

LOCAL AREA PLAN

QUESTIONNAIRE

is included with this issue. Saanich Planning Department would like to get feedback from as many residents as possible.

Use it to indicate your concerns.

Completed questionnaires can be left at the Cordova Bay Variety Store or mailed or faxed to Saanich Municipal Hall.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

The Association Executive Committee met on November 21, 1996 and January 16, 1997. David Gerriore has been appointed and welcomed to the Committee to fill a vacancy.

Planning Committee members represented the membership at a Municipal Council meeting on December 9 to object to a proposed increase in the speed limit on Cordova Bay Road. They were joined by other concerned residents; after hearing the presentations, Council rejected the proposal.

Executive members Cliff Jones, Al Insley and John Noble are representing the Association on the Cordova Bay Streetscape Committee at the request of Saanich Council. Ongoing issues about traffic are being addressed by your Executive Committee.

Hugh MacKay, Municipal Engineer, will be meeting with the Executive at its February meeting. Fred Cooper has been reappointed to the Citizens' Transportation Committee of Saanich Municipality.

The recent snow storm emphasized the need for preparedness and neighbourhood co-operation. Fred Cooper, our Safety Officer, urges members to sign up for as an effective preparedness measure. (See his report in this Cordovan.)

The Annual General Meeting of the Association is scheduled for April 30; Mayor Frank Leonard will be our guest speaker. **Mark your calendars!**

Many thanks to our new members who have mailed in their dues. This issue is just one benefit of membership. The Executive recognizes and thanks the staff of the Cordovan for an excellent new format and a continued high quality production.

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DO YOU KNOW?

In 1911 Mr. Hambly, a retired Sidney blacksmith, built a home on Agate Lane and a grocery store across Cordova Bay Road from it. The Cordova Bay Store, now Win Life's pottery shop, opened 70 years ago as the first store in Cordova Bay. Two other grocery stores soon followed. The Little Arctic, and McMorran's Canuck Tea Rooms, which also opened during summers only. It was 1925 before permanent Cordova Bay residents received the benefits of an all-year store. Leonard Smith, born on the ridge 78 years ago, recalls as a boy selling peanuts and popcorn for Mr. Hambly to summer crowds thronging Cordova Bay beach. Hambly also ran a jitney service between the bay and Victoria, used frequently by stranded housewives isolated in summer cottages. This store was later sold to Mr. T. Sutcliffe who renamed it Uncle Tom's Cabin. Many a long night was spent here by Cordova Bay residents discussing politics and wild up-island business schemes. Behind this store Sutcliffe operated a commercial wooden roller skating rink, while on Sutcliffe Road he constructed community bowling greens with clubhouse attached.

Mrs. Quick insists the first commercial business in Cordova Bay was not Mr. Hambly's, but Mr. Young's, who set up a wooden piano pacing case beside the stream south of today's Fable Cottage. The piano case served as Mr. Young's ice-cream parlour, from where he dispensed cool refreshments to his 1908 summer customers. As the south end of the bay, the Little Arctic opened its doors around 1914, under Jimmie Little, who later sold it to Charlie Smith. Smith added a dance pavilion which proved popular with the summer campers as it boasted a live dance band. Hilda Sinkinson, four years of age when coming to the bay in 1919, recalls wistfully watching through the window panes, Little Arctic dancers, and wishing she was older and her father wouldn't catch her. Cordova Bay campers remember Little Arctic's hot water and 15 cent jitney rides to the city, while Mrs. Eva Lewis says Charlie Smith sharpened residents' saws which helped them to tackle winter driftwood. Don Galey fondly describes vivid, tempting icicles painted on Little Arctic's exterior walls when he began farming Cordova Bay land 50 years ago.

Johns General Store, the first all-year grocery and hardware store, opened at the south end of the Bay in 1925. The Johns home, located on the waterfront east of the Maxine-Cordova Bay Road intersection, served as the store's quarters. Les Johns, still living in Cordova Bay, remembers as a boy collecting grocery orders from his neighbours, using a pony to make the rounds. Every Tuesday and Friday Les' father would take his horse and wagon, soon replaced by a Model T Ford, to town, filling urgent Cordova Bay needs. Johns recalls driving the family Ford backwards up Cordova Bay hill past the gravel pit, saying this helped fuel the gas tank, located under the front seat.

Milk in the Johns Store in 1925 cost 10 cents a quart, tea 25 cents a pound, butter 3 lbs. for a dollar, and eggs 3 dozen for a dollar.

In 1928 George McMorran opened his 14-unit autocourt which boasted the first septic tank in Cordova Bay. Advertisements billed McMorran's autocourt as "Modern auto camp with all conveniences." McMorran states in a 1967 taped interview that at the time he opened his Canuck Tea Rooms, there were no conveniences such as light, water, telephone or proper sewage. "I first used candles in the store for light, then oil lamps, and later Coleman lamps, A little bit better every year. Then I bought a Delco plant for three or four hundred dollars, before the B>C. Electric thought it was about time to get some poles out here, so that five of us got electricity. The Delco plant was a gasoline job, and I was glad to see the last of it, but it was good while it lasted.

"For a certain length of time we got water out of the creek to use at the motorcourt. We had a water record, that's what they call McMorran's Spring, out there back of our twenty acres. Wooden butts were used at that time, then we advanced to concrete butts, then we made it larger still so we had a capacity of about 3,000 gallons which came by gravity feed to the motorcourt through a 4-inch pipe. We could run water day and night and day."

From SEA-LAKE: RECOLLECTIONS AND HISTORY OF CORDOVA BAY AND ELK LAKE. Author: Anne Pearson, Cordova Bay resident. Book available at Cordova Bay Variety Store.

Sea-Lake: A History of Cordova Bay and Elk Lake

by Anne Pearson, is available at the Cordova
Bay Variety Store, or phone 658-8076. Price:
\$12.50.

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Gym. For information call Marilyn at 477 0645 or
Jill at 658 0058

PETS' HOTLINE

Lost a pet? Found a pet?
 Call Pam Lewis 658-5039
 Helen Muir 658-5663



Make sure that your pet wears ID so that we can help you more effectively.

And be sure to tell us when you find your pet.

Other Resources

- SPCA 388-7722
- Saanich Pound 475-4321
- Bulletin Board at the Plaza
- Your neighbours have a picture and description of your pet to circulate..
- "Found" ads are free in local newspapers

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