What's on the QCHCA Website??***

For those who haven't yet visited the recently updated website, it is the on-line source of information about the QCHCA. The website has information about upcoming community events, QCHCA general meetings, and speaking engagements. It also features articles on community news.

The website gives you access to recent and archived QCHCA newsletters, meeting minutes and membership information including the printable membership form. Need to contact members of the executive including your "QCHCA area representative"? It's all here.

### ***What would you like to see??***

The QCHCA would like to hear from you as to how the website could be better, more useful and interesting. Would a discussion forum be helpful? What if we posted links and information on active development proposals? Would you like more news content or articles about the history of our Municipality? Would it help if we extended our Coming Events postings to include events from other community-minded groups?

**We have posted an on-line questionnaire at our website. Please make a visit and let us know what you think.**

If you have a great idea for on-line material or wish to post your articles on-line, let us know. We value your opinion. Please contact me, Kevin House: [kevin.house3003@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.house3003@gmail.com)

## Cedar Hill Recreation Centre and Golf Course

### **Francine Mooney: Marketing**

Did you know the arts play an essential role in a child's development and that learning new skills and developing talents are important parts of self-esteem and a positive self-image? The arts contribute to improving motor skills, encourage creativity, build problem-solving skills and help with the practice of social and communication skills. With the range of affordable arts programs and experiences available through The Arts Centre at Cedar Hill, parents can encourage their children to explore their interests through classes in visual arts, ceramics, dance and performing arts. **Explore the arts [www.cedarhillarts.ca](http://www.cedarhillarts.ca).**

For an introduction to the world of Pottery, we have classes for all levels and ages. Our Ceramics Studio has evolved from a very small space 35 years ago, into a studio many times that size. This bright expansive space has seen a remarkable increase in the number of people learning the pottery craft and the more experienced, independent ceramicists. Those interested in access to the studio as an independent user will require an orientation to the facility. Please call the recreation centre for more information or consult the Active Living Guide. [www.saanich.ca](http://www.saanich.ca) or call 250-475-7121.

If you have yet to visit our facility, come and enjoy regularly changing free exhibitions in the Art Centre's galleries. Upcoming: **Embrace Aging through Arts & Community, March 19-April 7**, an inspiring exhibition offered in partnership with Aberdeen Hospital and the Victoria Eldercare Foundation. **Limelight Youth Art Showcase Exhibition, April 30-May 12**. This exhibition recognizes the talent and commitment of young emerging artists in Greater Victoria.

**Saanich Artists Studio Tours.** Visit Saanich artists at their studios through weekends in May and discover locally made, one-of-a-kind works by Saanich artists and artisans. **Preview Exhibition April 16-28** Visit our website: [www.cedarhillarts.ca](http://www.cedarhillarts.ca).

We have golf and fitness too! Golf is fun for new players and provides an excellent opportunity for increasing personal and physical development. This year, the Cedar Hill Golf Course professionals will introduce elementary and middle school students to the game of golf through the Golf in Schools Program. With our professional instruction and child-friendly golf equipment, we will help grow the next generation of young golfers! If your child is interested in golf, visit us at 1400 Derby Rd or contact Craig Rencher: 250-475-7151  
[Craig.Rencher@saanich.ca](mailto:Craig.Rencher@saanich.ca)

New this year is the **Canadian Diabetes Association "Walk and Talk" free 10-week program on diabetes care & prevention.** 10 steps to 10,000 steps, rain or shine, inside or outside..... learn about eating well, walking safely, dental care, understanding blood sugar & medications. Join us Friday mornings 9-10am, March 6 - May 15 (every Friday except Good Friday, April 3). For more information and registration call Penny Murray at 250-382-5454 ext. 222 [penny.murray@diabetes.ca](mailto:penny.murray@diabetes.ca)

### **Editor's Update**

As you see, the Spring Edition has expanded to eight pages with many more local contributors. Please send your suggestions and comments to: [prhaddon@gmail.com](mailto:prhaddon@gmail.com)

**Many thanks to the Island Print Group, Aristos Mail and to all our volunteers who bring Community Roots to your mailbox.**

Please note that contact information for the QCHCA executive is on our website.

## **Volunteer for good health**

***Gail Snider: Executive Director, Saanich Volunteer Services***

As a society that has existed since 1992, we look for volunteers to support the citizens of Saanich. In doing so, we are asking for your skills and time to help with our cause. What may surprise you, however, are the findings of a recent article published in Renaissance Magazine that illustrates that volunteering with us may actually be helping you.

Saanich Volunteer Services, located in the McRae house on Cedar Hill Golf Course, is a non-profit society with the motto "A Community of Neighbours Helping Neighbours". We offer one-to-one direct volunteer service for those needing help to live independently. With only four part-time employees, we provide rides to appointments, shopping, support with gardening, friendly visiting and many other services to approximately 1000 Saanich residents through the outstanding efforts of 150 volunteers.

Our rapidly aging population of baby boomers means that there are more people living longer, happier, healthier lives with the support of agencies like ours. Two of the key findings from the research conducted by the Rotman Research Institute demonstrates how volunteering with us can help you be an appreciated, productive and happy person.

- Volunteering is associated with reductions in symptoms of depression, better overall health, fewer functional limitations and greater longevity.

- Feeling appreciated and needed as a volunteer amplifies the relationship between volunteering and psycho-social wellbeing.

If you are interested in improving your health and happiness and that of other Saanich residents please contact us:

executivedirector@saanichvolunteers.org

## **Uptown's Phase Three Plans**

How does QCHCA get involved in Saanich land use decisions? Here's just one example.

The QCHCA and other Saanich associations were invited to a presentation of Phase 3 plans for the "Gravel Pit" on the north end of the Uptown property.

Geoff Nagle, VP of Morguard Properties, said that construction of Uptown Phases 1 and 2, representing 73 percent of the project, are completed. Final Phase 3 has been split into 3A and 3B. Morguard will be asking for Council to approve a Development Permit Amendment for phase 3A so construction can be started on a 43,827 sq. ft. food store plus a 4,433 sq. ft. commercial retail unit. A site plan reference: project 3440 Saanich Road, DPA00827 is available at:  
<http://saanich.ca/business/development/core.html>

Uptown's plans originally contained a large residential component that has been reduced from 650 units to 83 units in an 18-story tower in Uptown Phase 3B.

As with every Land Use application, the QCHCA seeks input from neighbours as the basis for a letter to Council re the proposal and including a summary of community members' comments.

## **Music in the Park 2015**

***Chris Bartlett: Coordinator***

Your QCHC Association is continuing the very popular and entertaining 'Music in the Park'. All performances will be held from 6:00- 8:00 pm on Tuesday evenings. Our bands will be set up at Rutledge Park (Cloverdale and Inverness) on August 4th and August 11th. Bring your picnic or purchase refreshments at our kiosks. This family event includes face painting and crafts for the children.

Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend!

# SPRING Membership Drive.....

The Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association has played an important role in our community and in the District of Saanich since we were founded in 1996, with the motto "Neighbours Building Community".

We are an entirely volunteer organization, funded through membership dues. We represent the diversity of our community, young and old, different cultures and ethnicities and all levels of income.

Your membership contributions and active support allow us to initiate, promote and fund many activities and services to our community including the annual picnic, Music in the Park, the newsletter and our website. We help members of our community have a voice with the Municipality and many community groups in Saanich and Greater Victoria. We are convinced that our community association can achieve so much more with your participation.

Whether you wish to volunteer and be an active participant in the work of QCHCA or support the association with your membership fee, we welcome you to join your community association to influence our direction, to revitalize our association, to make our community a more beautiful, sustainable and healthy place to live and thrive.

## Membership Renewal

***Rikki Bowman: Membership***

***Have you renewed for 2015?***

To all valued members of QCHCA, support your Association's work through your continuing membership. Please tell your neighbours about the Association and encourage them to join.

You can renew your membership by completing the form below and mailing it to me, with your \$10 membership fee, at the address on the form or bring it with you to the Annual General Meeting on March 24th, 2015.

**Many thanks to those members who have already renewed this year!**

Sincerely, Rikki Bowman, Membership

250 382 6197 email: rikkij@shaw.ca

### **QCHCA Membership Application and Renewal Form**

Name.....

Address.....

Postal code.....Phone .....Email .....

Area of special interest?  
.....

Membership fee is \$10 per person per year. Payment enclosed  
\$.....

Please send completed form and payment to: QCHCA c/o Rikki Bowman, 4 - 1164 Palmer Rd. Victoria BC V8P 2H6