



general meeting

Thursday, April 19th

7:00pm , at fisher 100 camosun college

VIHA has completed a business plan for the replacement of the inpatient care facilities at the Royal Jubilee Hospital

Come hear guest speaker, Grant Hollett, Director, Planning and Community Engagement, share all the details of the plans.

Please bring \$1.25 coin for parking

Road Safety in the Camosun Community



We hear a lot these days about things we should worry about. A review of the facts, however, reveals road safety is one of the top things to be concerned about. For young people from birth to adulthood, road crashes are the

number one cause of death and serious injury. Every year in British Columbia alone, well over 400 people die on our roads. Many more are seriously injured with their lives altered forever.

Road safety is not just about people in cars. It's about all road users including children, pedestrians and cyclists. Everyone shares the road and everyone has a right to feel safe and secure on the streets and in their neighbourhoods.

As a driver make sure you:

- give your full attention to driving and nothing else
- drive only when you are mentally fit and alert
- know that everyone in your vehicle is safely secured and strapped in
- travel at a safe speed which means at or under the speed limit

As a pedestrian make sure you:

- cross only where and when it is safe, taking nothing for granted
- walk and cross the street defensively
- check in all directions before and while you cross the street
- remember the vital importance of good visibility. This means lights, reflectors and reflective clothing especially at night, at dusk or when there is rain or mist

As a cyclist make sure you:

- take nothing for granted - ride defensively
- remember the vital importance of good visibility. This means lights, reflectors and reflective clothing; especially at night, at dusk or when there is rain or mist
- always wear a helmet. Besides, it's the law in B.C.

Send feedback via email to:

roadsafety@camosuncommunityassociation.com

By Neil Arason

Richmond School And Adjacent Lands

To date, the much wished for public process has consisted of two public hearings at the School Board Offices, and only one community meeting (Mar 29th). Unless trustees change their minds and extend this process, the



decision to sell Richmond School lands will now be done by trustees and staff "in camera". We trust they have the information and the wisdom to do what is right - given the limited opportunity we have had for information gathering and dialogue. Independent Settlement Project proposes using the site for affordable and hard- to-house people, and the school buildings as a "hub" of social services to enable their transition. Another proposal, is to relocate St. Pat's School to this new site. Hopefully the community will soon be told what other offers are on the "table". The Province has mandated the SB consider these properties as "public resources"- whatever that means. The key to doing "what is right" is to ensure Richmond School lands **not be sold** no matter how tempting. We know that conditions change, real estate prices, for example, seldom go down, and we know from experience that public spaces, once sold are gone from public use "forever". One option, leasing instead of selling can ensure that school properties, can continue to be controlled by public agencies and can continue to offer options for whatever park and institutional uses may ever be needed. If such leases in concert with use and developmental guidelines were to be carefully crafted, we could provide even more protection to the recreational and environmental values, which make these community lands so special.

By Al Lubkowski

The Saanich Peninsula Water Group



The Saanich Peninsula Water Group was informally created September of 2006 as a conversation group about water. It comprises citizens from the North end of the Peninsula, Council of Canadians and Greater Victoria Water Watch Coalition, the Gabriola Groundwater Management

Society, the Mayne Island Integrated Water Systems Society, Saanich municipal councillors, CRD directors, and representatives of several non-Government Organizations. The Water Group is also looking to get municipal representation from Sidney, the First Nations, and students and faculty from Camosun College, and UVic.

The Group is volunteer based, and it moves towards becoming: a source of valid, up-to-date, information about water-related issues; a bridge between citizens and all levels of government; and, an outreach to the public to objectively inform them of water-related issues that may affect them. The Group seeks to become a trustworthy resource, working in a non-partisan manner helping those concerned about water. The Group's present focus is:

Xeriscaping - adopting the seven principles of xeriscape, including the appropriate use of plant material, up to 50% of the water consumption is saved in landscaping;

Groundwater - with emphasis on knowledge of hydrogeology, recharge, potential pollution from agriculture and other non-point sources, seawater intrusion, impacts on stream base flow and aquifer management;

Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) - signed in 2006 by Alberta and BC and about to be activated by April 1. It interferes considerably with the prerogatives of municipal and regional government For more information, please contact Brian Stretch (250) 652-6194 or email bjstretch@shaw.ca



Visit Our New Web Site

In January, we saw the need for better communications with our community. With help of former Board member, Nasha Jiang, and our new web site administrator, Tom Celuszak, our new web site was launched.

Now you can be up-to-date with community events, who to contact and more.

Whether it's road safety, hospital development, environment, or Richmond School sale, we want to hear from you. Send us a note and give us your views.

Visit our new web site at:

www.camosuncommunityassociation.com



Bike2Work June 16 - 24

Those who bike to work say it helps them chill out and stay sharp, writes Richard Blackwell, in the *Globe & Mail*.

Unless the rain is pelting down during one of our many Winter days, Deloras Gibbons rides her bike to work through the streets of Victoria. Is Deloras some crazy bike courier? An eco nut working in a granola shop? Nope, Deloras works at the Royal Jubilee Hospital. She 's a respiratory therapist with a mission.

Andrea is a rare breed: an employee who commutes to work by bicycle on a regular basis. Like others who do so, she says the daily commute makes her a better employee, gets her to work more clear headed, and helps get the message to patients and other employees that personal fitness is important. Deloras says that she uses the time to check out the neighbourhood while she unwinds. Another bonus, says Deloras, is how she contributes to a cleaner environment.

Many workplaces in Victoria have bike lockup cages and fitness facilities with showers. Some have a supply of tubes, tires and a pump for emergencies. Statistics say Victoria is a city that has the highest proportion of bike commuters in the country.

Join the increasing numbers who are biking to work for the first time in June. For details on getting started, see www.biketoworkvictoria.ca



Garry Oak Restoration on Mt. Tolmie

The Mt. Tolmie Conservancy Association's goals are to promote, support and undertake activities which contribute to the preservation, conservation, restoration and enhancement of the natural characters of Mt Tolmie park. supported by volunteers, they have achieved considerable success. Yet so much remains to

be done that at least another generation of volunteers is required before invasive species such as scotch broom, ivy, blackberry and daphne eradicate the park. While much of the park has been cleared of mature broom, they've only been able to control new seedlings on the east side of Mayfair Drive. Broom may remain viable for more than forty years. Every year, thousands of new seedlings appear, and if not removed, will become reproductive within two years. New seeds are produced and restoration begins anew. Control of broom remains the focus, but it's essential emphasis we place on ivy removal. In more shaded areas, ivy has overrun the vegetation. During spring, they suspend restoration while appreciating the return of the satin flowers, spring gold, camas, shooting star, and lilies.

If you'd like to join a work party, the dates, times, locations, and contact info are on their web site, or follow the link on the CCA web site. The success of their efforts depends on volunteers. <http://members.shaw.ca/mttolmieconservancy>

What's Happening With the Board

With the pending sale of the former Richmond Elementary School, on our volunteer resources are in high demand. Currently, and we're seeking another community volunteer to assist Al Lubkowski with Land Use.

Another project on the horizon is the expansion of the Royal Jubilee Hospital. Anyone living near the hospital or interested in becoming the Hospital Liaison is welcome to contact me directly. In addition, if you're interested in serving as Newsletter Editor, Block Watch, Picnic Planning, Advertising, or Newsletter Distribution, we'd love to hear from you.

The board meets the 3rd Thursday of every month. We host two public meetings per year and a community picnic in September. Through your Board, comes an opportunity to know your neighbours, to influence how your community develops, and influence how municipal dollars are spent. If you're interested in joining the Board, please contact our President, Sheila Critch, at 598-2291.



CCA Board

Sheila Critch, President & Newsletter Editor

Tel: 598-2291, sheilacritch@telus.net

Carol Giskemo, Vice-President, SCAN Liaison

Tel: 370-5097, cgiskemo@hotmail.com

Glenn Cottrel, Secretary

cottrel@telus.net

Brenda Nielsen, Treasurer & SCAN Liaison

brenda.nielsen@telus.net

Christine Silva, Membership

Tel: 592-2954 chris_sj@telus.net

Andrea Gleichauf, Environment

Tel: 598-9837 freewind@shaw.ca

Al Lubkowski, Land Use & Newsletter Distribution,
sail@blackfishal.com

Neil Arason, Road Safety, neil@arason.ca

Margaret Anne McLennan, Director at Large
mamclennan@shaw.ca

Byron Loucks, Emergency Preparedness

bkloucks@shaw.ca

Yves Bajard, SCAN Liaison

netcfs@shaw.ca

52 WEEKS TO BEING EMERGENCY PREPARED!



DURING A DISASTER IS NOT THE TIME TO PLAN
Disasters can strike at any time. Events in Indonesia, Pakistan, New Orleans and the Tsunami warning we experienced a year ago are all indications that we need to take preparedness seriously. Peace of mind can be increased by knowing you have essential supplies on hand, and are prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours, but more realistically for seven days. Set up a family meeting now to discuss how you can best prepare for a disaster.

The following is a tool developed by the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Emergency Program and is used with their permission.

- **Week 1:** Disaster kit containers: You can either use a separate container for each member of the family or a number of larger containers to use for the family as a whole such as a plastic bucket, suitcase, box, wheeled garbage container etc. Be sure that you can transport them easily one a wagon, luggage rack etc. If you use a separate container for each member of your family. Designate one container as the "main" container as some weeks you will be adding items only to one container. Find an accessible location for the containers to be stored, close to an exit, and known to all family members.
- **Week 2:** Create a menu for every meal for every day (7 x 3 = 21). Then use the menu to determine what food items

you need to include in your containers.

To contact us:

write to: c/o 3205 Wordsworth Street
Victoria, B.C, V8P 4B7

or

Email: any one of the Board of Directors as shown

or

Email through our web site:

www.camosuncommunityassociation.com
click on contacts and select a director's name

Advertising

Cost of advertising is \$30 for a business card size. Call Glenn Cottrel at 598-3580. Revenue from the ads is used to defray the cost of producing the newsletter.

The CCA is a non-partisan organization. Advertising for Rob Fleming is solely related to his function as legislative representative. Such advertising is informational only. It is not now, nor has it been intended as an endorsement of any political party.



Cottonwood Runs Afoul of Transport Canada

Director, Andrea Gleichauf, met with VIHA's representatives, Grant Hollett (Public Relations) and Keith Sutherland (Site Safety) March 2nd to discuss the cottonwood tree near the Royal Jubilee Hospital. This is what came out of the meeting. Transport Canada told VIHA that the cottonwood (populus trichocarpa), close to the helipad, must be cut down as it poses a hazard to air traffic. If VIHA refuses to cut the tree, Transport Canada (TC) would close the helicopter landing pad. As per TC, the hospital is also required to enlarge the present helipad to TC standards. As a result of consultation with an arborist, VIHA initially decided to cut the tree to a fifteen-foot high stump. However, in a in a follow-up meeting with the Municipality of Saanich, it was determined that the

stump shouldn't be higher than eight feet. Left higher, the tree would be unstable with an increased probability of toppling into the gym of St. Pat's school, a hazard VIHA and Saanich are not willing to risk. In addition, a sonogram of the tree by the arborist determined that the tree has significant hollow sections. The mandate of Municipality of Saanich, Ministry of environment, and showed Ministry of Fisheries is to cut the tree with a crane, section by section, leaving no debris on the ground. Contrary to this approach, it's been suggested by some neighbours to leave a section of the trunk lying on the ground to provide wildlife habitat. The same approach can be seen along a section of Bowker Creek close to the Hampshire intersection in Oak Bay. Keith Sutherland promised he'd contact Saanich, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Fisheries to obtain permission so a section of the cutting can be left on the ground. VIHA is willing to replace the cottonwood with something that fits present riparian regulations and that does not grow into an air traffic hazard in the future. Representative from VIHA reiterated what they'd said in their May 2006 letter to the CCA," that they have agreed to set aside and make available the triangular parcel of land across Bowker Creek, to the northeast for habitat restoration, in concert with a possible larger restoration of public and private lands in this area adjacent to Bowker Creek".

Serving Our Community



1020 Hillside Avenue
Phone: 250 360 2023
rob.fleming.mla@leg.bc.ca

Rob Fleming, MLA
Victoria - Hillside



Shoppers Drug Mart
Hillside Centre

Proud sponsors of the community
Picnic

Membership gentle reminder: for those whose memberships have expired, dues will be collected at the General Meeting on Thursday, April 19th, at Camosun College, or cheques can be mailed using the form attached below. Based on rising costs for administration, newsletter and flyer publication, new website, the Board of Directors voted on an annual fee increase for 2007 to \$10 per household. Please note that the CCA Board is committed to serving you and providing the best method of informing you about community issues. All funds raised by the CCA are directed back into your community.

Camosun Community Association Membership or Renewal \$10.00 per year

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

Email _____ I will help deliver newsletters ? yes ? no

I am interested in _____

Send to: Camosun Community Association, 1954 Neil Street, Victoria BC V8R 3C9

(Cheques payable to Camosun Community Association)

Your personal information is kept confidential and is not redistributed.