

Camosun Community Association 2006 Picnic



Saturday, September 23

1:00pm - 4:00pm , at Allenby Park



Free Food

Jumping castle

Music & Dancing

More.....Come to join us



Browning Park Survey

The Camosun Community Association got together with over 40 neighbours in Browning Park. The purpose of the meeting was to gather comments and pass them on to Saanich. We found that some of the older people wanted the bushes cleared out, while other young couples with kids love the bushes the way they are. One event was brought to our attention is that recently some kids started a fire in Browning Park. A neighbour saw the smoke and managed to extinguish the fire with buckets of water. Also, some debris remains from the windfall of last fall. The concern is that some kids will be able to set that afire. The CCA has made Saanich Parks aware of this situation.

Julie Lommerse is the new Parks Planner and Designer for Browning Park. She has ordered her own survey of the park. Once this stage is complete, this information will be taken to the community via a public meeting or workshop this fall.

Community Traffic Concerns of Hillside Mall and Vicinity

Upcoming in September, the Oaklands Community Association Traffic and Land Use Committee will be hosting an informal discussion and planning meeting with interested parties, on traffic concerns that have been expressed by area residents. This meeting is specifically intended to raise awareness of these concerns with the City of Victoria and District of Saanich, as well as other interested parties, and to discuss approaches that might be taken towards resolving some of these issues. It is intended to have a follow-up meeting later to review developments arising from the September meeting. Representative from the Camosun Community Association and the Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association will be in attendance. 10

Saanich Historical Artifacts Society September 16 and 17 (Saturday and Sunday) are the dates of the Harvest Fair at Saanich Heritage Acres on Highway 17. Special attraction will be the scarecrow contest and the craft fair. Selected artifacts from Heritage Acres will be on loan and on view at the CCA Annual Picnic, September 23, at Allenby Park.

HOW TO SAVE WATER IN YOUR HOME	APPROX. SAVING
Shorten shower to 5 min. or less	115 liters/person/week
Install low-flow showerheads	265 liters/person/week
Turn off water while lathering in the shower	280 liters/person/week
Take a shallow bath instead of a shower	60 – 80 liters/time
Turn water off while brushing your teeth	10 liter/time
While waiting for hot water to flow, catch the cool water in a bucket or watering can. Use later to water plants; run your garbage disposal, or pour down your toilet bowl to flush	180 liters/person/week
Fit aerator to faucet	125 liters/person/week
Retrofit your toilet with a water saving device or replace with a low flush model.	110-1300 liters/person/week
Check your toilet for leaks. Drop a dye tablet or food coloring into the tank. If the color appears without flushing, there's a leak. It should be repaired.	

Block Watch Report

Camosun Community Block Watch is celebrating Ten Years Strong with the Saanich Police. We are proud of the efforts of all those who have helped make our neighbourhoods safer. Block Watch members are known to be good neighbours. On Richmond Road, two neighbours show their civic pride by cleaning up the street, photographing and reporting graffiti to the Saanich Police, and then painting over it. At the annual Argyle Block Watch meeting, neighbours received information on auto theft, and picked up decals to mark their vehicles for protection. When two men with a van were committing thefts of power equipment, concerned captains called appropriate neighbours, and the Block Watch office sent a warning to lock their garages and sheds. We wish to welcome Block Watch neighbours in the 1900 block of Carnarvon Street, with Cara-Lynn Webb as captain, and in the 1900 block of Forrester Street, with Captain Jennifer Screech. Two other blocks are in progress this summer. In addition, watch for the Block Watch sign ordered for Dean Avenue. Block Watch is an easy and effective way of reducing crime and building community. If you would like to know how to organize your street, please call Karen Wallis at the Saanich Police Block Watch Office 475-4365 or email blockwatch@saanichpolice.ca



If You Spot a Wildfire Report it as soon as possible by calling 1-800-663-5555 or *5555 on your mobile phone . If you live in or near a forested

area, *make sure your home is protected* by removing debris from the roof and maintaining a safety zone around your house clear of flammable debris, shrubs or trees. Move other flammable materials like wood piles or propane tanks well away from your home.

Global Age-Friendly Cities Project

Recently Councillor Judy Brownoff, Chair of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee, asked the CCA to locate members of our community interested in participating in the Global Age-Friendly Project. Saanich is experiencing a demographic shift, as are many other sites in the world. Our populations are aging and we need to plan for this change in a positive way. The Province of BC selected Saanich to be their partner city to collaborate with the World Health Organization and other cities in this world wide project to make cities more “age friendly”. The CCA was asked to consult with our neighbourhood and provide the names of two women and one man age 60 years and older. Our community is sending three citizens to participate in focus groups and they will be working with Dr. Elaine Gallagher, the Director of the Centre of Aging at UVIC.

CCA Board Members Needed

Reading our newsletter, you can see how we have used our time to effectively make positive changes in our community. We are an evolving group of volunteers and, sadly, we must say goodbye to valued members of our group who have moved on to other provinces, other communities and other commitments. We appreciate the hard work and dedication of all those who have served and continue to serve on the board; however, with this evolvement, we are always looking for new board members. As the board meets on the third Thursday of every month, this can be as little as one monthly meeting. Through your association comes your opportunity to know your neighbours, and to interact and influence how your municipal dollars are spent. You can use your special talent. Though we often use email to conduct our business, it is not a prerequisite for joining our board. For more information, please contact Sheila Critch.

Poplar and Pear off Richmond The developer of the Richmond Gate condos and townhouses, presently under construction at the north end of Richmond Road, is paying for the construction of sidewalks on Pear and Poplar, making for a completely safe walking loop on Pear, Richmond and Poplar.

Reduce Reuse Recycle



The renovation bug has bitten many homeowners in our neighbourhood. You’ll see tossed kitchen cabinets, lighting and bathroom fixtures, heaps of stucco, and the remnants of wooden interior and exterior walls. Unfortunately, most of this material is destined for landfill. Is this the only option? Let’s explore ways to use the materials to add value to your home and to your community.

Old kitchen cabinets, usually covered by several layers of paint, often disguise edge-grain fir. In fact, new edge-grain fir has become more valuable than some exotic hardwoods. Though it would not be feasible to pay a worker to mill the wood, a handyperson, with the help of a thickness planer, could restore the fir to its original condition, and reuse the wood in new kitchen cabinets.

A second option is to drop off the old kitchen cabinets, with the fixtures intact, to Restore Habitat for Humanity, located at 2100 Douglas Street.

Next your task is how to tackle the stucco rubble. As the removal of stucco rubble is both labor intensive and very expensive, look to other avenues to use it on your own property. Are you planning walkways or a new patio as part of the home renovation? Are you planning on using pre-cast pavers, flagstone, or brick? In place of the crushed stone, usually placed underneath for drainage, substitute a layer of stucco. If you’re not doing the work yourself, make sure you hook up with contractors that are environmentally aware of these methods.

Removal of your plaster lath walls has produced heaps of cedar and fir strips. Among the many useful applications of this material are birdhouses, planter boxes and garden trellises. With such an abundance of useful materials, you could have years of building pleasure in your garden, or you could give it away to some member of your community. Let your imagination be your guide in ways to reduce, reuse and recycle in home renovations.

Bowker Creek has its headwaters at UVIC and enters the ocean near Glenyon-Norfolk school. It runs through the municipalities of Saanich, Victoria and Oak Bay. The Friends of Bowker Creek and the Bowker Creek Initiative (BCI) are working on improving the health of the creek. The Bowker Creek Initiative (BCI) is a broad coalition of community, government, businesses, and institutions working together to protect and enhance the ecological, social, and economic health of the Bowker Creek watershed.



During the northeast trunk sewer installation, an opportunity arose to do remedial work on the creek by St. Patrick School. The banks were re-sloped, and willow wattle fences were installed to improve bank stability and prevent flooding in the high rain seasons. With the help of students from St. Patrick and St. Michael Schools and community members, the riparian area was planted with native vegetation and mulch was applied. The BCI is also working on a Mater Drainage Plan to manage storm water and has a Greenway sub-committee that worked on a pedestrian only, multi-use path along Bowker Creek. The plans of the greenway will be provided to the three municipalities as input for their Greenway and Centennial Trails.

Land Use, Your Neighbourhood, Your Responsibility

In this information age, everyone seems to be on overload. Suddenly, there is a condo being built in your neighbourhood and you know almost nothing about it. There are more ways to be informed; yet, we seem to be less informed. Contrarily, even when we are informed, without past experience, we sometimes miss the opportunity for input.

Here are some of the ways that the writer has missed out, even though I was PART OF THE PROCESS AND “IN THE KNOW”. It never occurred to me that four lovely homes would be trashed and thrown into the landfill; and, that the gardens and trees would be destroyed without any attempt to replant or relocate them. Surely, in a city where we have organizations such as Habitat for Humanities, the destruction could be avoided.

have you considered the storm sewers and the impact of excavation work done during our rainy season? The Bowker Creek watershed runs throughout most of our neighbourhood and is the recipient when water gets pumped from construction sites into storm sewers. Add rain and it turns into a volatile mix of soil and other contaminants, i.e, the remnants of car wrecks and leaky heating oil tanks. The developer’s responsibility is to provide separation chambers to filter, the water before running it into the storm drains and, consequently, into Bowker Creek. It is Saanich’s responsibility to enforce these bylaws. However, since it’s your neighbourhood, you may be the only one watching, therefore, it becomes your responsibility.

At meetings, I felt the developer had adequately answered questions regarding parking during construction. I live on a narrow, single-lane street. As the project progressed, I found myself policing my street to keep it open to emergency and other vehicles, as construction crews parked, and sometimes double park.

Finally, a boom truck drove past the project, and into the pathway of a lovely London Plains Maple tree. Due to the collision, it took several weeks negotiating with Saanich to determine if the tree would be further defaced or not. Only with intervention, the assertion of rights, and the assumption of responsibility did we affect a positive outcome.

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