

Community



Roots

Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association Newsletter - Spring 2018 - Volume 86



QCHCA supports Swan Lake Boardwalk

Directors Art Beck, Krista Voitchofsky and Susan Haddon present a cheque for \$500 to Swan Lake Foundation's Executive Director Kathleen Burton for the "Give a \$heet" campaign to restore the remarkable boardwalk around the Lake and wetland.

Photo credit: Saanich News

Building our Community

Susan Haddon, President QCHCA

Welcome to the Spring edition of Community Roots! It is a busy time of year for us all. We hope you find this issue interesting, informative and a good local perspective on happenings in our area.

We are very happy to announce that the Rainbow Ratepayers Association (RRA) has decided to join Quadra Cedar Hill's Community Association. Please see the article on Page 7 that welcomes all residents of the Rainbow area to our Association.

We are planning a number of community events so be sure to mark your calendars. On April 21st from 9:00am –12:00pm, join us for the semi-annual Bowker Creek clean-up. The Saanich Sunday Farmers Market is back again this year with more tempting produce and artisan stalls, beginning July 8th. Music in the Park takes place at Rutledge Park on August 7th and 14th. Being municipal election year, QCHCA will be hosting an all-candidates' debate on October 4th at the Garth Homer Centre. (See calendar of events on page 7 for more details)

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Building our Community

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As in prior years, QCHCA has encouraged Council to increase public participation in the strategic and financial planning processes. Although the 2018 budget cycle is near completion, Council has voted to spend up to \$200K for an improved public engagement process for strategic and financial planning. This will be rolled out after the new Council is sworn in later this year. See page 6 for more details.

It continues to be a busy period for development proposals (see overview on page 3). In addition to ongoing development, there are two major planning initiatives scheduled to begin by the end of 2018: the Local Area Plan, last updated in 2001, and a Quadra Corridor Plan. These initiatives are a critical opportunity for us to work together to help shape the future of our community. If you'd like to become involved, please let us know.

We are reviving sponsored advertising in our Community Roots newsletters as a means to engage with the business community and to recover a portion of the costs of publication and distribution. Thank you to the Krista Voitchovsky, Peter Haddon and Lana Burns for coordinating sponsorship, newsletter editing and distribution. I look forward to hearing from you at QCHCA3003@gmail.com.



Flashback

The Saanich Archives



Did you know that the Victoria Association for Community Living's home on Cedar Hill Cross Road was once Cedar Hill School, valued for its links to the first school in the district? According to Canada's Historic Places, it is "an outgrowth of the school that was started in the kitchen of Mrs. Henry King on Church Farm in 1861". The School was built in 1912 and added to in 1957 to "meet the needs of the growing community".



Discover your Community: Beekeeping

Cathy Scott, local resident

Beekeeping in my backyard has been a constant source of joy for the last few years. Bees add life to the garden, as well as keep the trees and vegetable garden pollinated for abundant crops.

There is a surge in the number of people in our municipality adopting urban beekeeping to help boost our dwindling honeybee populations. I know of two other homeowners close to my home in Saanich that keep bees. If you don't want to have your own hive, you can still help by creating a bee-friendly garden. We can all do our part to save the bees.

Seven tips for creating a bee-friendly garden:

1. Choose organic nursery plants free of pesticides that kill bees.
2. Embrace a variety of plants to provide nectar and pollen for bees.
3. Leave some weeds. Bees love dandelions.
4. Plant herbs that are medicinal to bees. Lavender, oregano and thyme help bees fend off mites.
5. Let some plants come into flower such as basil, cilantro, carrots, onions and leeks. These provide food for bees.
6. Avoid hybridized plants as they lack nectar and pollen.
7. Plant in large drifts – our bees will thank you.

BC Reg. 6139



DEPARTURES

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Invitation to Jane's Walk

Jean Newton, Resident

You are invited to the Cloverdale Jane's Walk.

Learn the history of the Cloverdale neighbourhood and share your ideas for future improvements on Saturday, May 5th, rain or shine. Meet at the front (Quadra) entrance to Cloverdale School at 1:30pm.

Jane's Walks, named for the urban activist and writer Jane Jacobs, are citizen-led walks held the first weekend in May. People of all ages attend Jane's Walks to share ideas, insights and memories of their neighbourhoods. They discuss spaces they like best, features that make their neighbourhoods unique and changes they'd like to see to promote walkability and a sense of community.

Please join Andrea, Jean and Tom for this FREE, FUN community event supported by the QCHCA.



Scattered Artist Tour

Anne Bowen, Resident and Scattered Artist

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

The 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.

Local Development Summary

Our community seems to be experiencing an increase in the number of development applications recently, both small and larger scale. The Official Community Plan and Local Area Plans provide the framework and principles that guide what kind of development may be permitted in a given area.

Depending on the type of development, Saanich Planning may require permit applicants to make contact with the Community Association and neighbours. An Open House, put on by the proponent, may also be needed so Community Association representatives and neighbours can review details of the proposed developments, ask questions and suggest improvements. At the end of this process, Saanich Planning sends the Community Association the final site plans and a form letter asking whether or not we support the proposed development.

If the development application requires variations, a zoning change or approval of a subdivision, the application will ultimately go to Council for approval. The Planning Department process provides for neighbouring residents to provide feedback directly to the proponent, the QCHCA, Planning and Mayor and Council.

Saanich's Planning Department website contains useful information for those that might be affected by a proposed development, including a listing of current active applications along with design details and current project status. QCHCA area's active development applications can be found at: <http://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/local-government/development-applications/active-development-applications.html> under Quadra or Saanich Core.

If you have questions about the development process or are interested in being part of QCHCA's Infrastructure and Development Action Group, please email us at QCHCA3003@gmail.com.

Cedar Hill Park - Management Plan Process

Jim Moores, Pulling Together Steward

I have worked for ten years as a volunteer Chief Steward of our wonderful park through Saanich's Pulling Together program. Our volunteer team does over 1000 hours of work in the park annually to remove invasive plants and clean up dumped garbage. I have followed the progress of the Cedar Hill Park Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) as a resident and interested bystander.

The SWG is comprised of five community representatives (QCHCA, Camosun Community Association, Mount Tolmie Community Association, Cedar Hill Golf Club and Friends of Cedar Hill Park) and seven staff from the CRD and Saanich Parks including a contracted facilitator. I understand the SWG has reached an important milestone after a year of work. A preliminary report of the Vision, Scope, Type of Report (Park Management Plan) and an outline of the final report will be presented to Saanich Council in the coming weeks to conclude Phase 1.

Phase 2 of the process will start with Council's approval of the preliminary report. The Project Plan on Saanich Parks' website shows a five-step process that will result in a final report to Council. I understand that the final report may not be presented until after the new Council has been sworn in November 2018.

I and others in the community are hopeful that this report will provide a framework for continuing public consultation and restoration of the park's natural and open areas including Bowker Creek and Kings Pond. As the draft vision for the park says "Cedar Hill Park balances nature, community, and recreation in a harmonious way. People, place, and the environment share an intimate connection that fosters mutual health and well-being. We are all stewards of the park, committed to its long-term preservation and enhancement."



Music in the Park at Rutledge Park

Karen Dearborn, Director and event co-coordinator

This not-to-be-missed, family-friendly event is again being sponsored by our Community Association in conjunction with Saanich Parks and Recreation and the Saanich Legacy Foundation .

Please save the dates for Tuesday, August 7th and 14th. We'll have crowd-pleasing rockers 'Rukus' the first night, and funk and party music band 'Bobby Dazzler' on the second night. Both of these bands are known for their powerhouse music and vocals and we expect to have a packed 'dance floor'.

Check out our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/QuadraCedarHill](https://www.facebook.com/QuadraCedarHill) and our website at QCHCA.org for the latest event details.

Seniors Groups join forces at Cedar Hill Arts and Recreation Centre

One of the outcomes of a recent Saanich Parks and Recreation Older Adults Strategy is the creation of a Cedar Hill 55+ Social Club.

The new Club, which will operate out of the Cedar Hill Community Rec Centre, was formed by merging two existing groups and their current activities. More programs and social opportunities will be added as membership increases. Currently, members can participate in bridge, carpet bowling, ping pong, canasta, social tea, and bingo.

On Fridays, West Coast School of Massage Therapy will be providing a special treat of 20-minute massages to members. Membership is \$40/year. For more info, call Julie Wallace, 250-475-5408.

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Farmers Market

Shawn Newby, Co-founder

The Saanich Sunday Farmers Market is once again getting organized to open on July 8th at Braefoot Park. 2017 was our first season and it was a huge success. We had around 35 vendors consisting of local farmers, food producers and artisans from all around the region.

There will be 8 markets this year, beginning July 8th and ending on August 26th. The market will operate every Sunday from 10:00am – 2:00pm. Come down this summer to enjoy music, food trucks and to support our local makers, bakers and growers.

If you would like to support the market as a volunteer please contact Shawn Newby at 250-415-6779 or saanichfarmersmarket@gmail.com

Editor's Update

QCHCA's Community Roots Newsletter is published twice yearly in the spring and fall. Please send suggestions and comments to Peter Haddon at QCHCA3003@gmail.com.

Many thanks to the staff at Island Print Group, Aristos Mail and to all our volunteers who bring Community Roots to your mailbox. Many thanks to our sponsors for their support of our Spring 2018 Community Roots Newsletter. We welcome those interested in becoming sponsors for our Fall edition.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list for an electronic copy of our newsletter, please email Community Roots at QCHCA3003@gmail.com.

QCHCA - 2018 Municipal Election

John Schmuck, QCHCA Past President

How much should you be paying in property taxes?
What do you expect for a suitable level of police and fire protection?

Are our roads and traffic infrastructure being adequately maintained?

Are you satisfied with current zoning regulations in your community?

Everyone will have opinions on the above issues. Sadly, only a minority of Saanich residents exercise their right to vote in the municipal elections. In the 2014 election, 35% of residents voted while in 2011, only 25% did so.

Residents of Saanich can influence these and other issues by voting in the upcoming Saanich municipal election on October 20th. You will have the opportunity to vote for your choice of candidates for Mayor and eight members of Saanich Council. The nomination period starts on September 4th. (For more information go to the BC Elections website.)

Your community association is founded on the principle of giving residents a voice in important decisions affecting our community. As in past elections, the QCHCA will be organizing an All Candidates meeting for the positions of Mayor and Council. We have booked the Garth Homer auditorium at 813 Darwin Avenue on Thursday, October 4th at 6:30pm. The first of two debates will start at 7:00pm for positions on Council, followed by the debate for Mayoral candidates. We will ask each candidate to respond to a number of questions prepared by QCHCA.

At the time of writing, Richard Atwell and Fred Haynes have said they intend to run for Mayor. All other incumbent Councillors have indicated they intend to run for Council with the exception of Dean Murdock who has not yet reached a decision.

QCHCA is paying for the All Candidates event and it will be run by our volunteer members. Please consider becoming a member of QCHCA to support this and the many other important community activities organized by our association.

Improving the Budget Process

Public Participation: Saanich Strategic and Financial Plans

Peter Haddon, QCHCA Board Member

The annual budget is one of the most important municipal management tools used to establish its financial goals and to monitor and control spending.

For most taxpayers, payment of their property tax bill is the extent of participation in the municipal budget process. Opportunities for the public to influence the municipality's strategic and financial plans are very limited. Most of us find the budget is complex and not easy to understand. Indeed, few members of the public attend Council to offer suggestions through the budget presentations in March and April.

Members of QCHCA have encouraged Council to make the necessary investment in education, and improved processes to allow the public opportunities to influence the decisions leading to the approved budget. John Schmuck and Art Beck worked on the Governance Review Committee's report that proposed improved participation.

QCHCA has submitted budget analysis, written letters and spoken to Council for a number of years. This year, QCHCA wrote to Council to ask them to *"engage with the public at the early stages of the budget process, when input could have, and be seen to have, an impact on the budget."*

Council recognized 14 years ago that public participation in this process was an important objective. It was therefore a major milestone on March 5th, 2018 when Council voted to assign the necessary resources to research and establish a formal process for engaging the public in the four-year strategic and financial planning process.

QCHCA also encourages Saanich to improve opportunities for public participation in all municipal functions in addition to strategic and financial planning.

Action Group Update

Pam Edwards, QCHCA Board Member

Looking for a chance to contribute your knowledge or expertise?

The QCHCA Board would love to benefit from your knowledge or expertise on any of our six recently formed Action Groups. We recognize that many residents' lives are already too busy. Instead of being a Board member, we thought that some of us might want to contribute to something we're interested in or passionate about in a limited way or for a limited time. We have formed 'Action Groups' to address issues or challenges that would provide these opportunities for involvement.

The Action Groups are:

- a) Communications: social media, newsletter and website
- b) QCHCA Organization & Finance
- c) Development & Infrastructure: traffic, local area plans, development applications
- d) Events & Activities: Music in the Park, general meetings, Farmers Market, etc.
- e) Environment & Sustainability
- f) Budget & Governance: municipal strategic and financial planning

If you are interested in any of these areas or want to learn more, we'd love to hear from you. Contact 'Action Groups' at QCHCA3003@gmail.com



Corgis Harry & Penny at Cedar Hill Park

Welcome Rainbow Ratepayers

Susan Haddon, President QCHCA

Welcome! We are excited to welcome residents of the approximately 200 households from the area bounded by McKenzie, Highway 17, and Saanich Road known as the Rainbow Ratepayers Association (RRA).

Their Association President, Larry Bomford, contacted QCHCA to see if we might combine the two organizations to better serve the residents.

We are happy to announce that Paul Noble, a relatively new resident of the Rainbow area, has offered to serve on the QCHCA executive as the Area Representative for RRA area residents.

We look forward to meeting everyone at a welcome event later this spring.



QCHCA welcomes the members of Rainbow Ratepayers and community. Left to right Larry Bomford, Susan Haddon (QCHCA President), Mary Bomford and Brian Warburton.

Calendar of Events

April 21, 9:00am – 12:00pm - Bowker Creek clean-up at Cedar Hill Park, Finlayson St

May 20 & 21, 11am – 4:00 pm - Scattered Artist Tour (See article Page 3)

May 22, 7:00pm – 9:00pm - QCHCA General Meeting
Speaker: Kathleen Burton, Exec. Director of Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary

July 08 to Aug 26, Sundays 10:00am – 2:00pm - Farmers Market at Braefoot Park (See article Page 5)

August 7 and 14, 6:00pm - Music in the Park at Rutledge Park (See article Page 4)

September 25, 7:00pm - 9:00pm - QCHCA General Meeting

October 4, 7:00pm - 9:00pm - Candidates' debate at the Garth Homer Centre (See article Page 5)

November 27, 7:00pm - 9:00pm - QCHCA General Meeting

Swan Lake Nature House - Many exciting events for adults and children visit:

<http://www.swanlake.bc.ca/calendar.php>

Cedar Hill Arts and Recreation Centre - For details on Arts and Recreation programs visit:

<http://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-culture/facilities-schedules-fees/facilities/cedar-hill-recreation-centre.html>

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QCHCA General Meetings

At Cedar Hill Arts and Recreation Centre

Join us every other month for an opportunity to hear an interesting speaker, learn about what's going on in the community, share your ideas on how to enhance the community and reconnect with your neighbours over coffee and refreshments.

May 22, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

September 25, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

November 27, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

QCHCA Website & Facebook

Please check our QCHCA website for events, newsletters, local developments, news and meeting minutes at <https://www.qchca.org/>

You will also find us as QCHCA on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/QuadraCedarHill/>

Chris Bhopalsingh is our webmaster and can be contacted at: QCHCA3003@gmail.com

Community Roots Fall 2018 Edition

Photo Showcase – Submit by Sept 22, 2018

Fall Roots edition - Submit by Sept 22, 2018

Discover your community - Building a sailing dinghy

Wetland & Creeks Update

Discover your Community – Publish *your* story

Do you have a favorite sport or activity? Send your story in 250 words or less to Susan Haddon at QCHCA3003@gmail.com with subject 'Publish your story'.

Become a QCHCA member

Noella May – Membership Director, QCHCA

The QCHCA cares about your neighbourhood and encourages your support by becoming a Member for the nominal fee of \$10 per person per calendar year. This modest amount assists in such things as publishing this newsletter, supporting the ever-popular Music in the Park at Rutledge Park usually held in August, and sponsoring evenings for candidates running for election on Saanich Council. And if you are able, we welcome your active participation on any number of topics that come up throughout the year.

The Membership Form can be found on our website <https://www.qchca.org/> or come to a General Meeting and join in person.

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

Don't delay.... become a Member today!

Can you Help QCHCA?

We are seeking volunteers to become the Area Representatives for both Cloverdale Core and Craigmillar areas. If you would like more details, please contact Susan Haddon at QCHCA3003@gmail.com.

A map showing the boundaries of each QCHCA area is at qchca.org/executive-area-directors

Please consider delivering this newsletter to your neighbours. Contact Lana Burns at QCHCA3003@gmail.com to offer your assistance or to find out more.

<p>Gilly's Carpet & Furniture Care</p> <p>Gilbert Levesque Owner & Qualified Technician</p> <p>250.589.CARE(2273) www.gillyscarpet.com</p>	
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