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# Valley News

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BLINKINSOP VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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Saanich Municipal  
Election 2008  
The Blenkinsop Valley  
Community Association  
and the  
Cordova Bay Association  
present an  
All-Candidates  
Meeting  
Wednesday Oct. 29th  
At 7:00 p.m.  
Ridge Playhouse  
Claremont Secondary School  
4980 Wesley Road

## Conserve, Protect Agricultural Land

By Nathalie Chambers, BVCA Vice-President

Wall Street is in trouble, and we may be facing difficult times. The effects of climate change on weather and crop success impact the global food supply.

The Blenkinsop Valley is one of the last inner-city farming areas. We should have food security, but in some cases, with fill deposits and soil removal, the land's agricultural potential may be lost forever.

This is what Robert Bateman refers to as "Grandchild Abuse." Stewardship, conservation and the protection of biological diversity are inherent rights of all future generations and wildlife too. Contact The Land Conservancy: 1-877-4TLC-4BC or <http://www.conservancy.bc.ca/>

## Have You Been Affected by B.C. Assessment's Farm Status Review?

By Sharon Stewart

In late 2007, 97 Saanich farm owners learned some of their land had lost its farm status, resulting in significantly higher property taxes. Some reside here in the Blenkinsop Valley.

B.C. Assessment's intention was to prevent people on large lots from enjoying low farm taxes when little farming is taking place.

Many of those reassessed claim the change wasn't fair. The provincial government responded by appointing a review panel in December 2007.

The panel recommended that B.C. Assessment stop its status review until the panel completes its report in 2009. Province-wide public consultations are taking place Sept. through Nov.

More information is available at [www.farmassessmentreview.ca](http://www.farmassessmentreview.ca), or phone toll free: 1-866-956-7551.

The BVCA, along with the Cordova Bay Association is hosting a joint municipal all-candidates meeting on October 29.

The BVCA has had mixed success with a membership drive. We would appreciate as many Blenkinsop Valley residents as possible to join our association. The annual fee is \$10.00. Join Today.

We are on schedule with our one-year plan, which includes our now completed web site ([www.bvcanews.com](http://www.bvcanews.com)).

### Saanich Emergency Preparedness

#### Free Workshop #1 Emergency Preparedness Starts With You

Individuals and families. Learn the basic skills of preparedness and survival to care for your needs for a minimum of 7 days after a disaster:

Sunday, November 2 at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre (250 475-7121), 1-3 p.m. Course #272277

Sunday, November 30 at Gordon Head Recreation Centre (250 475-7100) 1-3 p.m. Course #272275

#### Free Workshop #2 Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness

Take the next step in emergency preparedness. You may be on your own for approximately 7 days following a disaster, learn how neighbours working together can reduce the impact on your family and property. Next workshop:

Saturday, November 15, 2008 at Pearkes Recreation Centre (250 475-5400) Course #272360

Call 250-475-7140 for more information.

## BVCA Directors 2008

Sharon Stewart	Annette Barclay
Dean Purych	David Charlebois
Charlotte Koettl	John Lawler
Anita Mayr	Rhys Smallwood

Dale Leeuw

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### Executive

Secretary-Treasurer: Dawn Loucks

Vice-President: Nathalie Chambers

President: Barry Loucks

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### ***BLENKINSOP VALLEY***

### ***COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION***

PO Box 30063, 3989 Quadra St.,

Victoria BC, V8X 5E1

250-477-8539

[bvcanews.com](http://bvcanews.com)

Join Today! \$10.00/ yr.

Valley News Edited by John Lawler

Image by Lorna Reid

### Correspondence and Municipal Affairs

The BVCA directors have addressed many issues since the last newsletter in April. Our directors are of diverse opinions on several subjects which hopefully reflects the range of opinions in the valley. It does make for lively debate over some topics.

Barry Loucks, BVCA President

In letters to Saanich, the BVCA directors have supported the retention of land within the ALR and thus opposed an application to remove a parcel of land from it.

The BVCA supported the retention of the present Urban Containment Boundary when a property on Holland Ave applied to have land where the present zoning permits agricultural use (A-1) rezoned for development which would also require altering the UCB. The application to rezone an A-1 property on Lochside for housing has been withdrawn (likely temporarily).

In response to an application to Saanich from a business to alter a covenant on its property limiting the use of night lights, the BVCA directors recommended to Saanich Council that a protocol be developed to track compliance to covenants. The BVCA also recommended that if the covenant was to be relaxed that the residents, for whom the original covenant was designed to protect, have some protection from direct illumination on their property. Saanich Council, however, did not permit a relaxation of the covenant.



Most of the directors supported the Saanich policy of not extending the Sewer Service Area to land which is outside the Urban Containment Boundary (UCB) when a local septic system is feasible. When this policy was over-ruled for the Seven Oaks property, Saanich Council used a BVCA suggestion to attach a covenant to the property limiting future development.

### Other BVCA Business

- supported the preservation of the Royal Oak Middle School gymnasium
- requested that Saanich prune roadside vegetation along Blenkinsop, which has been partially completed.
- requested that Saanich Police use the meter board again along Blenkinsop. This was done near Mt. Doug Park the week of Sept 29th.
- monitored a fill deposit on a Blenkinsop Rd property
- monitored American Bull Frog presence.
- There is a proposal for Glendale Gardens to assume responsibility for the restoration of Outerbridge Park.
- Ray Galey spoke to a directors' meeting about tentative plans for the installation of the BC Experience relief map. Neighbours were invited and had an opportunity to ask questions. Ray expects to cater to local schools and citizens. He welcomes neighbour and community input.