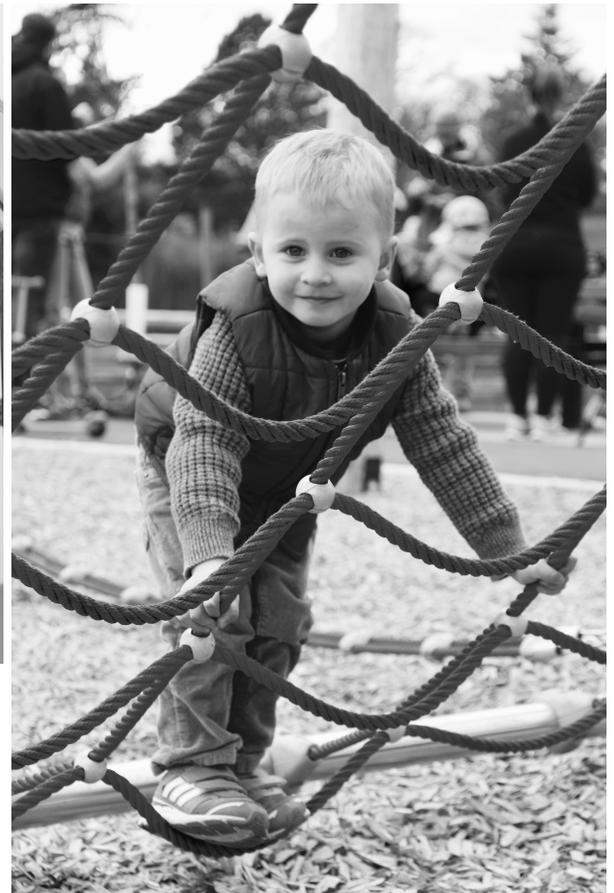




Rowan, Nicholas and friends checking out Tolmie Park



Spring, spring, spring!!

Susan Haddon – President QCHCA

Welcome to the spring edition of Community Roots! By the end of March, I will have served as your Community Association President for one year. During that time, I've met so many interested and dedicated members of this community, made many new friends, learned so much and, I hope, helped you and others work together to build an ever better community. Thank you to the current Executive, our volunteers, and the many dedicated individuals who have served our community in this way. Their contributions are many and we owe them our gratitude.

We are grateful also for the important legacy left to this community by Councillor Vic Derman. Our condolences go out to his wife, Lauraine, and daughter, Michelle. Vic was single-minded in

Continued on page 2.

Canada 150th Celebration

Vicki Sanders – Councillor, District of Saanich

We welcome the Quadra Cedar Hill Community to join in and be part of Saanich's celebration of Canada's sesquicentennial. The Canada 150 community leaders "ambassadors" appointed by Saanich Council are actively promoting Canada150 locally and engaging with communities nationally while embracing the official Canada 150 themes:

- Engaging and inspiring youth
- Diversity and inclusion
- Our environment
- National reconciliation

150th Celebration – continued page 2

Spring, spring, spring – continued

pursuit of sustainability, 'natural cities', environmental protection and serving the public's interest. He was principled, lived his values and taught by example. He will be dearly missed.

Going forward, we want to hear about the issues that concern you, your vision for our common future and ways we can work together to achieve these ends. Join us on our Executive, volunteer for a project or work party, share your ideas for an upcoming speaker or topic, bring forward your issues and concerns, or come to one of our popular Music in the Park or other events - we think you'll be glad you did!

Inside, you'll read about some of the many ways your Community Association is engaging within the region - at Council meetings, on the Uptown Douglas Corridor, Governance Review Citizens Advisory Committee, Nigel Valley, Farmers Market, Bowker Creek, Pulling Together, Cedar Hill Park Management Plan, Saanich Community Association Network (SCAN) and more. Let us know your thoughts on these and other areas of interest . . . we'd love to hear from you. Also, check out our website at QCHCA.org for upcoming events, meeting minutes, links to active development applications and more.

We welcome your involvement. The opportunities are endless and it's fun, enriching and very gratifying! I look forward to hearing from you at QCHCA3003@gmail.com.

Can you help?

We have a pressing need to fill a volunteer Executive position as an **Area Representative for the Reynolds neighbourhood**. This an area bounded by Quadra, McKenzie, Cedar Hill Cross and Union.

We also need an **Associate Editor** to help with preparation of this newsletter.

If you would like more details, please contact Susan Haddon at: QCHCA3003@gmail.com

150th Celebration - continued

We are incorporating Canada150 into all of Saanich's existing events to make them truly part of the national celebrations. In order to enhance Saanich 150 events we are promoting communities to be part of the celebrations.

This is a chance to celebrate our past, our present and our future; a chance to have special events and activities that will foster a sense of belonging and leave a lasting legacy. The ideas are limitless for the Quadra Cedar Hill community to celebrate, from a simple block party or perhaps a huge party in the Cedar Hill Park. Maybe your house has a story to tell.

Our Saanich150 "selfie station" was a huge success at the Cedar Hill Art's Centre family day festival. As Saanich "ambassadors" for Canada 150, we would like to talk to you about how you would like to become involved. What can we do to help you celebrate your community?

Councillor Vicki Sanders
Saanich 150 Ambassador
vicki.sanders@saanich.ca

Twitter @saanich150 Facebook @Saanich150

Scattered Artist Tour

Anne Bowen, Resident and Scattered Artist

On May 20 & 21 from 11 – 4:00 pm, 17 local artists will be displaying their work in their studios and gardens.

Scattered Artists' group started when artists living in the Cedar Hill Golf Course area recognized the need for an opportunity to showcase their work in a relaxed fashion.

Over the years the Scattered Artist Tour has grown into what is now an annual event that jump-starts the summer season. Come out and visit local artists in their homes and gardens. The tour map can be seen and downloaded at www.gobc.ca under BC Arts and Culture – Studio Tours.

Saanich Governance Review – Have Your say!

John Schmuck, Chair, Saanich Governance Review Citizens Advisory Committee (GRCAC)

In the last municipal election, Saanich voters were asked the following question: **“Do you support Council initiating a community-based review of the governance structure and policies within Saanich and our partnerships within the Region?”** 88.5% of voters said **“yes”** and Saanich Council appointed the GRCAC to conduct a study that commenced in November 2016.

The Governance Committee wants to hear from as many Saanich residents as possible. The following public engagement activities are planned for the coming months.

Please use our on-line survey at:
www.saanich.ca/governancereview

Please submit written submissions by email to:
saanichgovernancereview@shaw.ca.

Four public meetings will be held in April and May in two different formats so residents have a choice as to how they participate. Both daytime and evening sessions are scheduled. Meetings are scheduled as follows:

- **Wed. April 12: 7 - 9 pm Workshop, Cedar Hill Golf Course Clubhouse**
- **Sat. April 22: 1 - 3 pm Workshop, Gordon Head Rec. Centre**
- **Wed. May 17: 7 – 9 pm Town Hall, Commonwealth Place**
- **Sat. May 27: 1 – 3 pm Town Hall, Garth Homer Auditorium**

The public engagement phase will conclude at the end of May with a final report to Council in October. GRCAC regular meetings are open to the public on the last Wednesday every month at the Kirby Room, Saanich Police Station: 760 Vernon Avenue. Schedules, agendas, and minutes are published on the Saanich website.

This is a unique opportunity for all Saanich residents to have their say on how our Municipality operates. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to participate.



Cedar Hill Park Planning the future

Julie Lommerse – Parks Planner + Designer

A planning process is just getting underway for one of the region's favourite parks. Saanich Parks is engaging with community stakeholders to define the scope, draft a vision and ensure the wider community is informed, engaged and consulted on their preferences for the Park's future.

A Working Group is being facilitated by Barefoot Planning with representation from: Quadra Cedar Hill, Camosun and Mt. Tolmie Community Associations, Friends of Cedar Hill Park, Cedar Hill Golf Club, Bowker Creek Initiative and Saanich Parks and Recreation.

Two Working Group meetings have been held and **Key Values** have emerged for the park: the Natural Environment, Building our Community, Physical and Social Well-being and Potential for the Future. We have also identified **Key Opportunities and Issues** that will provide the framework for our engagement activities with the whole community.

Thursday, June 8 (afternoon/early evening) is tentative date for the first public engagement event. As a municipal park, Cedar Hill Park is intended to serve all of Saanich and public engagement activities will be widely advertised.

For more information on the planning process, timelines and opportunities to share your thoughts, go to:

<http://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-culture/parks/projects-in-saanich-parks/active-projects/cedar-hill-park.html>

Local Development Summary

3724 Ascot Drive – Neighbours are happy! The application for rezoning for a pan-handle lot has been withdrawn and the property is listed for sale.

“Cottage Grove” on Quadra – This multi-unit building providing affordable housing for 45 seniors is now complete.

1032/1042/1052 Cloverdale Townhouses – Saanich Council requested changes to Seba’s proposal for 14 townhomes. A modified proposal has been presented to the neighbours.

3934 Quadra (ProStorage Services) – Application to make changes to the exterior of the building: new entrance and additional self-storage facilities. Variances requested. File: “in progress”.

3955 Quadra Street (Lumberworld) – application to remove the covenant for “temporary status” for their building. Applicant wants building to be considered as a permanent structure.

Cedar Hill Park – Saanich Parks has made application to rezone parts of the Golf Course clubhouse and parking. File: “in progress”.

Quadra Corridor Plan – No start date for Saanich’s public consultation and planning for this important area.

Nigel Valley – The proposal is to rezone to a site-specific, comprehensive development zone. Area is south of Darwin Ave. and includes the Garth Homer Centre. File: “In progress”.

Rutledge Park Splash Pad – QCHCA has been working with Saanich Parks to provide a children’s “Splash Pad” feature and washrooms. Funding is a challenge and Saanich says “staff are currently exploring alternate strategies to fund...”

Tolmie Park – Impressive improvements are complete. Neighbours love it. Check it out!

Douglas Corridor – This major Saanich planning effort encompasses a large area around Douglas Street from Vernon to Mayfair Mall. Our Fall newsletter issue will include a complete update.

For more information about active development applications:

<http://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/local-government/development-applications/active-development-applications.html>

Cedar Hill Park – The Value of Scarcity

Tim Frewer – Resident and park user

Like gold or diamonds, open green space in cities is of great value. In economics, it’s known as the *value of scarcity*. To be valuable, something is both rare **and also** understood by a majority of people to be desirable.

Let’s add Cedar Hill Park to the list of what we value, with all its diversity as natural and accessible space within an urban, increasingly densely populated area. Thousands of people live within walking distance. The chip trail, popular with walkers and runners, encircles the golf course, ponds, unique natural areas, and rocky lookouts. There’s tennis, squash, an arts centre, café and so much more.

I am a very regular user of both the Park and the Rec. Centre, taking classes in rhythm, meditation and pottery. I play tennis and golf. I am a member of the happy “Pulling Together” folks who pull invasive ivy to save our oak trees and conserve the wild flower meadows by removing the blackberry that threatens these areas.

When I think of some of the great world cities I’ve visited, it’s the open park space that I remember best. It’s where I feel most ‘at home’, beyond the cacophony of traffic and crowded living. I appreciate the great foresight of citizens and planners who thought to preserve these natural and open spaces.

When asked for my opinion about the park’s future, I said the Park’s great value is its diversity: beautiful, natural, accessible, public open space; a well-run community Rec Centre; and beautiful, reasonably priced golf course.

Saanich Parks has just begun a planning process for the Park and will be surveying the public for their preferences for its future. I hope you also value the Park’s beauty and diversity, just as we value gold and diamonds. Watch for the survey, town halls and information sessions and bring your vision for this Saanich treasure on our doorsteps. We will publicize these events at: www.friendsofcedarhillpark.com

Active Transportation – “Moving Saanich Forward”

Susan Haddon – President QCHCA

Saanich’s commitment to sustainability and “the important role active transportation plays in enhancing community livability” has become the ‘Moving Saanich Forward’ project. The project team will be working with the community to develop a vision, policies and actions “to guide development of safe, attractive and convenient active transportation options for people of all ages and abilities”.

In addition to the health benefits we derive from any human-powered transportation such as walking or cycling, other important benefits include more liveable communities and a reduction in carbon emissions.

The 30-year Plan will include pedestrian and cycling networks, access to transit, environmental considerations, regional connectivity, amenities and design characteristics for Saanich and seeks these outcomes:

1. Plan developed through citizen and stakeholder engagement.
2. Existing policy framework for Active Transportation reviewed and updated.
3. Increased awareness of Active Transportation through promotion, education and community outreach.
4. Improved quality of Active Transportation with safe, innovative design, rest areas, topography, travel distance directness, street furniture and way-finding.
5. A safe, integrated Active Transportation Network developed that is continuous and complimentary of existing on and off road networks, addresses needs for both recreational users and commuters as well as to other parts of the region.
6. Priorities set for construction of Active Transportation infrastructure.
7. Implementation progress and successes of Active Transportation are measured.

For more information, including feedback form and short video, please go to:

<http://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/community/getting-around/active-transportation-plan.html>



Music in the Park is back!!

Chris Bartlett - Director and event coordinator

Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association is once again planning two fun and entertaining 'Music in the Park' events at Rutledge Park (Cloverdale Ave. & Inverness Rd.) August 8th and August 15th. Come and join us from 6:00-8:00 pm for music, dancing, children’s activities, food and fun!

Tuesday, August 8th: Come dance to the beach party music of 'Tropic Mayhem'.

Tuesday, August 15th: We welcome 'SoulSonix' to the stage to entertain us with their Rock, Pop and Soul.

We are thankful to have parking provided by some of our local businesses on Cloverdale Ave. across from Rutledge Park: Commissionaires, Tecnet, Kinetic Construction, and Shaw Cable.

Bring along your 'Family and Friends' to this lively community event!



Cartoon by local artist Ken Campbell

Saanich Budget matters....

Art Beck: QCHCA Treasurer

The draft budget for 2017 has gone before Council proposing an operating budget of \$116,653,000, an increase of 3.95% over 2016. The water and sewer budgets increased by 1.86% and 10.09% respectively. By comparison, the consumer price index only rose 2.1% in 2016. Taking a ten-year perspective, Saanich's operating budget increased a whopping 57% compared to a cost of living increase of only 18%.

Council requested staff to prepare an alternate budget draft to reduce the level of increases. At the last budget meeting, staff was still working on budget numbers so there will be a further Council meeting to review, discuss and approve.

Under the 2017 draft budget, a \$2,000 Saanich tax bill in 2007 would have gone up to \$5,140 by 2017 while the same \$2,000 pension would have only increased to \$4,360. The shortfall in the current year alone would be \$780. For citizens whose pension increases are tied to the cost of living, this amount could have bought a lot of groceries.

Continued.....

Council complains about citizens not getting involved in the budget process. However, unlike the Planning and Parks Departments, the Saanich budget process does very little formal outreach, such as open houses, town hall meetings or explanatory videos, to engage its citizens on budget issues.

Taxpayers were only afforded input on the final draft numbers again this year, not earlier in the process when meaningful changes can be more easily worked into the budget process. Every year, Council talks of involving the taxpayer earlier in the process but this has yet to happen.

Unfortunately, at the end of the day, it is the taxpayers that have to bear the increased costs. Surely, in this age of government "transparency", taxpayers should be consulted on the services and service levels they want and their related costs in an upfront and meaningful manner.

Health, Wellness, the Arts and You

Brenda Weathertson, The Arts Centre Cedar Hill

When Saanich integrated the Arts Centre into the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre in 2011, opportunities to discover the arts came close to home for Saanich residents. The Arts Centre was built on the foundation that access to the arts is an integral part of community health and wellbeing and thus a natural addition to our multi-disciplinary Community Recreation Centre.

Recent research shows that, for people of every age, participation in the arts, including dance, visual arts, music and performing arts, provides numerous health benefits. Studies demonstrate that people who participate in arts programs have fewer visits to the doctor and lower healthcare costs, use less medication, experience a lower rate of depression and some other illnesses, and a greater quality of life.

The arts have been shown to provide relaxation, help decrease stress and build self-esteem. People who participate in the arts make positive social connections and are less likely to feel loneliness and isolation. The arts stimulate our brains and promote memory health. Some arts such as dance also offer physical health benefits, including improving balance, posture, flexibility, stamina, joint mobility and bone density. Additionally, it is simply joyful and fun to be involved in the arts!

So if you are looking for ways to improve your health and well-being, consider becoming involved with your neighbourhood Cedar Hill Arts Centre! There are programs for all ages and levels in dance, performing arts, music, visual arts and pottery, as well as regular, free exhibitions to lift your spirits.

Editor's Update

QCHCA's Community Roots Newsletter is published twice yearly in the spring and fall. We welcome your ideas and pictures. Please send your suggestions and comments to: QCHCA3003@gmail.com

Many thanks to the staff at Island Print Group, Aristos Mail and to all our volunteers for bringing Community Roots to your mailbox.

Calling all Makers, Bakers and Growers!

Shawn Newby, Vice President, QCHCA

Marsha Henderson and I have been working to establish a Farmers Market in Saanich for many months and a lot has happened recently. We have applied for a temporary three-year permit that would allow us to use Braefoot Park on McKenzie Ave for the market. **Saanich Council has sent our proposal to Public Hearing on April 5th.**

The Market will operate from 10am to 2pm every Sunday in July and August, beginning July 2nd. There will be light music, food trucks and local farmers, food producers and artisans.

As we organize for 2017, we are developing relationships with local farmers, food producers and artisans. If you would like to be a vendor, or a volunteer at the market, please contact Shawn Newby and Marsha Henderson at: saanichfarmersmarket@gmail.com

QCHCA Annual General Meeting

Many thanks to all members who attended the AGM on Tuesday, March 28th at Cedar Hill Rec. Centre. We filled the meeting room and the following officers were acclaimed:

Susan Haddon – President

Shawn Newby – Vice President

Art Beck – Treasurer

Noella May – Registrar/Membership

Jean Hodgson – Secretary

The Area Representatives and "At large" members of the Executive are continuing in their positions.

QCHCA Website and Facebook Update

Please check our QCHCA website for events, newsletters, local developments, news and meeting minutes at QCHCA.org. Chris Bhopalsingh is our webmaster and can be contacted: QCHCA3003@gmail.com

You will also find us as QCHCA on Facebook.

Become a QCHCA member!

Noella May – Membership Director, QCHCA

Hello Neighbours!

From fun activities such as Music In The Park and Christmas dinners to land developments and Saanich Council budgets, there is always something to interest everyone. We continue to be the eyes and ears of the community because we value our precious neighbourhood. Please consider becoming a Member as we need you to be a part of the "voice" for our community.

Membership is only \$10 per person per year. The Membership Form can be found on our website, or come to a meeting and join in person.

For more information please contact Noella May at 250 380 0015 or noellamay128@gmail.com

Bowker Creek Clean-up – April 29th

Please join the continuing efforts of the Friends of Cedar Hill Park, the Victoria Green Team and Saanich Pulling Together to restore the area surrounding Bowker Creek in Cedar Hill Park.

We will work from 9 am until 12 noon; however please come for whatever time you can contribute. We gather at the gravel parking lot on N. Dairy Road. Wear old clothes and sturdy boots. Tools will be provided. More information at: www.friendsofcedarhillpark.com

QCHCA General Meeting

May 23rd 2017 – 7 to 9 pm

Please mark your calendars for the next QCHCA General Meeting at Cedar Hill Arts and Recreation Centre. We have yet to announce a speaker for the evening but remain committed to bringing you an informative, interesting and relevant subject.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Governance Review – public engagement

Workshops and Town Hall meetings start on April 12th to May 27th. See article in this issue for details.

April 22nd & 23rd – Native Plant Sale at Swan Lake – 9 am to 3 pm at the Nature House. More info at: www.SwanLake.bc.ca

Sat. April 29th – Bowker Creek Clean-Up:

Friends of Cedar Hill Park are coordinating creek and area clean-up from 9 am to 1 pm. See article on this page for more information.

May 20th & 21st – 54th Annual Cedar Hill Open Men's Golf Tournament. Profits go toward golf course improvements; 50-50 draws support the Victoria Prostate Society. Amateurs, professionals, fans and new members welcome. More details soon at cedarhillgolfclub.com

May 20th & 21st – Scattered Artists Tour 11 am – 4 pm at various locations in the Cedar Hill Park area. See this issue for details.

May 23rd – QCHCA General Meeting 7 – 9 pm at Cedar Hill Rec Centre. See this page for details.

June 9th – 49th Annual Cedar Hill Ladies Field Day - A FUNdraising golfing event for Victoria Hospice, open to women of all skill levels. More information: ladiesfieldday.com

June 10th – QCHCA Hot Dog Sale 11 am – 3 pm at LumberWorld on Quadra Street.

June 25th – Swan Lake Bio-Blitz 12 noon – 3 pm at the Nature House.

August 8th & 15th – Music in the Park 6 – 8 pm at Rutledge Park. See this issue for details.

September 26th – QCHCA General Meeting 7 – 9 pm at Cedar Hill Rec Centre.

October 2017 – Fall issue of Community Roots
Please send us your ideas and pictures for our Fall Roots edition. Deadline September 30th.

Cedar Hill Arts and Recreation Centre

April 10th – Summer Active Living Guide preview will be available on line.

April 12th – Summer program registration starts