

CAMOSUN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2010

www.camosuncommunityassociation.com



The Camosun Community Association is a non-profit society with the mandate to promote, facilitate, support and undertake activities that will enhance the quality of life for residents in the Camosun Community within Saanich.

Annual General Meeting

Special Guest Speaker:
Carolyn Herriot

Thursday, January 21st, 2010

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Lansdowne Middle School library
1765 Lansdowne Road

All members of the public are welcome to attend. Our guest speaker, **Carolyn Herriot** is well known for her inspiring garden lectures, you won't want to miss her talk. Come and meet other members of your community, find out about issues concerning your neighbors, and share your opinions or concerns about local issues.

The meeting will also present to members a series of resolutions aimed at updating or improving our bylaws to widen and enhance the CCA's services to the community.

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Together Against Graffiti!

Efforts are now underway to combat the growing problem of graffiti, or "tags" as they are otherwise known, in the Camosun Community. With assistance from the Saanich Police Department's TAG program, paint and supplies have been provided to the CCA by the Saanich Works Yard. Area residents are encouraged to "adopt" their block, street or telephone pole and cover over the graffiti as it appears.

Ultimately, the goal is to have volunteers throughout the CCA to ensure that the graffiti is painted over as soon as it appears. Studies in urban areas show that this will discourage the "taggers" from targeting the area.



If you are interested in this exciting, citizen-driven initiative, please contact Tim Janzen at 592-2954 for more details.

The more involvement we have from our community residents, the more beautiful our neighbourhood will be. Business sponsors are also welcome!

2009 Annual Community Picnic a success!



By Janine Lauder

On Saturday, June 20th, the CCA held a General meeting and Annual Picnic at Allenby Park. During the General meeting, a motion was put forward to amend our constitution to include an unrepresented neighborhood area. The motion was passed, and our boundaries now extend west on North Dairy to Cedar Hill Rd., north on Cedar Hill Rd. to Derby and west on Derby to Richmond Rd. The CCA Board extends a warm welcome to all the newly included residents and looks forward to their input.

The Annual Picnic was certainly a community effort that included sponsors, volunteers and participants. There was food available at the Allenby Park Little League concession stand staffed by their volunteers (great salmon burgers), free crafting taught by local artist Carolyn Knight, the Bowker Creek Interactive Model display demonstrated by Angus Stewart and Andrea Gleichauf and family relay races directed by Michael Crowe and Adam Beech.

As well, the CCA membership table manned by Tim Janzen provided residents with membership information and membership renewal. Big thanks to Thrifty Foods for their contribution, Caffe Misto for donating free coffee, and the good folks at Allenby Baseball Park for letting us use their facilities. We hope to see you at the 2010 CCA Annual Picnic!

Livable Streets = Vibrant Communities

Are you concerned about Traffic Safety in your neighborhood? Are you interested in reclaiming your street as a place for Play, Social Activity and Community Building?

15 years ago Saanich started working on the Camosun Area Traffic Calming Project. Now we think it's time to evaluate how things are working. The CCA has a newly appointed Traffic Safety Liaison who is interested in hearing from you.

Whether you are a regular driver, cyclist or pedestrian (or all three), we are interested in hearing your feedback on issues such as shortcutting, speeding, pedestrian and bicycle safety and parking. Please contact Tim Janzen at 592-2954.

Bowker Creek: a long-term relationship

By Tanis Gower, Bowker Creek Initiative Coordinator

Bowker Creek runs through a densely populated area full of citizens who want more nature, clean water, and better greenway corridors in their neighborhoods. They have supported their municipalities—Saanich, Victoria and Oak Bay—to join the Bowker Creek Initiative, a partnership that is raising awareness and addressing the problems of polluted water, flooding, and habitat degradation.

Change is slow in the urban environment. It usually happens through re-development and urban renewal as our population increases. With re-development comes opportunities for creek restoration and creek day-lighting (opening up buried sections). Yet, creek restoration opportunities typically arise with little warning, and the BCI's planning and long-term vision will help its partners, and the community, be ready.

The proposed re-development at Oak Bay High School highlights the need to be prepared. The school is aging and due for a major upgrade, and officials have decided to construct a new building. Currently, Bowker Creek runs along the edge of the property in a narrow, deep ditch with a concrete bottom. The ditched section at the school is typical of former approaches to urban development.



Bowker Creek

URBAN
WATERSHED
RENEWAL
INITIATIVE

At Oak Bay High, planning for the new facility and fields may allow for a wider creek corridor with a more natural stream channel and native plants and trees. As the plan for the school is developed, the school board will investigate whether and how much land might be available to restore Bowker Creek. If the school board dedicates the land, BCI partners would need to help find resources to make this project a reality.

There is extensive public support for a healthy Bowker Creek, and awareness is growing. The community benefits of creek restoration and greenway creation are well understood. In addition, municipalities and citizens understand that caring for the creek also means caring for our watershed.

Developing a caring relationship with an urban creek means taking the long-term view while working to improve conditions today. Like any long-term relationship, effort and commitment are required. Fortunately for Bowker Creek, many individuals and community groups have decided to believe in a future where the water is clean, wildlife have a home, floods are controlled, and the creek is an asset to all the neighborhoods it flows through.

www.bowkercreekinitiative.ca

It's no yolk! Saanich Council Hatches a Backyard Chickens Policy

By Mike Divell

Domestic chickens were an important part of our past, providing eggs and meat for generations of families struggling through tough times. But now, in many progressive cities across North America, backyard chickens are becoming an increasingly important part of our future. Vancouver is the most recent Canadian city to update their animal control bylaws, joining Victoria, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, Burnaby, and a growing list of other jurisdictions.

Current Saanich bylaws do not allow chickens to be kept on property less than 12,000 square feet, which prohibits most residents of urban areas from keeping hens. Saanich councillor Dean Murdock has put forward a motion to request a review of this bylaw and help make Saanich more consistent with neighboring Victoria and Oak Bay.



Neighborhood resident Max Wanakin had happily kept chickens in his backyard until bylaw officers noticed them while responding to another issue. "It was great having chickens around," says Max. "They got along well with the neighbors and the eggs were delicious."

Advantages of backyard chickens include:

- They are a source of hormone-free/antibiotic-free eggs almost every day - a source of protein that tastes better and is healthier than store-bought eggs
- You'll make better use for food scraps (rather than straight into the compost bin) which generates potent fertilizer (manure) for the garden
- Chickens provide organic pest control of insects for your yard.
- They are people-friendly and entertaining companions

Disadvantages and concerns include:

- Potential complaints from neighbors
- Chickens must be fed, housed, and protected from predators such as raccoons. Leaving town will require a responsible "chicken-sitter"
- Chicken poop does smell, and must be handled responsibly

It's important that Council hear from residents on this issue. Correspondence can be sent to council@saanich.ca or to Mayor and Council, District of Saanich, 770 Vernon Ave Victoria, BC V8X 2W7

CCA Board of Directors

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Slow Progress on Recognizing Secondary Suites

By Michael Crowe

Saanich released the survey results from its Secondary Suite study early last fall. The results indicate that over 70 percent of residents in the study area (i.e., south of McKenzie Ave.) support legalizing secondary suites. The results are comparable with those of a 2007 survey conducted as part of the Official Community Planning review.

A draft report to Council was initiated in October 2009 and has apparently been presented to a couple of Saanich Council's committees. A meeting and presentation with representatives of the six community associations who were part of the study, is expected to take place in January of 2010. We are hopeful that the final report and recommendations will be presented to Council before Spring 2010.

Watch the Camosun Community Association website for further information. Better yet, contact a Board Member to express your interest and you will be kept directly in the loop.

www.camosuncommunityassociation.com



The Camosun Community Association would like to thank Thrifty Foods and **Caffe Misto** for their generous contributions to the 2009 CCA Picnic!

Advertising

Cost of advertising is \$30 for a business card size. This newsletter is published two to three times per year and is distributed to approximately 2000 households.

For questions, or to place an advertisement, please call Tim Janzen at 592-2954. Revenue from advertising is used to defray the cost of producing the newsletter.

Membership Fees

For those whose memberships have expired, dues will be collected at the upcoming public meeting (see front page for details).

All funds raised by the CCA are re-directed into our community and cover: administration, newsletter, flyer publication, and website costs.



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Ida Chong welcomes the Camosun Community Association to Oak Bay–Gordon Head



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VICKI SANDERS
Saanich Councillor

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."
Margaret Mead (1901 - 1978)

(250) 592-0865

www.vickisanders.com email: vicki_sanders@telus.net

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, 3030 Dean Ave, V8R 4Y9
(Cheques payable to *Camosun Community Association*)

Your personal information is kept confidential and is not redistributed.