
Valley News

BLENKINSOP VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

CFAX

The BVCA was invited to an interview on the CFAx Bruce Williams program. Barry Loucks and Illarion Gallant discussed several Blenkinsop Valley issues.

TRANSPORTATION

The BVCA is having ongoing communication with Saanich about pedestrian and cyclist safety on Blenkinsop Rd. A Saanich committee is recommending that unpaved sections of the Lochside trail in the Blenkinsop Valley be paved in order to encourage cyclists to use the trail instead of Blenkinsop Rd.

TRAILS

Concerns have been raised with Saanich about parking on Blenkinsop Rd at the Mercer Trail trailhead. Signs have been installed to indicate locations for safer parking but communication with Saanich is continuing. Concerns have been raised with Saanich about damage to Glen Denning Rd boulevards caused by parking for Mt Doug Park access. The Saanich Parks department is evaluating this. The Donwood bicycle path experienced damage due to erosion and this has now been repaired.

Join The BVCA !

Mail to:

Blenkinsop Valley Community Association

PO Box 30063, 3943C Quadra St.

Victoria BC, V8X 1J0

Surname:

First Name:

Phone:

Address:

Postal Code: E-mail:

Amount enclosed (\$10.00/person/yr):

Skills or desire to contribute?

POTENTIAL OLYMPIAN?

Blenkinsop Valley resident, UVic student, Max Gallant, has set the goal to participate as an Olympian in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Max is a Laser Sailor representing the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. He won the 2014 Canadian Youth Laser in the BC circuit competitions, placed 11th in the American Nationals in San Francisco and placed 8th in the Canadian Nationals in Kingston Ontario. This winter he qualified for the Miami Olympic Class Regatta (second place Canadian position) where he placed 80th in a fleet of 120, under challenging conditions with stiff International competition. He is currently ranked 117th in the world. This February he is in Clearwater, Florida competing for a place on the Canadian National Team. His progress can be followed at 'maxgallantlasersailing'



BVCA AGM

March 4, 2015

7PM

Cordova Bay Elementary

5238 Cordova Bay Rd

Everyone Welcome

Guest Speaker:

Artist, Author,

Columnist

Robert Amos

**The Importance of
"Community"**

BVCA Directors 2014

Alex Ball Duncan Chiu
Illarion Gallant John Lawler
Joanna Linger Mark Collins

Executive

Secretary: Dawn Loucks

Treasurer: Earl Hannan

Vice-President Matt Belanger

President: Barry Loucks

BLENKINSOP VALLEY

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

PO Box 30063 3943C Quadra St.,

Victoria BC, V8X 1J0

250-477-8539

bvcanews.com

GUESTS

Elizabeth May was the guest speaker at the BVCA 2014 AGM. She outlined the importance of local food production. She indicated its benefits to fight global warming and to provide food security. The Island has only a few days of food on hand. Grain for Vancouver Island cattle was recently down to three days supply because trains were occupied carrying bitumen instead of prairie grain. She pointed out that our area has a long growing season and we should be able to produce more of our own food. She spoke in support of a recent proposal by Dean Murdock to create a farmland trust. She saw this as an opportunity for young farmers to access farmland.

Derek Masselink who is an ecologist, teacher and agri-ecological planner spoke to the board about the importance of retaining farm land and the increasing trend towards urban farming. He feels that just as municipalities set aside land for park and green space so should they be setting aside land for food production. He noted that the ALR is under constant pressure for land to be removed. Derek felt that agricultural land will become worth more undeveloped than developed. With specialized intensive farming practices he feels it is possible to gross as much as \$100,000 per acre here. In California there is a facility in the LA area that grosses as much as \$250,000 per acre.

Darrell Wick who is the president of the Friends of Mount Doug Park spoke to the board about the watershed project in Douglas Creek where there has been a successful reintroduction of salmon with some now returning.

ARTISTS

Local Artist, Landscape Architect and BVCA director, Illarion Gallant organized, on behalf of the BVCA, an "Artists in the Valley" project. This involved about 10 established artists being linked with Blenkinsop Valley property owners to paint and photograph scenes in the valley. The results were exceptional and between 200 and 300 people attended a showing of the art on November 15. The artists want to continue the project in 2015.

Local Author

Madrona Farm's Nathalie Chambers has written a book to be released for Kindle on April 20 and as a paperback on May 5. "*Saving Farmland: the Fight for Real Food*" is filled with farming stories from the past and present and brimming with fascinating facts. *Saving Farmland* is a practical treatise to help us all support local farming and sustainable land development and indulge in good eating forever."

Land Use Issues

The BVCA has been attempting to achieve change in neighbourhood notification when there are plans for prolonged blasting, the sale or subdivision of municipal land, and for the development of large homes which are out of character for a neighbourhood. In the past year Saanich invited BVCA input on two subdivisions and one application for alteration to the Sewer Service Area. We also held a meeting with a resident whose property, along with others, was impacted by alterations to adjacent land which caused flooding and the death of approximately 100 trees. The BVCA has communicated with both Saanich and the Agricultural Land Commission about this issue.