BLENKINSOP ROAD
HERITAGE DESIGNATION PROPOSAL

At an all-candidates meeting in October, 2008, Mayor Frank Leonard said that he would like to see Blenkinsop Road designated as a "heritage road". In subsequent conversations with representatives of the Blenkinsop Valley Community Association (BVCA), Mayor Leonard discussed short and long term ideas to maintain Blenkinsop Road's country feel. He felt that emphasis should be placed on traffic calming, pedestrian safety and heritage promotion. The mayor has initiated a project to develop a plan, and has assigned it to Colin Doyle, director of the Saanich Engineering Department. Saanich Council's lead for the project is Councilor Dean Murdoch.

The municipality and the BVCA directors feel that a Heritage Road designation would apply only to public property and would have no implications or restrictions on private property as with heritage designation from higher levels of government.

Guidelines might include suggestions to retain wooden telephone poles, to not install underground wiring on public land, to leave ditches open and to use wooden sign posts. New walkways could be paths rather than concrete or paved sidewalks and could be separated from the road.

Through meetings with Colin Doyle, Councilor Murdoch and Mayor Leonard, it has been made clear that the BVCA is a primary source of input for the project. To date, the BVCA Board of Directors has been given the opportunity to do this; however, the main source of direction should come from the individuals who live in the community.

It is proposed that the designation of Blenkinsop Road as a Heritage Road would mean that:

The history of Blenkinsop Road would be recognized and promoted; guidelines would be developed which describe the road's aspects we want to protect and which would lead us towards the vision we have for how the road should appear and perform in the future.

Heritage promotion could place emphasis on the history of the Blenkinsop Road properties and the people that have lived there. One suggestion is to utilize part of the Outerbridge Park to present the historical items on kiosks or "story boards" - perhaps adjacent to proposed parking areas. Another suggestion is to have historical descriptions posted at various properties.

The guidelines would alert municipal staff that planning for Blenkinsop Road is not "business as usual". It would mean that in the future, if plans for upgrading Blenkinsop Road are being developed they would need to give consideration to these guidelines, yet have the flexibility to give safety or community concerns priority.

There is no widespread definition or understanding of the term "Heritage Road". This can be viewed positively as it gives the community an opportunity, and considerable latitude, to define what it wants this term to mean as it pertains to Blenkinsop Road.

Community input is now being sought through the questionnaire in this newsletter and through this invitation to all Blenkinsop Valley community residents to attend the BVCA Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, March 30th. At that meeting, much effort will be made to elicit community opinions and ideas on guidelines.

**BVCA Annual
General Meeting
7PM on Tuesday March 30
Cordova Bay Elementary
School Gym,
5238 Cordova Bay Rd.**

_____

"Heritage Road" designation for Blenkinsop Road

The BVCA and Saanich will facilitate a discussion with residents on what this could mean.

_____

Speakers:

**Bill Turner,
Executive Director,
The Land Conservancy,
"The Importance of Preserving our Heritage and our Heritage Properties"**

**Nathalie Chambers,
Madrona Farm,
"The History of the Blenkinsop Valley"**

Valley News Edited by John Lawler

QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is intended to gather information from community members about the acceptance of the Heritage Road designation proposal and about possible guidelines for the future of Blenkinsop Road. Guidelines should remain flexible and need not be followed if safety or public concerns indicate otherwise. Please answer questions 1 to 14 by using the numbers 1 to 5, indicating 1-strongly disagree, 2-somewhat disagree, 3-uncertain, 4-somewhat agree and 5-strongly agree. Note: Three of the questions are taken from our Local Area Plan and are indicated by "(LAP)".

Completed questionnaires can be returned to the BVCA by e-mail at: **info@bvcanews.com** *or by mailing to: BVCA, PO Box 30063, 3989 Quadra St., Victoria BC, V8X 5E1.*

GENERAL PRINCIPLES		☹	▪	😐	▪	☺
		1	2	3	4	5
1	Blenkinsop Road should receive heritage designation.	O	O	O	O	O
2	Pedestrian safety should be improved.	O	O	O	O	O
3	Traffic calming ideas should be evaluated	O	O	O	O	O
4	Historical information should be promoted.	O	O	O	O	O
5	I am content with Blenkinsop Road the way it is today.	O	O	O	O	O
GUIDELINE SUGGESTIONS		☹	▪	😐	▪	☺
		1	2	3	4	5
6	Blenkinsop Road should be maintained as a two-lane road (LAP).	O	O	O	O	O
7	Blenkinsop Road should have turning lanes only at the Royal Oak-Blenkinsop and McKenzie-Blenkinsop intersections (LAP).	O	O	O	O	O
8	The municipality should retain unbuilt road rights-of-way and walkways to provide informal open spaces and trail linkages (LAP).	O	O	O	O	O
9	New pedestrian walkways should be constructed separate from the road.	O	O	O	O	O
10	New pedestrian walkways should be constructed as paths rather than concrete or paved sidewalks.	O	O	O	O	O
11	Telephone poles that require replacement should be made of wood.	O	O	O	O	O
12	Roadside ditches should remain uncovered.	O	O	O	O	O
13	Service wires should remain above ground on public property.	O	O	O	O	O
14	Sign posts should be made of wood.	O	O	O	O	O
15	Do you have any other suggestions?					
16	What road/street do you live on?					