
Valley News

BLINKINSOP VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

BVCA AGM

7:00 PM

February 19, 2014

**Cordova Bay Elementary
Gymnasium**

5238 Cordova Bay Rd.

Guest Speaker:

Elizabeth May, MP

**“Greenspace and Farmland
within Our Urban Areas”**

**Following the talk, Elizabeth
will respond to questions
from the audience on any
political topic.**

All Welcome

ALR/ALC

The BVCA directors wrote a letter to Premier Clark to encourage protection of the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Agriculture Land Commission after media reports suggested there were plans to make significant changes to both.

All-Candidates Meeting

The BVCA, together with the Broadmead Area Resident's Association, held an all-candidates meeting prior to the provincial election. The attendance was close to 200 people, even though the televised leaders' debate was taking place at the same time. .

Farm Market By-law

This past summer the BVCA directors unanimously supported a proposed amendment to the Farm Market by law which would permit farm markets to sell red meat.

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?

Saanich Police Community Liaison

Inspector Brett Fryer of the Saanich Police department gave a presentation to the BVCA board. There are about 115,000 people in Saanich. The police department receives some 30,000 calls annually. Per-capita policing costs in Saanich among the lowest. Surveys show that 95-96% of Saanich residents are satisfied with their policing. Twenty-eight homes in the Blenkinsop Valley participate in the Block Watch program. During the first six months of 2013, the police received 186 calls from the Blenkinsop Valley. There were no “Break and Enter” calls. There were 11 calls about animals.

Seven Oaks Garden

The Seven Oaks Garden participants held an open house in August. Several years ago, the BVCA suggested development of a garden for Seven Oaks residents and donated the initial funds. The garden program has since expanded considerably and is now available to people who are not necessarily residents of Seven Oaks such as those struggling with addiction, mental illness and chronic offending. This year the Seven Oaks garden sold about \$3800 worth of produce (the target was \$2500). As well, food was donated to Our Place and the participants also took food home. All of the revenue was given to the participants, who worked on average 30 hours (10 sessions) for a total of 960 hours. Seven volunteers donated a total of 573 hours.

Cyclist and Pedestrian Safety

Following a serious car/cyclist accident, representatives of the BVCA met with Saanich councilor Vic Derman to discuss pedestrian and cyclist safety on Blenkinsop Rd. Further information is being gathered.

BVCA Directors 2013

Alex Ball Duncan Chiu
Illarion Gallant John Lawler
Joanna Linger Phil Mesner

Adam Orser

Executive

Secretary: Dawn Loucks

Treasurer: Earl Hannan

Vice-President Matt Belanger

President: Barry Loucks

BLENKINSOP VALLEY

COMMUNITY

ASSOCIATION

PO Box 30063, 3989 Quadra St.,

Victoria BC, V8X 5E1

250-477-8539

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World Class Sailing

Blenkinsop Valley resident, Max Gallant, age 17, is a competitive sailor and participated in the Laser Standard Men's Under 21 World Championship in Hungary last July. Max was one of the youngest of the participants and he met his goal of placing in the “middle of the pack” of this world event. Max started sailing at the age of 6 through the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. In 2012 Max won the Canadian Youth National Championship Laser Full Rig Class. This past summer he came in second place in the Youth National Championship and won a Silver Medal for British Columbia at the Canada Summer Games in Sherbrook (just one point behind the gold medal winner). Max was Named BC Youth Sailor of the Year for both 2012 and 2013. His goal is to earn a place on the Canadian National Sailing Team. To follow his progress go to ‘maxgallantlasersailing’

Nicaragua School Rebuilt

Ed Polinsky, who is a BVCA founding member, accepted an invitation to speak to the BVCA directors about a project in Nicaragua. Ed joined a group of fellow old-timer hockey players to travel to Nicaragua where they helped rebuild a school. He explained the poor condition of the school before they started and showed pictures of how the structure was partially taken apart and rebuilt with steel trusses. He explained some of the technical difficulties encountered with the electrical supply and the need to use less than ideal equipment (such as a welding helmet which required one hand to hold it in place and a welding machine on which the heat adjustment control was broken). Ed enjoyed the Nicaraguan culture and was able to contrast it with the cultural experiences he had when doing similar work in Africa.

Pearce Crescent Rotary Play Area

The “Pearce Crescent Rotary Play Area” has been completed. The children living on Pearce Crescent had no nearby playground. The residents of Pearce Crescent approached Saanich for permission to develop an unused road allowance. Saanich agreed, and helped them develop plans for the play area. Residents raised over \$11,000 for the project. Saanich donated \$1500 through a matching grant program. Saanich Rotary has donated generously. The Island Equipment Owners Association donated much of the construction and Capital City Paving donated the blacktop. The residents also worked to construct parts of the project. The BVCA donated \$1000 and provided administrative assistance.

New Park Land

Saanich recently purchased 13 hectares bordering Blenkinsop Lake for \$1.2 million, protecting the sensitive riparian area, and connecting with Beckwith and Valewood Parks. The BVCA directors sent a letter to Saanich Council expressing our appreciation for this purchase.

Valley Painters

Illarion Gallant, Public Artist, Landscape Architect and Blenkinsop Valley resident, spearheaded the “Valley Painters” project for the BVCA. This project matches experienced landscape artists with property owners in the Blenkinsop Valley “with the intention of depicting the rural narrative”. Several artists have participated and some of the work has been described as “stunning”. An art show might be held in an established gallery later this year.