

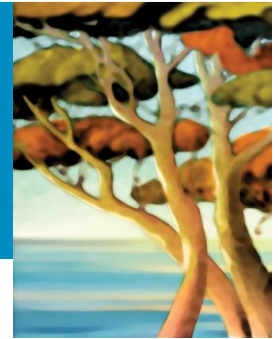
The Cordovan

Summer 2016

Issue 18

Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs (CBA)

www.cbasn.com



Bike Officers in Saanich

In May, the Cordova Bay Association board was pleased to hear from Saanich Officer Niki Hodgkinson who outlined the steps Saanich police are taking to improve bike, pedestrian and vehicle safety on our roads.

Officer Hodgkinson committed to undertaking a proactive road safety blitz on Lochside Drive in the near future and explained more about biking in the municipality.

“Bike Officers are unique in the sense that they are on a bicycle, are more approachable than a patrol vehicle, and the public can easily interact with them. Bike Officers ride the Saanich trails, through parks and patrol residential and commercial areas moving around buildings and obstacles with ease. They can detect criminal activity with a stealth approach and can respond quickly to calls for service.”

“The Bike Officers work closely with the community, listening to their concerns, and together find solutions to the issue. Four police officers are assigned full time to the Bike Section; they work in two person teams and their primary mandate is community engagement. The bike officers dedicate time to attend community events and always look for new ways in building relationships with citizens,” said Hodgkinson.

“If you would like to follow the bike section and see what interactions they have with the community, please follow them on Twitter, @saanichpbikes.”

Cordova Bay Day

By Randy Otto, David Cronkhite, and Debbie Sherwood

Celebrate your neighbourhood and join in the festivities! You won't want to miss Cordova Bay Day, a free, family-friendly celebration for everyone. Mark the date, **Saturday, June 25**, from **11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Lots of fun activities taking place at three locations - Mattick's Farm, St David's by the Sea Church, and the Tru Value Plaza - an easy stroll along Cordova Bay Road.

Many other communities have long given up organizing big outdoor events - too complicated, not enough interest, scarcity of volunteers. Not so in Cordova Bay! This event has been



running continuously for more than 10 years, and keeps growing in popularity. Cordova Bay Day is presented and coordinated by the Cordova Bay Association board. While the event is not intended to be a money-maker, any and all proceeds generated go right back into funding community initiatives.

There really is something for everyone. Check out this line-up: live musical entertainment, bouncy inflatables for kids, face painting, clowns and balloon animals, a collectible car show, fire trucks and a chance to hang out with our friends in emergency services.

How about lunch? Food always tastes better outdoors, doesn't it? There will be lots of food vendors offering summertime treats, popcorn giveaways, and the Red Barn is hosting a 'Barn-B-Q.'

(Please note, these details are correct at time of printing but subject to change.)

Don't forget to visit the 'Marketplace' at St David's where you can browse among local crafters displaying their products, as well as meet with local business owners and community group leaders.

At time of printing, there are a few indoor tables and outdoor spaces left. Only \$25 for the day, and no charge for non-profits. For more information about reserving your space, or for any other inquiries, contact Randy and David at cbamail@shaw.ca See you there, Neighbour!

President's Corner

By Larry Gontovnick, CBA President



I would like to begin my first President's Corner by thanking my predecessor, Anthony Minniti, for very effectively serving as president of our association for the past five years and for kindly staying on with the board to provide his invaluable guidance. I would also like to thank all of my fellow board members who have

decided to continue on the board for another year. I look forward to working with my board colleagues for the physical and social improvement of the Cordova Bay community.

The CBA has a board position open for a Community Relations Director. Although all board members are encouraged to be part of any of the endeavors that the association involves themselves in, each member has specific duties and responsibilities. The board meets one evening per month from September to June and the time commitment varies but is generally 5 to 10 hours per month. If any residents or business owners in Cordova Bay are interested or would like to find out more information, please see the May 2nd news item on the CBA website (cbasn.com) or contact me at cba.president@cbasn.com.

Some of the important projects and issues the CBA board will be dealing with in the upcoming year are:

- Active critique of the Aragon Properties development application for the former Trio lands
- Improvements to the Cordova Bay Road and Haliburton Road intersections with the Pat Bay Highway
- Large boulders on Cordova Bay beach and beach erosion
- Redevelopment of The Plaza and creating an attractive and vibrant village core
- Promoting, along with the Saanich News and Cordova Bay businesses, the new Cordova Bay Community Leadership Awards that recognize volunteers, mentors and community organizations in Cordova Bay

I look forward to seeing all of our members and the entire community at our up-coming 13th annual Cordova Bay Day on Saturday, June 25th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. David by the Sea Church, The Plaza and Mattick's Farm.

Please help us maintain a strong voice for our community by passing this newsletter on to your friends and neighbours and encouraging them to join the CBA.

AGM Report

By Larry Gontovnick, CBA President

Thank you to all who attended the 2016 Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs (CBA) Annual General Meeting on April 20th.

During the meeting, the financial report and brief updates of progress by the CBA over the past year were shared with the 65-person strong audience by directors of the board. Saanich South MLA Lana Popham led a thought-provoking presentation on physician-assisted dying.

Re-elected to the board were: Larry Gontovnick, Anthony Minniti and Barb Lucas. Elected to the board were Colleen Flynn, Mary Lynn Reimer and Gloria Wills.

Attendees were treated to complimentary tea, coffee and delicious treats catered by the wonderful volunteers at the Cordova Bay (CB) 55+ Association. Also, thanks to the CB 55+ Association for the comfortable venue.

Take a look at the fantastic slide presentation from this year's AGM on the CBA website at <http://www.cbasn.com/meetings-and-agm-presentations>.

CBA membership

By Randy Otto, Membership Chair



Are you social media savvy?

If you are on trend with social media, and like to volunteer, the CBA would appreciate your help. We want to increase our presence and engagement with the community, and promote special events like Cordova Bay

Day. If you have a little spare time and are interested in applying your own creative touch to promote your community, please contact Randy Otto, Membership Chair at rfotto@shaw.ca.

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2016 Traffic Report

By Graham Shorthill, Traffic Chair



Pat Bay Highway Summer Paving

There has been no definite news from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure about when paving will begin. In a message from the engineer in charge of the project there has been some push back from the businesses clustered between the highway and Hamsterly; they are objecting to the closure of their direct access to the highway and the issue has not been resolved yet.

Bus shelter at the Plaza

The new shelter is in place and it is a vast improvement on the previous structure.

Developments at Trio

There is a revised plan for the Aragon Development at the former Trio site. The CBA is concerned that traffic flow in and out of the development is going to be a serious issue and the traffic studies that have been done to date are inadequate. Not only is a rigorous traffic study required for this site and the surrounding road network, but we also need a plan for pedestrians and cyclists. In short, we need the next section of the Cordova Bay Road Streetscape Plan. A copy of this document will be posted on the CBA web site. The plan was produced by the municipality and the Cordova Bay Association when Mattick's Farm was under development and subsequently used as the basis for all changes along Cordova Bay Road.

Because of the size of this development, the CBA would like the section from Sayward and the highway to Cordova Bay Elementary School be upgraded to meet the standards laid out in the streetscape plan. When this work is complete, we will have a northern entrance and exit for Cordova Bay which welcomes visitors, slows through traffic and incorporates the needs of the large number of new residents who will live at the corner of Cordova Bay Road and Fowler. We cannot expect the developer to pay for all of the upgrades that are necessary but the development can act as a catalyst for the process.

Lochside

A number of residents from Lochside Drive have complained about the dangers of traveling along

the road due the mix of cars, pedestrians and an increasing flow of cyclists. The heart of the problem is the inadequate road for the current traffic; there are no parking bays so cars park anywhere and that causes all the moving traffic to migrate to the centre of the road where they compete for the black top. That competition has become quite heated particularly between motorists and pedestrians on one side and cyclists on the other.

In response, Saanich Police has designated an officer to oversee how traffic behaves in the area and she will attempt to improve the cycling etiquette of the local groups. In another attempt to improve the situation, the CBA will recommend painting designated parking bays along the road together with a pedestrian walk way. If the traffic can be disentangled, there is some hope of safer and more pleasant travel along the trail for everyone.

Haliburton

This junction with the highway has been a complex and long-standing problem for all forms of traffic flow through the community. The most obvious problem is the long line of cars trying to turn left from Haliburton to go to Victoria. Because the lane is not always cleared of traffic in the space of one cycle of the traffic signals, the traffic backs up Haliburton causing congestion and danger to other users. There are no bike lane and no sidewalks at the moment so people trying to get to and from the highway are in danger.

The highways department is planning to extend the left turning lane from the highway up Haliburton hill to the ridge. In itself, this of little consequence as relatively few people make that turn. However, Saanich Engineering plans to create a side walk and bicycle lanes up the same hill in the next budget year. If we can get a longer lane for turning onto the highway from Haliburton included in these plans, then we might actually make some progress after twenty years of inaction.

All the other issues

As last time, they are alive and well and live on the web site. Given the current budget climate, they will be incorporated into the nearby developments e.g. Trio/Aragon, Doumac, etc. for funding as soon as possible.

The Cordovan is produced and distributed 3 times per year by the Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs. The opinions expressed are not those of the Association Board unless specifically stated.

CBA Says “No” to Latest Aragon Housing Proposal

By Roger Stonebanks

The Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs, responding to a revised and scaled back housing proposal by Aragon Properties for the former Trio industrial site, “does not support the development as currently presented.”

CBA president Larry Gontovnick made the comment after Aragon Properties revised its plan by eliminating the six-storey condos in the north end of the property in favour of single-family houses. This reduced the total number of dwelling units to 330 compared with 385 previously and 440 initially. Three six-storey buildings remain in the plan - two in the southwest corner and one at the entrance opposite Sayward Hill Crescent.

David Roppel, director of planning and development for Aragon Properties, said the changes were in response to input from the community and Saanich and the company is “continuing to work closely with Cordova Bay community groups to get input.”

Gontovnick spelled four issues “alone” for the negative reaction from the CBA:

1. A six-storey building at the entrance opposite Sayward Hill Crescent “is not acceptable to the community” and should not exceed three or four storeys.
2. Angled parking in front of the commercial/residential building “is not acceptable” because it is a potential road safety issue being close to the intersection of Cordova Bay Road and Fowler Road.
3. The arrangement of seven homes in Cordova Bay Road with street front driveway access “is not acceptable” because it “represents a road safety hazard.”
4. The CBA will not comment on the acceptability of the over-all densification of the revised 330-unit plan “until such time as a fully comprehensive traffic study/assessment has been conducted, to demonstrate conclusively that traffic usage of the neighbouring road network is sustainable beyond the build-out period regardless of the development size.”

Gontovnick said the CBA acknowledges that the revised plan “is a partial submission only with further work to follow. The CBA anticipated that other issues will be addressed by both Aragon and Saanich as design work progresses and the development permit is considered.”

The CBA “is committed to ensuring a community-wide acceptable development of the former Trio lands by Aragon Properties Ltd.,” he said.

Aragon Properties bought the 26-acre (10.6 hectares) former Trio Ready-Mix/Trio Gravel Mart site for \$6.1 million from the McLaren family in December 2014. It applied in 2015 for rezoning and a development permit for its housing project.

The CBA provided a comprehensive response to both Aragon and Saanich Planning on Aragon’s September 2015 development application and its recently revised plans. Saanich Planning has expressed similar concerns to the CBA’s in their response to Aragon. Aragon is currently addressing the issues raised by both the CBA and Saanich Planning.

Cordova Bay Has Lost One of its Leaders

By Gwen MacPherson

Daphne Chazottes, passed away on May 9 leaving daughters Delphine and Louise, and son Julian Paul and their families. She also leaves a community who continues to benefit from her leadership.

When Cordova Bay 55+ Association was in its infancy in early 2000, five residents, fondly known as the “Fab Five,” began a search for a facility where programs, activities and socializing could take place. Daphne was one of the “Fab Five” and she became the first president of CB 55+.



Daphne’s late husband, Maurice, had not long retired and had plunged into community activities with CBA and other local government boards. Daphne realized that she wasn’t going to see much of Maurice, so she immersed herself in CB 55+ helping in the search for a home for the group, and planning programs and activities to draw lonely people out of their homes to socialize with neighbours and to make new friends.

Daphne’s background working with the Victoria Volunteer Bureau and as Director of Volunteer Services at Victoria General Hospital, together with her relationship with the Centre on Aging at UVic, served us well. She had connections with people involved in the very activities we were seeking to establish here in Cordova Bay. Saanich Silver Threads and Saanich Volunteer Services were helpful to us at the start, and it was Daphne who made those contacts.

We are grateful for Daphne’s commitment and leadership. She leaves a legacy here in Cordova Bay that has moved on from the “Fab Five” to the “Fab Five Hundred!”

Learning from the Fort McMurray Experience

By Julianne McCaffrey, Cordova Bay Resident and Emergency Preparedness Expert

Many of us watched with horror the videos of people fleeing Fort McMurray with flames licking the shoulders of the roads that served as their escape route. The scope and scale of the fires to the east of us overshadowed the ones in B.C.'s northeast burning about the same time, up near Fort St. John. The fires in B.C. signaled an early start to the 2016 fire season and represented more than double the number of fires that burned through parts of the province last year and scorched an area more than 40 times the 10-year average.

Here in coastal Cordova Bay, we don't think about the prospect of wildfire terrorizing our hamlet, we think of it more as an Okanagan risk, even though the lower island is tinder dry and bracing for a hot and arid summer. Weather has a significant impact on wildfires - in how they start, how aggressively they spread, and how long they burn. The wildfire rating for southern Vancouver Island is currently classified as High Danger, but by late June of last year, the risk rating for Saanich had been elevated to Extreme. What that means is new fires may start easily, burn vigorously and challenge fire suppression efforts. What that means to you is that Cordova Bay is not immune and you should take some steps to help protect your homes and families.

Most wildfires are people caused. An insufficiently doused fire pit, a barbecue placed too close to the home's siding, a carelessly tossed cigarette, or even a house-born fire that spreads to wildfire proportions. Recognizing that fire moves faster uphill, particularly steep hills with winds fanning it from off the water, folks on the Cordova ridge shoulder some distinct risks when there are dense tree stands or dry grasslands to help the fire travel. Fire spreads quickly, sparks and embers can travel up to two kilometers ahead of the flames, and so homes and subdivisions surrounded by lovely wooded areas, as well as the parks and trails we enjoy, require special precaution.

Residents should first and foremost have an evacuation plan and emergency kit packed. Google Prepared BC to find a hub of resources on how to plan and pack for potential disaster. It has guides and guidance for home and condo dwellers, as well as resources for families, neighborhoods, even pets so that you escape with your furry friends.

Simple steps around the home can also reduce the risk, like getting rid of woodpiles stacked up beside the house, pruning tree branches within two metres of the ground and eliminating dried needles and grasses that become surface ignitions. Also carefully

supervising barbecues when in use, moving them a safe distance from buildings and turning them off when not in use. As well as safely disposing of bottles to avoid magnifying the sun's rays and accidentally starting fires.

For more information on fire prevention, fire bans and restrictions, current wildfires of note and more, visit www.bcwildfire.ca

Take the Cordova Bay Challenge!

By Debbie Sherwood



Simply visit the beautiful new and informative sign, located at the spot where Maplegrove Street meets the Lochside Trail near Sunnymead, and answer the questions below for a chance to win a great summertime prize.

The sign is the result of a partnership between the Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs (CBA) and the District of Saanich. On one side is displayed a colourful, easy-to-navigate map, showing trails, parks, and other points of importance in Cordova Bay. On the other side you'll find a concise history of the area and photo illustrations. Impress your neighbours with your knowledge of local history and trivia.



Contest Rules:

- Open to residents and visitors, aged 8 to 108
- One entry per person
- Send your answers to letter-to-editor@cbasn.com by Noon, July 10
- Include your name, address, and telephone number in your email

A winner will be selected randomly among the correctly answered entries. The winner will receive six complimentary passes to Mattick's Farm Mini Golf! Many thanks to Jay Basi for this generous donation.



Contest Questions

1. How many BEACH ACCESS POINTS are on the map?
2. What name did the British Navy give to Cordova Bay in 1846?
3. Complete the names:
 _ E C _ T _ N PARK
 _ E _ _ _ O O _ PARK
 _ G _ T _ PARK

Good luck and have fun!

The Buzz in Business

Welcome to *The Buzz in Business*. This feature brings brief snippets of news from the local business community to the readers.

The Red Barn Market welcomes two new managers to their Mattick's Farm location.

Meet Desiree Medos, Store Manager and Ryan Evans, Grocery Manager. Desiree is not entirely new to Mattick's Farm; she started her career with the Red Barn Market in this location several years ago.

Soon after taking over, the new management team organized a Spring Cleaning to do "a little sprucing up and reorganizing" of the store. While all Red Barn Markets carry some of the same items, each location also caters to the individual tastes of their local customers. Desiree and Ryan conducted a survey last month to poll their customers on the types of products they would like to see on the shelves and improve their shopping experience.

On a sad note, Cordova Bay says good-bye to Beth Crawford, proprietor of the VQA Wine Shop at Mattick's Farm. Beth has sold her license and is leaving the store after 18 years. Beth shares some thoughts in a letter of thanks to the community of Cordova Bay.



"Personally, I feel part of this community - I have learned and laughed with so many of you. Even though many of our encounters are ephemeral - we are familiar to each other - and there has been a trust and friendship that has evolved.

I will miss my store, and I will greatly miss being part of Cordova Bay and the community - this business

would NOT have had the success and longevity if it wasn't for Mattick's Farm and the wonderful people who have supported it all these years. I thank YOU! I have enjoyed exploring and discovering this industry with you. I hope that you will continue to seek out your favorite BC wines - keep an eye on my website - I hope to use it as a tool to direct you to where you can find the wines that we have purveyed.

I have always summed up what we are about with this, meant to sound like a wine descriptor slogan, 'We are knowledgeable, yet not pretentious.... Approachable - with a hint of sass!' Keeping it fun and keeping it real is what I have always been about.

Thanks for the love!"

Beth

Best wishes to you too Beth. You can stay in touch with Beth at her website www.vgawineshop.ca or Facebook, [facebook.com/matticksfarmvqa](https://www.facebook.com/matticksfarmvqa)

Saanich Police Target Noise, Liquor Offenses This Summer

By Chris Harbord, Cordova Bay Resident

Saanich Police is once again focusing enforcement action on two Cordova Bay beaches this summer - Agate Lane and Parker Avenue - as well as others in Saanich, including Balmacarra Road, Hollydene Place and Arbutus Cove Lane.

The department's Targeted Enforcement Duty program helps address liquor-related offences including impaired drivers, liquor violations and noisy house and beach parties. If appropriate, the police will take the necessary enforcement action as outlined in municipal bylaws, provincial legislation or the Criminal Code of Canada.

Between June 3 - September 30, Saanich Police will assign two officers every Friday and Saturday night between 9:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m. to focus on the identified beach areas via vehicle and on foot when required.

While stepped-up enforcement near beaches in the summer isn't a new initiative, the program has been expanded beyond the initial scope of targeting beach parties.

Last year, officers investigated 189 files, a 20% increase from 2014, consisting of 135 noise complaints, 10 other bylaw complaints, and numerous liquor-related offenses.

"The Targeted Enforcement Duty program continues to be of great assistance to the Saanich Police Patrol Division," stated A/Sgt. Jereme Leslie. "As in previous years, Targeted Enforcement Duty Officers took numerous nuisance calls freeing up patrol officers to focus on other responsibilities and high priority calls. The program allows the Saanich Police to continue to provide the highest possible level of service to the community during the busy summer months."

Cordova Bay residents are asked to call Saanich Police at 250 475-4321 if they see suspicious activity. Please continue to call 9-1-1 for emergencies.

We hope you enjoy reading your copy of *The Cordovan*. The next issue will come out in early October.

If you have suggestions for articles, drop us a line at letter-to-editor@cbsn.com

In the meantime, please visit the Cordova Bay Association website www.cbsn.com for news and articles of interest.

Have a great summer everyone!

Business Directory – Support our Local Advertisers

For more information please see the **Business Directory** on CBA's website, <http://www.cbasn.com/directory/>. From there you can visit each business' site with a single click.

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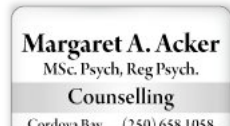
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