



## Community Associations - A historical perspective

**Vicki Sanders, Councillor District of Saanich**

Early history of Saanich as a rural community shows that citizen involvement has significantly shaped the Saanich we know today. Back then, churches and community halls were common gathering places. One such hall still flourishing is at Prospect Lake, where the oldest Community Association in Saanich was formed.

While no longer serving in the same way as earlier, the Gordon Head Community Hall does provide space for community groups to meet. The Royal Oak Women's Institute on West Saanich Road filled the needs of a flourishing farming community in the 1900s but, these days, one is more likely to see a yoga or exercise class in progress. The Lakehill Women's Institute that stood at Quadra and Lodge was replaced by an apartment building many years ago but, in its heyday, it was where mothers took their babies to be weighed, children took dance lessons and many a square dance took place. Our community has changed from Saanich's early growth years but the spirit of community endures.

A development boom in the 1960s brought significant changes. Housing and schools were needed to accommodate the post-war baby boom and, as the population grew, Saanich became more suburbanized. This prompted members of the community to become involved in working with the municipality to develop Local Area Plans for their neighbourhoods, subsets of the Official Community Plan, and they remained engaged as the communities continued to develop.

Community Associations were formed for every Local Area Plan area in the early 1990s. Many formed over specific land use and/or social issues while others formed to provide representation to the District of Saanich. This model has worked well as

a means for Saanich and communities to communicate with each other.

My involvement with the municipality began in the 1970s as a member of the Shelbourne Local Area Plan Communities. Subsequently I became a founding member of the Quadra Cedar Hill (QCHCA) and Camosun (CCA) Community Associations. The QCHCA was founded over land use issues and the CCA to respond to the blizzard of 1996 and both are still active today.

In the early days, it would be standing room only at Council as every Association clamoured to learn all they could about how the municipality operated. They became very well-informed and willing to voice their opinions to their elected officials. **-cont'd on Page 2**

Royal Oak Community Hall 1972 Photo credit: Saanich Archives





-cont'd from Page 1

During my four terms on Council, I have observed community involvement evolve. The difference may be in the number of ways citizens and groups can interact with the District. Almost without exception, the public is being asked to engage and comment on what is happening in Saanich. Whether transportation, agriculture or sustainability, a process is inevitably under way where the public is being asked to weigh in. Community Associations can be proud of being at the inception of the public process that allows all citizens to express their opinions and shape our collective future.

I think these are exciting times for Community Associations as they look to what the future brings. I look forward to this next stage in Saanich's history and to being part of the evolution of Community Associations and the role they play in our community. Are Community Associations still relevant? *Absolutely* they are.

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### Music to our ears

**Susan Haddon, President QCHCA**

What started as one evening of live marimba music in Rutledge Park in 2005 has expanded into a summer-long musical celebration across a number of Saanich parks.



Now in its 13th year, Saanich's Music in the Park was initiated by Margaret Bachmann. Margret is a QCHCA member and the woman who kickstarted the program that has now expanded to seven Saanich parks. She was publicly recognized with an 'Unsung Hero' award in 2016 at the inaugural Saanich's Arts, Culture and Heritage Awards for this gift to our community.

Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association's tag line is 'building community' and the two Music in the Park evenings we host at Rutledge Park each year are examples of how we contribute. Perhaps you were one of the many hundreds of community members who came to enjoy the music of featured bands on August 7 and 14 at Rutledge Park. 'Rukus' and 'Bobby Dazzler' had the crowds on their feet, singing along and cheering them on. There were many other attractions - children sat in the Saanich Police's 2012 Dodge Charger SRT-8, had their faces painted and made beautiful sidewalk art or joined the dancers in front of the stage. Food trucks supplemented picnics on the lawn for many.

Special thanks to Chris Bartlett and her team of volunteers for coordinating these special evenings, and to our generous Music in the Park sponsors: Saanich Legacy Foundation, Saanich Recreation, Hansbraun Investments, Homewood Constructors Ltd., Ron & Betty Otke, and Noble Car Buyers.

We're very thankful to Margaret Bachmann for initiating these wonderful events that help build community in Saanich. As she said in an interview from 2006, "It's great that we have these for our souls."



## Introducing Krista Voitchovsky Area Representative for Swan Lake



Krista Voitchovsky is QCHCA's area representative for the Swan Lake neighbourhood, an area bounded by Quadra, Greenridge, Saanich Rd and Tattersall. It's a wonderfully varied and hilly neighbourhood adjacent to Swan Lake Nature reserve.

Krista is a successful realtor who has lived in Saanich for 15 years. She has been a member of QCHCA since 2015 and took over responsibility as the Swan Lake area representative from Shawn Newby. Krista can be contacted by email: [QCHCA3003@gmail.com](mailto:QCHCA3003@gmail.com)

## Introducing Margaret Taylor Area Representative for Tolmie Cook



Margaret Taylor has been the area rep for Cook Tolmie for the past year. She moved to this area in 1995 which was an ideal neighbourhood to raise her two daughters. The boundaries are Cook St. Tolmie and Quadra and the streets are hilly, tree lined, and consist mainly of older homes on large lots. There are three green spaces, Tolmie Park, Peacock Hill and the Cecilia Creek Project and neighbours value their natural surroundings.

After retiring from a career with the Island Health Authority, Margaret wanted to focus more on building healthy communities. She volunteered for the Saanich Block Watch program, and began attending Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association meetings. The two Block Watch groups on her street built a mini library, and this summer created weekly Pub Nights and discovered they

shared many interests... growing organic vegetables and fruit trees, raising bee hives and chickens and preserving the Garry Oak trees.

## Introducing Paul Noble Area Representative for Rainbow

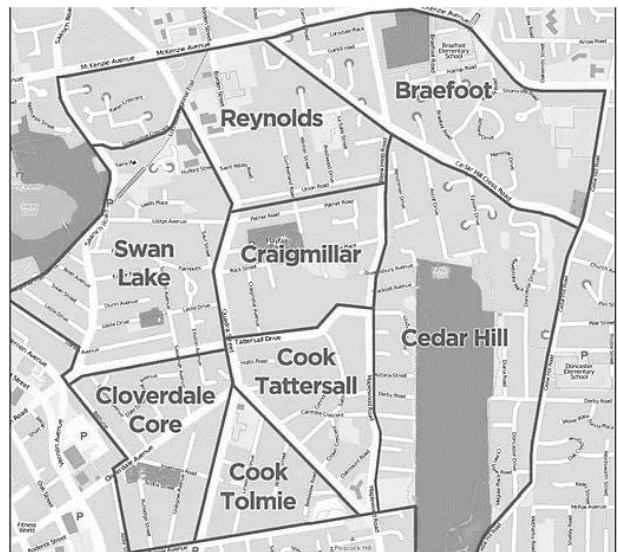


Welcome to Rainbow!

Formerly the Rainbow Ratepayers Association, as of 2018 we've joined forces with the Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association (QCHCA).

We are Jasmine Brown, Paul Noble and Mowgli, your representatives for Rainbow on the QCHCA. We moved into the neighbourhood early this year, and were helped into this role by long time Rainbow community members Larry and Mary Bomford.

For those who don't know, Rainbow is a beautiful little corner of our city, with quiet streets, lots of long-time residents and nature at its heart. Come visit our beloved Swan Lake nature sanctuary, where the new floating boardwalk has just opened. And our Rainbow Park has also just received a major overhaul, and now features great new playground equipment and new basketball court. See you in the neighbourhood.





## Get involved in your Local Area Plan

Beginning in early 2019, Saanich Planning will be working with us to update our Local Area Plan. This will be a unique opportunity to help shape our community into the future.

Local Area Plans are "neighbourhood plans that are developed with extensive consultation with community members" according to Saanich's website.

These plans "identify features of the community that are highly valued by citizens, and provides policy on how to protect and enhance them". Once adopted, (they) form part of the Official Community Plan and provide a policy framework for Council by addressing issues such as land use, transportation, environment, urban design, housing, economic development, parks, climate change, and community amenities".

Our most recent Quadra Local Area Plan is dated 2001 and can be found here: [http://www.saanich.ca/assets/Community/Documents/Planning/plans/Quadra\\_lap\\_web.pdf](http://www.saanich.ca/assets/Community/Documents/Planning/plans/Quadra_lap_web.pdf)

To ensure that our new plan is not done in isolation from the surrounding area, Saanich will also be working with North Quadra Community Association on updating their Local Area Plan. Both communities will also be invited to participate in the development of a 'Quadra Corridor' plan over the same period.

Please watch our website <http://www.qchca.org> for updates and information on how to get involved.

Our showroom is at 1745 Blanshard Street Tel. 250 383.2635

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Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association



## The 2018 Saanich Municipal Election All Candidates Event

On October 4th, QCHCA and Mount View Colquitz Community Associations held an all candidates' event at Garth Homer Auditorium. About 280 people and candidates were in attendance. There have been about eight previous event other locations in Saanich as part of this election cycle.

QCHCA has hosted candidate events in the past but this was a bigger undertaking due to the number of candidates running for Council. There were 16 candidates seated on a small stage. Moderators and time keeper had to be located off-stage. Each candidate for Council had a two-minute introduction and answered four questions from the Community Associations and the audience. Thankfully all the candidates and audience enjoyed the opportunity to engage.

Following the candidates for Council, the three mayoral candidates, Richard Atwell, Rob Wickson and Fred Haynes came to the stage to introduce themselves and to also answer questions.

The residents of Saanich are fortunate that so many members of our community want to run for Council. Many people commented how encouraging it is to see many younger people interested in serving the public as members of Council.

QCHCA would like to thank the candidates, the Garth Homer Society and all those from QCHCA and MVCCA who helped to organize and moderate the event.



## Duck Talk

Ken Campbell, Local Resident



conditions so it's important that we get moving to stimulate heart, circulation, muscles, joints, mind and mood.

By making simple choices like taking the stairs instead of the elevator, parking further away from the grocery store instead of the entrance, you can help keep muscles strong and bodies working properly as you age. By incorporating more movement into your daily life, you will notice the energy and mood-boosting effects that movement brings.

Start slowly and build the effort within your comfort zone. Keep activity enjoyable on your favorite streets, beach, local park or a room with a view.



## Keeping Active

Emma-Lea Welch, kinesiologist

I enjoyed physical activity from a young age and a career in exercise and wellness was a natural choice. Through education and experience, my passion for physical activity has evolved. I have found that many find it challenging to make exercise part of their daily routine. I have come to believe we have to connect our body and mind through movement and activity to enjoy life to the full. Let me offer some ideas to make movement and activity part of your routine as the springboard to long term health and mental well-being.

There is a saying: *If you don't use it, you lose it.* Most of us spend a lot of time sitting at work, home, driving, etc. It's hard to break the cycle of inactivity. Medical research has linked 'sedentary behavior' to obesity, heart disease and many other chronic

Volunteering is a great way to stay active. Work has started at Kings Pond in Cedar Hill Park to cleanup, mulch and renew the





## Driving for Deirdre

### A long journey for the Arthritis Society



John and Chris Beresford with Mum and Dad's VW Beetle in 1957, Banff National Park, Alberta. Photo credit: Donald

Many in our community live and suffer with Arthritis. Research into the causes of the disease and treatment is funded through donations to the Arthritis Society. Brothers Chris and John Beresford living Greater Victoria in have come up with a great fund-raising initiative for the Society as part of a great motoring adventure. In June, 2019, Chris and John Beresford will be the sole Canadian participants in the Peking to Paris Motor Challenge driving their 1956 VW Beetle.

John's late wife, Deirdre Beresford, was diagnosed in the 1980s with rheumatoid arthritis and passed away in 2016 due to complications from the disease. Deirdre served for many years as a volunteer for the Arthritis Society and other health related charitable causes. They ask that supporters donate to the Arthritis Society. All donations received through the Drive for Deirdre project will go directly to the Arthritis Society. Please go to Drive for Deirdre: <http://arthritis.ca/hostyourown/DriveForDeirdre>

The Peking to Paris Motor Rally is inspired by the original 1907 challenge issued by the Parisian newspaper, Le Matin. Leaving Beijing on June 2, 2019, the route will go from China to Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan and then back into Russia, to Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and finally Paris on July 7. The distance is about 16,000km. Approximately 110 teams will participate in the 2019 Challenge, using cars dating from 1907 to 1976.

## Navigating the Bylaws

### Noella May, QCHCA Vice-President

*\ 'bī- ló \ noun a rule made by a local authority for the regulation of its affairs of management of the area it governs.*

In Saanich, there are a multitude of bylaws and Council policies. For a full alphabetical search on the The District of Saanich website go to: <http://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/local-government/bylaws.html>

Some you may be familiar with:  
- noxious weeds - noise suppression - zoning  
- trees - boulevard plantings - heritage

While others may be unfamiliar to you:  
- truck routes - street lights - stop signs - street address  
- nuclear disarmament - municipal Coat of Arms

These regulations have been created so that residents abide by the same rules and, perhaps in a perfect world, live harmoniously. So how do they all get enforced?

The website outlines the following for breaches: "We respond to bylaw breaches when we receive complaints.

If you report a breach, we will investigate the matter. One person's complaint is enough for most bylaw breaches.

We need at least two people to file complaints for noise or illegal occupancy.

You must live within 100 meters of the offending property to file a complaint. Please register a complaint by calling 250-475-5456 or completing the Report a Problem form. The caller's name is protected."

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## Community Roots and You Peter Haddon – Neighbour and Editor

Our Community Roots newsletter is QCHCA's primary means of connecting with you, our neighbours and local businesses. We also communicate through email, Facebook and our website. We think it's important to let you know about QCHCA news, local events, programs, stories, opinions and developments in what we hope is an interesting publication.

Preparation and delivery of the newsletter happen through a team of about 40 volunteers. The newsletter is QCHCA's largest single expense. We print and distribute 7000 copies twice a year at a net cost of \$3000 for printing and distribution to 7000 residences, 4500 of which are distributed to your doorstep by volunteers.

QCHCA's income comes from hot dog sale events, membership dues, donations at Music in the Park and newsletter sponsorship. Saanich gives QCHCA an annual grant of \$1600.

How do you feel about Community Roots? Are there ways you would like to contribute? Your comments, suggestions and contributions are really important as they help us determine what you find useful, interesting and entertaining and whether you think the paper is of value.

Email us at [QCHCA3003@gmail.com](mailto:QCHCA3003@gmail.com)

The editors of Community Roots would like to express appreciation to our QCHCA Board for their continuing support; to co-editors Susan Haddon and Anna P; to Lana Burns and our eight QCHCA Area Representatives and our amazing distribution volunteers; and to our service providers, Island Print Group and Aristos Mail.

## Action Groups Susan Haddon

What's your passion? Whether it be transportation, the environment, housing, community engagement or anything else, we would love to have your involvement.

The CA has recently formed six 'Action Groups' in the hopes that small groups of interested community members will come together to discuss and formulate plans related to these issues/topic areas. The six Action Groups are Infrastructure & Development (including transportation), Communications and Outreach, Environment, Community Events & Activities (including speakers for our general meetings), Organization & Finance, and Governance (including input into municipal budget).

If you would like to get involved or learn more about this new approach, please email us at [QCHCA3003@gmail.com](mailto:QCHCA3003@gmail.com) and put Action Groups in the subject line. Thanks. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Calendar of Events

<b>Municipal elections</b> ( <a href="http://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/local-government/elect...">www.saanich.ca/EN/main/local-government/elect...</a> )	October 20
'Going Batty', Swan Lake Nature House	October 28, 12 – 3 pm – drop in anytime
6th annual <b>Christmas craft fair</b> , Swan Lake Nature House	November 4, 12 – 4 pm
'Soil Safari', Swan Lake Nature House	November 25, 12 – 3 pm
<b>Holiday craft fair</b> , Doncaster School 26th annual	November 25, 10 – 3 pm
<b>QCHCA Holiday social</b> , Cedar Hill Rec Centre	November 27, 7 – 9 pm
<b>QCHCA General meeting</b> , Cedar Hill Rec Centre	January 22, 2019



## Graffiti

### Local Resident

According to Saanich's website, "Graffiti is not art. It is vandalism. It is painting, drawing, scribbling or 'tagging' on any surface without the permission of the property owner."

Three years ago, QCHCA participated in a graffiti clean-up day coordinated by Saanich Police. One of our CA members has alerted us to the fact that graffiti is becoming a problem in our area again. With all of our help, we can reduce or eliminate it.

Saanich removes graffiti on a first come, first served basis. The faster they hear about and remove it, they say, the less likely it is to spread.

If you see any graffiti vandalism in progress, you are asked to please call 911 right away. If you want to report graffiti that you have seen in the community, there are different numbers to call depending on where the graffiti occurs. Please refer to Saanich's website for more info at <http://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/community/report-a-problem/vandalism-graffiti.html>

Saanich works with the police, school groups and volunteers like us on occasional clean-ups so, if you are interested in participating on such an initiative, please let us know at [QCHCA3003@gmail.com](mailto:QCHCA3003@gmail.com).

## Next QCHCA General Meeting

QCHCA Holiday social, Cedar Hill Rec Centre	November 27, 7 – 9 pm
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## Joining QCHCA and Contacting Us Noella May, QCHCA membership Director

Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association welcomes all residents, organizations, and businesses of our area to join as a voting member for \$10 per year. As a voting member you are automatically added to our Contact List. To become a member, please go to our website and download the Membership Application at: <https://www.qchca.org/membership>.

We have also created a Contact List for the occasional QCHCA email with news updates of interest to you throughout the year. These could be reminders of upcoming meetings, our Community Roots newsletter, upcoming speakers and other events and news that we would like to share with you. You can be on our Contact List to receive our email updates, including electronic versions of the newsletter, for free by sending an email to: [QCHCA3003@gmail.com](mailto:QCHCA3003@gmail.com). Enter Contact List in the subject line and include your name and email.

Our website includes coming events, newsletters, meeting minutes and a host of other information at [QCHCA.ca](http://QCHCA.ca). You can also communicate with us through our Facebook page that can be accessed at Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association. We look forward to connecting with you year-round.

## A Special Thank You QCHCA Board of Directors

The QCHCA Board joins the wider community in thanking Councillors Murdoch, Sanders and Wergeland for their considerable commitment to the municipality over a combined total of 45 years. The three long-term Councillors chose not to stand for re-election this time around and they will be missed. Vicki Sanders was elected to Council in 2005. Councillor Leif Wergeland was elected in 1996 and Dean Murdock in 2008.

We look forward to hearing about their future plans after they have taken some well-deserved breaks from the demands of serving on Council and representing their constituents as diligently as they have over their terms. **All the best, Vicki, Dean and Leif!**