

The Cordovan

Summer 2011
Issue 3



Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs (CBA)
www.cbasn.com

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 25: Cordova Bay Day,
St. David by the Sea Anglican
Church, Cordova Bay Road
- Oct. 26: All Candidates Meeting
prior to the November 19 Civic
Elections

Pure Pharmacy and Post Office opens July 4...

A pharmacy and post office right in Cordova Bay...it doesn't get much better than that!

Owner Bob Mehr (pictured right), confirmed his third Pure Pharmacy will officially open **Monday, July 4** at the former Beklen's restaurant location on Cordova Bay Road.

According to Mehr, "Pure Pharmacy is where conventional and natural medicine is integrated to provide a complete range of health and wellness options."

The pharmacy

Will offer the traditional full prescription and compounding services, as well as a medical herbal dispensary, nutritional consulting, homeopathic remedies, complete food and allergy testing and more. You'll even be able to make a complimentary consultation with one of Pure Pharmacy's three pharmacists: Howard Singer, Terry Light and Mike March (pharmacy manager).



Pure Pharmacy continued on page 2

Mark your calendar Cordova Bay Day – June 25

Join us this Saturday, from 12:00 - 2:00 PM on the grounds of St. David by Sea Anglican Church (Cordova Bay Road) for the 8th annual Cordova Bay Day.

It's bigger and better than ever! All money raised goes directly back to Cordova Bay non-profit organizations and community improvements.

Highlights:

- More games this year - thanks to our sponsors. For the kids there'll be clowns, a face painter, bouncy castle, golf and an ice-cream van
- Bigger silent auction with fabulous donations from local and neighbouring businesses and residents
- The Shriners are back selling hot dogs, popcorn and drinks
- Block Watch, Victoria Pilates and the Victoria Times Colonist will be there as well as involvement by the Cordova Bay Preschool

Please spread the word. Help make this the best Cordova Bay Day ever. Children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and dogs are welcome!



Join the fun at Cordova Bay Day

Dangerous intersection finally gets attention

By Roger Stonebanks, former CBA President



The two-year-long “safety-first” campaign by the Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs (CBA) for improvements at the notoriously accident-prone intersection of **Patricia Bay Highway and Sayward Road** will now get attention from the Ministry of

Transportation and Infrastructure through a newly-formed working committee including local representation.

The ministry has announced the formation of the Sayward Safety Working Group, something that has been lobbied for by the CBA, Saanich council and Saanich South MLA Lana Popham.

“The primary focus is on improvements in and around (within a few hundred meters) of the intersection, however ideas that involve areas further north or south on the highway will also be considered,” Mark Traverso, Operations Manager, Saanich Area Office of the ministry’s Vancouver Island District, told the CBA.

Public input sought

“The goal of the Working Group is to develop recommendations to improve the safety of this intersection that can be implemented in the near future. The recommendations from this Working Group

will be presented to the public for their comments. The public will also have opportunities to liaise directly with their elected representatives. Other opportunities for public involvement will be discussed with Working Group members.”

Traverso said the Working Group will have representatives from Saanich council, community associations and local businesses. The ministry will be contacting MLA Popham and stakeholders such as CRD Parks to determine their interest and involvement.

Saanich council has appointed Councillor Lief Wergeland, who lives in Cordova Bay, and Councillor Judy Brownoff to be its representatives on the Working Group. The CBA will be represented by its traffic committee chairperson, Graham Shorthill.

Councillor Brownoff told the CBA that the group will not be looking at a big interchange. “It will be a look at “safety-first improvements,” she told the CBA, and will examine short and medium-term solutions.

CBA president Anthony Minniti welcomed the news. “We look forward to the establishment of the Sayward Safety Working Group, hoping that improvements are forthcoming,” he said.

For background details including the [Opus Hamilton](#) traffic report and its recommendations for this intersection, check out the article “[Let the Community Consultation Begin](#)” on the CBA website.

Farewell to Bernie Rogers

In case you missed it, the man who created Fable Cottage - once a major tourist attraction in Cordova Bay - has died. Bernie Rogers, long-time Cordova Bay resident, passed away April 22 at the age of 98.



Rogers built Fable Cottage in the early 1950s at 5187 Cordova Bay Road. He sold it in 1969 and it became a big tourist draw until it was sold and moved to Denman Island where it remains. The site was then developed as townhouses. His [obituary tribute](#) appeared in the Victoria Times Colonist May 9, 2011.

Urgent Public Notice

Sutcliffe Lodge, Cordova Bay urgently needs 12 volunteer directors to ensure lodge administration remains local. If not, BC Housing will step in. [Click here](#) for more information.

Pure Pharmacy opening continued from page 1

Post office and hours

Pharmacy and post office hours will be: Monday to Friday 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM; and closed Sunday. You may recognize the lady behind the counter - it’s Bonita Jean-Pierre who worked in the post office at the Cordova Bay Variety Store.

Upper level and patio

Mehr has used every bit of the former restaurant space. The upper level will feature natural cosmetics including [Shea Butter Market](#) products and is managed by herbalist Karen Dycke. And a medicinal herb and educational garden is being installed where restaurant patrons once enjoyed outside dining. Kathy Goddard from [Art Knapp Garden Centre](#) and Karen Dycke will oversee installing the plants supplied by Art Knapp and [ScentSational Plants](#).

In 2010, Mehr received the *Commitment to Care & Service Award for Outstanding Pharmacy Owner or Manager*. The CBA welcomes Bob Mehr and staff!

Meet your new CBA Board of Directors...

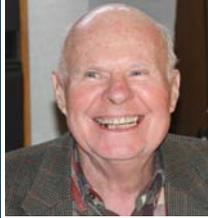
Anthony Minniti: *President*



Anthony and his family fell in love with Victoria and moved here from Ontario three years ago. He is the Managing Director of Century Group Construction, a Director of the Vancouver Island Construction Association and Chair of the Trades and Scholarship Committee.

Anthony hopes to make a positive contribution to the CBA bringing a new resident's perspective to local issues and his development knowledge having worked in construction across Canada.

Jack Colbert: *Planning Chair*



Jack's had an interesting retirement journey. An engineer in the oil business, he's retired three times - first from Shell Canada, then Texaco Canada and finally Imperial Oil. Jack moved from Toronto and has been on the CBA board for five years. Jack has volunteered for Victim Services, has been the President of the Victoria Gizeh Shrine band and is on the board

of a senior's complex. When not volunteering, he can be found golfing, swimming and when time permits doing a little woodwork.

Penny Joppe: *1st Vice-President/Public Relations Chair*



A CBA board member for five years, Penny chairs the Public Relations committee, is co-editor of *The Cordovan* newsletter and administers the CBA's website. She emigrated from England nine years ago after retiring early from a career in sales and education. Penny is also a member of the Cordova Bay Road Subcommittee,

actively involved in Cordova Bay Day and will be helping organize the All Candidates meeting on October 26.

Graham Shorthill: *Traffic Chair (New)*



Graham came to Canada from the U.K. in 1970, moved to Cordova Bay in 1975, built a house and has lived here ever since. In 1976 he attended the first meeting for the Cordova Bay Association when the issue was "What's going to happen at Mattick's Farm?" He helped start the *Friends of Mt. Douglas Park Society*, wrote on park issues for *The Cordovan* newsletter in the

90's and has been an active member of the Cordova Bay Road Subcommittee. Graham is now retired from Camosun College, but still teaches courses in chemistry occasionally.

Pablo Miranda: *2nd Vice-President (New)*



Pablo moved from Edmonton in 2008 and volunteered on the CBA board to "learn more about our community and contribute towards its continued success." He is the Times Colonist's National Advertising Sales Manager, a director on the board of the Capital City Executives Association, a member of the CB Bobcats alumni soccer team, a former CB Soccer Association coach, and a HUGE fan of the CB Mariners Fast Ball team.

Randy Otto: *Membership Chair (New)*



Randy moved to Cordova Bay from Winnipeg in 2006, filling a lifelong dream to live in a comfortable climate, near the water and to enjoy a slower pace of life. Randy owns and operates a number of automotive retail and wholesale businesses from Victoria. He's served on several business and social boards over the years and is also a certified personal success coach and trained hypnotist, a field which he plans to graduate towards as his "retirement career."

David Kuprowsky: *Treasurer*



David has lived in Cordova Bay since 1965 and has seen a lot of change in the community since attending Cordova Bay Elementary and Claremont Secondary schools. He owns and operates a local drywall business. This is David's 11th year on the CBA board and still enjoys being active in the community. When not

working, David can often be found on the local golf courses.

Sylvia Burkhardt: *Director at Large (New)*



A local resident for 32 years, Sylvia has been an avid supporter of preserving the natural beauty of Cordova Bay, while understanding that the area must be vibrant and successful for young families to raise their children. Her early interest in Cordova Bay development started in the 1980's on a subcommittee that looked at walking and biking trails. With a degree in

environmental geography, Sylvia taught high-school geography and history and spent 5 years teaching at a university in Beijing, China.

Shirley Jasperse: *Secretary (New)*



A resident of Cordova Bay for the past eight years, Shirley recently retired from a career with the provincial government, two municipal governments, a university and running her own Records Management consulting business. She's interested in the events affecting Cordova Bay and hopes her organizational and analytical abilities will

assist the Cordova Bay Association. She'd also like to meet more of her neighbors!

Dave Cutler: *Director at Large*



Dave is well-known for his 16 years as a kicker in the CFL, playing on 6 Grey Cup teams. Originally from Saskatchewan, he's been a resident of Cordova Bay for 11 years and is sales and marketing manager with *The Q!* and *The Zone* radio stations. Dave is active on a number of boards including the YM/YWCA and Canadian Sport Centre Pacific. A former high school

teacher and counsellor, Dave can be seen as a colourman on ESPN2 -CFL football.

Our most successful AGM ever!

Mayor Frank Leonard answers questions from the 70 residents who attended the CBA annual general meeting April 20, 2011.



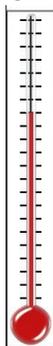
Katie Hennessy with Matthew and Faith Davison from the Cordova Bay Preschool presented CBA President Richard Alexander with a hand-made card thanking the CBA for its recent \$1000 donation.



Click [here](#) for full details on the AGM reports and meeting.

CBA membership

By Randy Otto, Membership



Our membership continues to grow. As of June 20, we have 352 members; 70 percent of our 500 target.

Help us meet our goal, bring a friend to our membership table at [Cordova Bay Day](#) on June 25.

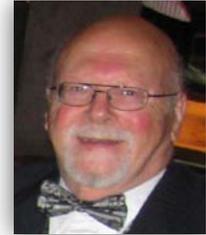
If you have ideas for increasing our membership please contact me at: cba-membership@cbasn.com

CBA salutes Maurice Chazottes

The CBA pays tribute to one of Cordova Bay's outstanding citizens ... Maurice Chazottes.

After a stellar career in journalism, public relations and civic politics, Maurice and wife Daphne moved to Cordova Bay in 1997 where he continued his commitment to community service.

Maurice joined the CBA in 1998 because as a former alderman and mayor of the District of North Saanich, he valued the importance of community involvement. He volunteered to serve on the Planning Committee with Al Insley, and then became a Director in 1999. He took over public relations and became editor of **The Cordovan** newsletter in the summer of 2000. He wrote, edited and produced the newsletter for 10 years - a tremendous contribution to the community.



Early years

Maurice was born in Yorkshire England to a French-speaking family, unusual for the time. Poor eyesight meant he was unfit for army service, but not to be deterred, he volunteered for the Home Guard serving in a Commando anti-tank battalion until the threat of invasion had passed and then transferred to Civil Defense until the end of the war.

Maurice entered journalism in 1945 in England, first in newspapers and then magazines. When he immigrated to Canada in 1957, he was managing editor of *John Bull* magazine, the British equivalent to the *Saturday Evening Post* and *Maclean's*. From 1957-1971 Maurice made his mark in Toronto. He held posts as senior editor with Maclean-Hunter Ltd., vice-president of Tames Advertising Agency and editorial director of Communications Inc. In 1964, he helped launch and was managing editor for *The Medical Post*, a highly successful newspaper for the Canadian medical profession.

Maurice, Daphne and their three children moved to Victoria in 1972. He was chief of Hansard, the official report of debates in the B.C. Legislature before moving to the Ministry of Health as Director of health promotion and information. A transfer to the newly centralized Government Information Services in 1983 as executive director meant Maurice was responsible to approve all government publications, approving and placing all print and TV commercials and the organization of government public relations events.

Retirement was just a start

After retirement in 1985, Maurice began his next career in civic politics and community service. His accomplishments are lengthy: from mayor of the District of North Saanich, to chair of several regional boards including the Capital Regional District Health Board, Greater Victoria Public Library board of trustees, and the Capital Regional District Parks Public Advisory Group for which he received an Eco Star Community Environmental Award. In 2000, Maurice was appointed to the Saanich Police board and served until 2006. He was elected to the executive of the B.C. Association of Police Boards and became president in 2003. Currently Maurice is a trustee of the Royal Oak Burial Park and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of England.

A tribute to you Maurice for a life of hard work, commitment and community service. Thank you from your community.

President's corner

By Anthony Minniti, CBA President



The Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs (CBA) ... over 60 years in the making.

"We have to face the problem of a community growing very rapidly, and suffering from growing pains. A glance at our

modern way of living, impresses upon us the value of organization. Every phase of our existence is bound up in it, business, politics, and society, and the efficiency of the organization, may be a fair index to the progress made in any field. So we ask that you work with us, give us your interest and good will, so that everyone in Cordova Bay will share in the joy and satisfaction of worthy achievement." December 1947: Spindrift Volume I, Number I.

The statement above is from the editorial of the very first newsletter of the Cordova Bay Community Club, from which the current CBA evolved. I'm struck by how remarkably similar the concerns expressed by our predecessors are to those we're experiencing today. Indeed, the fundamental issues we face today within our community remain very much the same as those expressed over 64 years ago: growth, development and the value of organizing together as a community to express our wishes and to achieve our goals.

To this end, I'd like to thank all the people who generously devoted their time and effort last year to better our community. And I wish to heartily welcome all the new members on our Board of Directors who will be contributing their efforts this year.

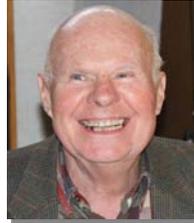
I'd also like to encourage all Cordova Bay residents to get involved in our community. Think about joining the CBA Board of Directors, participate in our various committees, encourage others to become CBA members, get involved in neighborhood watch, write an article for our newsletter or volunteer/participate in our community's important upcoming events:

1. Cordova Bay Day, Saturday, June 25
2. All Candidates Meeting, Wednesday, October 26 for the upcoming November municipal election.

So just like our predecessors did 64 years ago, we ask that you too *"work with us, give us your interest and good will, so that everyone in Cordova Bay will share in the joy and satisfaction of worthy achievement."* Thank you!

Planning update

By Jack Colbert - CBA Planning Chair



Development in Cordova Bay, like most communities in Victoria, has slowed down; however, there are still "in fill" housing applications. Click [here](#) to view the current status of individual applications before Saanich.

Pure Pharmacy and Post Office: we're excited to see the [pharmacy and post office opening](#) as planned. Both will be a welcome addition to the community.

Beach House: the new restaurant and bistro on the McMorran's site is now progressing after a few delays for all the necessary permits from Saanich.

The plans look great and we should see a huge crane moved in shortly to take off the old roof and replace the main beams. All of the old drywall and lighting has been removed and construction work has started in earnest. Owner, Kate Phoenix still plans to open before the end of summer, so we can all enjoy a meal with that spectacular ocean view.

Former Esso station: Imperial Oil spent two weeks in May removing the building and fuel tanks, then adding fill and leveling the ground. The site has been made secure and safe as well as looking much better.



*May 27, 2011
last truck is
loaded with
concrete debris
concluding two-
weeks of site
clean up.*

An Imperial Oil spokesperson told the CBA that the company intends to manage the property as a "non-operating surplus property" and ultimately sell it. This requires an environmental assessment which will begin in the next few weeks. It involves collecting soil and groundwater samples on the property so expect to see a drilling rig to install several monitoring wells.

If there are factors that prevent a sale, Imperial has indicated they would be open to discussing options that could include leasing or licensing arrangements.

Cordova Bay Community Club (CBCC): The directors of the CBCC (badminton club) located on Sutcliffe Road, are still reviewing their options and looking at the possibility of selling the present location and relocating to another site, preferably in Cordova Bay. Greg Abbott, who spoke on behalf of the CBCC at the CBA annual general meeting, said the club is looking for community input on how they can once again become "the social and recreational centre of the community."

Safe boating and life jackets

By Patricia Sparks, Canadian Power & Sail Squadron



If you own a pleasure boat, you have a duty of care to all your passengers and crew. Whether you have your boat

moored in the salt chuck or at the lake, your responsibility remains the same. All passengers on board must have an approved life jacket available for them to wear should the need arise. Are you prepared for friends visiting? Do you have approved jackets for adults and children? What about your children's friends who come visiting for the weekend? All jackets have weight restrictions on them - don't put a jacket that is too small on someone much heavier than it is intended for.

Things to think about regarding insurance if you rent out your cottage and the boat is included: is your boat fully compliant with all the safety equipment included and do you have a plan for rescue readiness? Does the renter have a Pleasure Craft Operator Card? Do you?



Section of sidewalk completed as part of Cordova Bay Road Streetscape Plan from Sunnygrove Terrace looking north up Cordova Bay Road. Mayor Leonard announced approval for final section at the CBA annual general meeting in April.

Transitions and traffic in Cordova Bay

By Graham Shorthill: CBA Traffic Chair



(Click [here](#) for the full transcript of Graham's article posted on the CBA website.)

As regular readers of *The Cordovan* know, with any physical change in the community there comes an associated traffic problem. With several significant projects on the horizon, we can expect traffic issues to be a consistent theme in the future.

The major buzz words for this decade are: "sustainable development" and "livability." For Cordova Bay that means controlling the inevitable increase in housing density and developing a village core to attract residents and reduce the need for car trips to Broadmead and Royal Oak.

Addressing traffic increase and safety issue

In 1997, the CBA played a major role in the development and adoption of the *Cordova Bay Road Streetscape* plan in response to the redevelopment of Mattick's Farm. The plan provided for the redevelopment of Cordova Bay Road from the golf course to Royal Oak Drive. Only a small part of the plan was finished when Mattick's was redeveloped. Due to pressure by frustrated residents in the Claremont to Maxine lane area concerned about the dangerous sections of road, the "Streetscape" plan was dusted off and provided the perfect template to start the process of adding sidewalks, crossings and bike lanes along Cordova Bay Road to combat the estimated 11,000 vehicles which use it daily.

Last section of sidewalk announced

Since then, with consistent pressure from the Cordova Bay Road Traffic Subcommittee, Saanich has completed the installation of several kilometers of sidewalks, bike lanes and pedestrian crossings through a series of mini-projects. Benches have also been installed with the CBA's help through matching grants.

At the CBA's recent annual general meeting in April, Mayor Frank Leonard announced that the funding for the last section of sidewalk (between Haliburton Road and 5110 Cordova Bay Road) has been assigned. Once the transfer of funds has been approved by the province, the project can be completed within a year.

The overall Streetscape plan has been an object lesson in how to launch, fund and complete a large-scale community project. Particular thanks go to Alison Battuello for leading the first half of the process and to Doug Beale for seeing it through to the finish.

What's next for Cordova Bay?

As one project draws to a close, new ones surface. Potential redevelopment of the Cordova Bay Plaza and the former Esso site, plus the ongoing traffic issues at Sayward Road and the Pat Bay Highway need strong community input and realistic plans. Be involved.

Rules of thumb for tree/hedge care

By David Freese, owner/arborist [Bright Tree Care](#)



Spring-becoming-summer is so beautiful here. I love the way the season shifts, a slow inevitable turning from the dark and rainy days of winter to the bright, long days of summer; a few steps forward and then one or two back.

This year the weather has had all of us yearning for a bit more warmth, and the plant world seems to be "behind."

Regardless of the annual variations in our climate pattern, here are a few simple tips for making your tree and hedge maintenance more manageable:

1. Preserve the [natural symmetry](#) of trees and hedges wherever possible. This will minimize storm damage, lower maintenance costs and maximize the beauty of your landscape.
2. Work in tune with seasonal cycles and understand the growth patterns of your trees and hedges. The timing of trimming is crucial and not always intuitive.
3. Look for the root causes of problems. For example, it is often possible to defeat insects by understanding their life cycle, using the least force necessary and focusing on removing underlying long-term sources of plant stress.
4. Reduce overcrowding, wherein no plantings thrive, forcing costly maintenance. Simplicity is beautiful.
5. Heavy trimming promotes a strong reaction. Light trimming has far less impact and brings the best long-term results. Always consider the seasons.



In many cases, the simplest thing to change is your mind. It's more fun to relax into the miracle of plant growth than to insist on continually trying to control nature.

Following these few principles makes landscape maintenance so much easier. You may want to offer ideas of your own; if so, please contact me at: david@brighttreecare.com

Condo and home security

Keep your property safe! Take a few minutes to review the crime prevention tips provided by the Sayward Hill Block Watch groups now posted on the CBA website. Special acknowledgement to: David Conn, Dawn Fyke, Ajit Singh, John Tomchick, Jawl Development and Cst. Petra Dornblut, Saanich Police Block Watch.

Do you know your gems?

By Anthony de Goutière, retired jeweller/gemmologist

There are many new synthetic and treated gemstones on the market these days and the buyer must be aware and beware. A low price is a good indication of a synthetic or treated gemstone.

If you're contemplating purchasing a piece of gemstone-set jewellery, I'd recommend you make your purchase at a well-established jewellery store that employs a fully-qualified gemmologist. And always insist on a written appraisal with detailed descriptions and measurements as well as a photograph of the piece. This document will be invaluable in case of loss or theft.

Synthetic, treated or imitation?

There's a difference between a synthetic or treated gemstone and an imitation gemstone:

- Synthetic gems are manufactured in high-temperature furnaces using the ingredients that make up the real thing. The synthetic gem has many of the physical and optical properties that occur in natural gems, often making them difficult to detect.
- Treated gemstones are natural gemstones that have been heated to alter or improve their colour. Dyes are used to enhance colours and other more sophisticated methods are used to disguise what would be obvious inclusions. A gemmologist is trained to identify the synthetics and imitations.
- Imitation gems are usually glass or plastic and usually not a problem to separate from the natural.

Man-made rubies and sapphires have been around since the 1890s, and these early synthetics quite often turn up in antique and period jewellery.

"There is scarcely anything in the world that some man cannot make a little worse and sell more cheaply. The person who buys on price alone is this man's lawful prey." John Ruskin (1818-1900).



The gemstone shown at the left is a 17.00 carat Zultanite (diaspore). This beautifully cut gemstone is greenish in daylight and orange-brown in incandescent light. It's from a newly discovered mine in Turkey. Colour-change gemstones are rare and command high prices.

Tony working at his microscope, which is designed for gemmological work with built-in dark-field illumination. Fibre-optic pin-point illumination is also often utilized. In this photo, a digital camera is fitted for photographing gemstone inclusions.



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