



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thursday January 19th, 2012

In many ways it has been an eventful (event full?) year. Your Board has represented our community well and I would like to thank them for their efforts.

Lorne Neil is not just the president in waiting, he has done an able job as **Vice President** filling in many holes as it was needed. In addition to his responsibilities as Membership Director, he has stepped in to do our newsletter. This was not just to see it edited and printed, but also to solicit advertising. He is the reason why our Community Picnic has been such a first rate event over the past couple of years. This is especially true this last year when he liaised with so many individuals to bring together a marquee event.

Tom Celuszak, our ever faithful **Treasurer** and **Webmaster**, helps us keep it all together. As Treasurer he accounts for our funds, applies to Saanich for grants, is the keeper of the cheque book, and files our annual society report. As Webmaster, he really puts us on the map. I heard a sign painter friend say many years ago that "*a business with no sign is a sign of no business*". How true that rings today when our website is our sign to the world. I very much appreciate Tom's insight and wisdom, and all his work to encourage us to be more "*web savy*".

Yves Bajard has kept us at the forefront of community activism this year as he led the charge to encourage Saanich and our wider island community to pursue food security. This is a very important topic and I am pleased that he has chosen to champion it. Yves also headed our committee that invited other community groups to come together with us to host a municipal 'All Candidates Meeting'. This was a very successful event that connected us with the Camosun Student Association, Camosun College, and both the Mount Tolmie and Quadra Cedar Hill Community Associations. This event was well attended and live streamed over the internet. In addition to this, Yves serves as our **SCAN Representative**. The Saanich Community Association Network (SCAN) allows us to be aware of issues that are of concern to other community groups in Saanich and lets us share our concerns with them. I appreciate his faithful attendance and reporting of their activities. Yves also represents us on a number of community committees.

I value the passion and enthusiasm that **Andrea Gleichauf** brings as our **Environment Director**. She has done a lot of work this year with "pulling together". I and others are much more aware of matters with Bowker Creek and 'community walkability' because of her efforts.

Andrea also connected us with local artist Carolyn Knight. Through this we were able to bring a more creative focus to our annual picnic, which was held with the official re-opening of Browning Park.

Caleb Horn has done an excellent job as our **Land Use Director**. He serves on committees concerning the Royal Jubilee Hospital, Camosun College, the University of Victoria, and the Saanich committee studying the Shelbourne Valley (Corridor). Things have heated up in development in the last little while, but Caleb can always be counted on for his knowledge and common sense approach. His efforts to connect neighbours and developers is admirable. Caleb is also Circulation Manager for our newsletter.

The ever absent **Tim Janzen** began the year as our **Newsletter Editor**. Family commitments have taken him away from our Board activities, but the input of Tim and his wife Christine when we addressed Saanich on the issue of backyard chickens, was invaluable. This was a step in the right direction for local food sustainability. Please check the Saanich website for what you need to have fresh eggs growing in your own backyard. Tim and Christine's assistance with our community picnic was also much appreciated.

George Ivanshvili as our **Camosun Student Society Representative**, has been a great addition to our Board. Camosun College is the heart of our community, we take our name from it, and it is important that we connect not just with the College but with the thousands of students who attend. We appreciate George's insights, connections, and assistance on so many levels.

Clint Lalonde, as our **Director of Electronic Media**, and fill in **Secretary**, has been a very welcome addition to our Board. I still feel quite the novice at Facebook and don't understand why I would want to follow anyone on Twitter, let alone why they would want to follow me. This is where we need to be, however, to maintain our relevance and to connect with those who are media savy and individuals who are the up and coming residents of our community. .

Anna Trann has been the newest addition to our Board. At my suggestion she has looked into **Block Watch**, which I think is an area where we need to devote more attention. This can be an important tool in bringing together local neighbours and in connecting our community.

Accomplishments for the year:

- Letter in support of Urban Chickens for Saanich residents.
- Proposal to Saanich regarding a food security initiative.
- Successful liaison concerning the redevelopment and celebration for the re-opening of Browning Park. This included coming together with the Bowker Creek Initiative, community artist Carolyn Knight, the CRD, the Mt Tolmie Community Association, and Saanich. Note that a community notice board, with a map of the CCA, is still to come at Browning Park.
- A new logo that we can use for graphics reproduction, to represent our community.
- T-Shirts for the Board to help promote our identity.
- A very successful Municipal All Candidates Meeting.
- Staying on top of the Victoria School Board relating to the disposition of Richmond School.
- Recommending that Saanich recognize the Shelbourne Street study as a Valley, not a Corridor.
- Encouraged direct marketing response for membership by including reply envelopes for with some of the newsletters.
- We have secured a new meeting space, a room at the Royal Jubilee Hospital, and have exclusive use on the second Thursday of every month, from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM.

Other issues:

- After review we dropped out of the Scan insurance policy. It cost us over \$500 a year and provided no coverage. I am pleased that Camosun College could provide us with coverage for this evenings meeting for only \$18. I would note that for future events, such as the picnic, any local Co-Operators agent should be able to get us the coverage for no more than \$200. (An event with less than 150 people and no alcohol.)
Concerning the matter of possible liability of the Board or the Association on issues concerning the community, the Board agreed that letters representing the CCA must be approved by the Board and we encourage that they only go out over the president's signature.
- My philosophy as president has been to do as little as possible. I forward emails, look for individuals willing to champion projects, and try to encourage others in their chosen endeavours. Beyond this I believe that the president's role is to make sure the meetings happen and that things move along in a timely fashion.

Future Consideration:

I feel that the Camosun Community lacks identity and believe that we need to do more to knit our community together and strengthen our identity. I would propose that in addition to our current activities:

- That we petition Saanich to put our logo (using "Camosun Community Saanich" instead of Association) on our street signs, at our borders with neighbouring municipalities.
- That we campaign for signage at the entrance to our community to tell people that we are here. (i.e.: A metal sculpture sign on a pole near my office says "Quadra Village". Other areas in the City of Victoria have signage and/or seasonal banners to promote their identity.)
- That our newsletter be expanded from 4 panels to 6 and that it be distributed 3 times a year rather than just twice. Cost can be offset by advertising, but we need to get our volunteer carriers on side to deliver it.
- That the newsletter prior to the picnic be printed on coloured paper and include a coupon for 2 free pop and hot dogs. (If people print it from the website or photo copy it onto white, it is not valid.)
- Mentoring is very important. I would encourage current Board Members to gather people around them who share interest in the area of your endeavours. If the membership application form does not indicate an area of interest, and/or especially if you meet people at our community events, poll them as to their areas of interest. You need to share both your experience and your load. That way we can broaden our connection to our community and increase the depth of our support.

Please note that with this report I am tendering my resignation as president. I look forward to serving over the coming year as past president and will continue to serve my community in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Crowe
2011 President
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