
Valley News

BLENKINSOP VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Join The BVCA !

Mail to:

Blenkinsop Valley Community Association

PO Box 30063, 3989 Quadra St.

Victoria BC, V8X 5E1

Surname: _____

First Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

E-mail: _____

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

Skills or desire to contribute?

Comments?

Municipal Affairs

A re-zoning proposal for a six-lot subdivision on Lochside Drive across from Lochside School was rejected by Council. Among the concerns mentioned were loss of a buffer between residential lots and farm land and the impact the subdivision would have on the Northern gateway to the Blenkinsop Valley for Lochside Trail.

Variances

The BVCA directors were asked for input on three variance applications. One involved the placement of two houses on one lot and another involved raising the maximum height of a front yard fence to seven feet nine inches. The directors did not support these applications. Support, however, was given for an application for a Temporary Commercial Permit which would allow a landscaping company to continue its operation at a site not zoned for this purpose while the company searches for a new location.

Overhanging Branches

At the request of the BVCA and others, Saanich crews did extensive pruning of the trees which were overhanging Blenkinsop Rd. These trees were being hit by high vehicles such as farm machinery.

Urban Chickens

Saanich is one of the few municipalities which does not permit chickens to be kept on urban lots of less than 12,000 square feet. A group trying to change this met with the BVCA outlining the virtues of chickens and their symbiotic relationship with people. The BVCA directors supported this proposal with the provision that neighbours are reasonably protected from unwanted noise, odours and intrusions.

Resident Geese

Some crops in the Blenkinsop Valley received significant damage from geese this year. The BVCA has communicated with the Peninsula Agricultural Commission (PAC) about this. At a recent PAC meeting attended by two BVCA Directors, B.C. Labour Minister and PAC founder Murray Coell agreed to bring the matter, which affects farms throughout southern B.C., to the attention of Cabinet.

The BVCA directors appreciate the support they have received through membership renewals and communications from residents.

Meet with Saanich Planning

The Saanich Planning department has asked the BVCA to hold a meeting at which one of their planners will discuss "any neighbourhood planning issues or general planning topics that residents might have about their community". We plan to hold this meeting during the evening of **Wednesday, October 7**. In order to determine how many are coming so that we can reserve an appropriate facility, please respond (info@bvcanews.com or 250-477-8539) by Sept. 23 if you plan to attend. The time and location of the meeting will be provided at a later date.

Heritage Road

The BVCA directors continue to work on the concept of designating Blenkinsop Rd as a heritage road as was suggested by Mayor Leonard at an all-candidates meeting last October. We will be meeting with a Saanich councillor and a representative of the Saanich Engineering department in October. We plan to seek community input and also to have information to present at our next AGM in March. We also would like to encourage you to forward your thoughts on this topic (info@bvcanews.com).

Beckwith Farm

Beckwith Farm has installed a new drainage and irrigation system. In September, 50,000 blueberry bushes will be planted which will make the Beckwith Farm one of the largest blueberry producers on Vancouver Island. A full time farm manager has been hired to look after the property and the crop.

BVCA Directors 2009

Sharon Stewart Earl Hannan
Dean Purych Rhys Smallwood
Charlotte Koettl Ray Harwood
Nathalie Chambers Dale Leeuw

Executive

Secretary/Treasurer: Dawn Loucks

Vice-President: John Lawler

President: Barry Loucks

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Since the last Valley News which was distributed in March, the BVCA has been active with many issues.

Seven Oaks

The BVCA and the Broadmead Royal Bank donated exercise equipment to the residents of Seven Oaks. A tour, tea and entertainment by the residents was provided to those representing the BVCA and the Royal Bank. The equipment is being used regularly and Seven Oaks expressed their appreciation.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held on March 31. Stacie Louttit, a Blenkinsop Valley resident and bronze medal winner at the Beijing Paralympics, gave us a very interesting presentation about her experience in China. She shared her insights into Chinese culture and competition among athletes with disabilities.

Madrona Farm

Nathalie and David Chambers of the Blenkinsop Valley's Madrona Farm gave a presentation to the BVCA directors about their campaign to transfer the title of Madrona Farm to The Land Conservancy. They feel that this will have the advantages of leaving the farm intact in perpetuity, providing a place for future generations of farmers and their customers.

Reporter Wins Awards

Michael Tymchuk is a reporter with CBC radio's Victoria station (FM 90.5) who resides in the Blenkinsop Valley. Michael gave a presentation to the BVCA directors about his interviews with members of the Ahousaht First Nation in 2007. Michael received awards from the BC branch of the Radio and Television News Directors Association, the Canadian Bar Association and the Canadian Medical Association for the reports.

