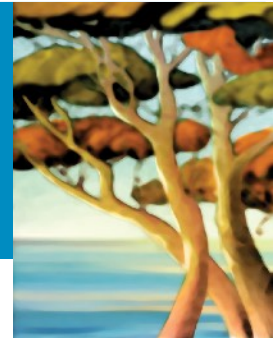


The Cordovan

Fall 2019
Issue 28



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



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We hope you enjoy reading your copy of *The Cordovan*. The next issue will be out in February. If you have suggestions for articles, drop us a line at letter-to-editor@cbasn.com

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

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.

President's Corner

By Larry Gontovnick, CBA President



As reported in the Summer 2019 Cordovan, the Cordova Bay Association, in conjunction with Claremont Secondary School, has established an annual one-time \$500 scholarship intended to encourage a Claremont graduating student who is a resident of Cordova Bay to pursue further education at a recognized BC post-secondary institution. The first such scholarship was awarded in 2019, and we thank Lynda Vallee, former CBA board member and Transportation Committee co-chair, for spearheading this

wonderful initiative.

On behalf of the CBA, I presented the inaugural Cordova Bay Community Award Scholarship to Claremont Secondary School grade 12 graduating student Emma Kapus at the June 26, 2019, Claremont Secondary School Awards Event. Emma grew up, attended school, volunteered, worked and demonstrated good leadership in our Cordova Bay community. We wish Emma much success in university as she pursues a career in nursing.

Dave Mitton stepped down from the CBA board during the summer and I would like to thank Dave for his outstanding contributions to the board, the CBA Transportation Committee, and our community. Joining the board in late summer is Mike Giordano, who takes on the new board role of Events Chair. Mike recently spearheaded CBA's involvement in organizing the recent Federal Election Candidates Meeting at

Claremont Secondary School, along with the Broadmead Area and Blenkinsop Valley Residents Associations. He will also be organizing the April 2020 AGM and June 2020 Cordova Bay Day and is a welcome addition to the CBA board. The current CBA Board of Directors' names, roles and email addresses can be found on the CBA website at www.cbasn.com/board-of-directors/. Please note that feedback and suggestions can be made to the board at any time by email to cba.president@cbasn.com



Cordova Bay Local Area Plan (LAP) Project

By Barb Lucas



Over the summer, District of Saanich staff developed draft LAP policies which were presented to the community Advisory Committee on October 23 for feedback. The draft policies will be presented to the community for feedback in January, 2020 through 3-4 public open houses. Cordova Bay residents will be advised by direct mailout of the dates for these open houses. The policies will be presented to Saanich Council early 2020 for approval.

BACKGROUND:

In 2017, the District of Saanich approved a process and timeline to update all LAPs which will guide growth and future community development for the next 20 to 30 years. Cordova Bay's LAP was last updated in 1998 and, along with Cadboro Bay, are the first two Saanich LAPs to be updated as part of this approved process.

An Advisory Committee comprised of two CBA Board members and 10 residents and business owners from Cordova Bay was established in late January 2018. The AC provides advice and local context to the Saanich staff planning team, support community engagement activities and encourage participation. To date, the committee has met 10 times.

Community engagement and consultation has included a project web page on the Saanich website (ongoing); an online survey; three community visioning open houses; two Village Design workshops and a public presentation of the results; and three additional workshops specifically on traffic, housing/land use, and community amenities/natural areas. All reports detailing results from each of the community engagement processes are on the Saanich website. For all community engagement processes, the CBA Board encouraged resident participation through email notifications to members, Facebook and twitter posts, and notices on the CBA website and bulletin board at Mattick's Farm.

Transportation Report

By Alex Izett

During the first two weeks of November, there were some interesting developments arising out of the Cordova Bay Association delegation presentation to Saanich mayor and council on August 12. That presentation focused on concerns about safety along the Cordova Bay Corridor, and was intended to raise awareness and enhance understanding within council of just some of the traffic threats that our

community experiences daily. (Saanich Council meeting minutes and videos can be viewed online - www.saanich.ca)

Discussion on the night saw council move to have the Administrative Traffic Committee (ATC) review the 2000 Streetscape Action Plan to determine if any updates were needed, to which the ATC responded, "the upcoming Local Area Plan (LAP) has superseded the design of 2000 Streetscape." (The CBA was also told that current traffic volumes had not substantially changed since the inception of the streetscape.) Safety concerns were not addressed by ATC.

More recently however, after direct follow-up with Mayor Haynes and several councillors, communication has opened up, demonstrating a willingness to take a closer look at our concerns. This is seen as a very positive move, and an indication that greater consideration is being given to prioritizing road safety within our municipality. We are encouraged that this engagement could lead to improvements along the corridor, making it safer for all users.

Elsewhere, on the Development Cost Charges front, delays in getting a new bylaw through council continue to frustrate the implementation of the engineering work supposedly designated for Cordova Bay initiatives. Until the bylaw is endorsed by council, there is apparently no certainty on the projects that are included or on the timelines related to cash flow into the DCC program, in turn affecting the scheduling of the projects. While the specifics remain unknown, we remain ever hopeful that this DCC funding (some \$6 million plus) will eventually result in projects being directed to sidewalk improvements, key crosswalk locations and bicycle lanes in our community.

As to the delay to the work at the bottom of the south side of Haliburton, word on the street is that this should commence within the next few weeks!

Notwithstanding, the CBA Transportation Committee remains committed to pursuing safety improvements throughout our community, to mitigate the risks to all road users, particularly pedestrians and cyclists.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS SOUGHT

The CBA Transportation Committee works with the community, municipality and province to resolve issues of concern around transportation in Cordova Bay.

The committee is currently seeking to enlist two or three additional members who are interested in transportation-related matters in our area. CBA members who reside on the "upper reaches" (i.e. the Ridge, Santa Clara, Alderley stretches) would be particularly welcomed.

Applicants should provide a brief bio outlining specific areas of interest and expertise, and e-mail to cba.president@cbasn.com.

CBA Membership

By Neil Swart



Half of all CBA memberships were up for renewal this year. As of October, there were 640 paid up members of the CBA - many thanks to all of those who have renewed. However, about 15% of expired members have not renewed, and the current paid up membership numbers

are down from the 2017 and 2018 year end totals of about 750.

Monthly renewal notices have been going out by email, and those who have not responded will receive a snail-mail follow up later this month. A reminder that members who have not renewed for two years (i.e. those who have not renewed since 2017) will be dropped off our email lists, and will no longer receive notifications about developments or goings on in the community.

If you are one of these members, please be sure to renew today, following the instructions on our website: cbasn.com/membership/, or if you have a question about membership, please feel free to email me at cba-membership@cbasn.com.

The CBA relies on and appreciates the support of the community, and we are here to represent you!

Planning Committee Report

By Ross Marshall and Leif Wergeland



The Haro

A crane is expected to be erected onsite and construction should be underway early in the new year. Phase 1 of the development, consisting of two of the

three buildings, should be complete by spring 2021, with Phase 2 being completed in spring the following year. Condo pre-sales are well underway (over 40% sold) and the commercial units are being marketed for sale or lease. A pharmacy, dentist and orthopedic surgeon are committed as tenants and discussions are ongoing with potential grocery anchor tenants as well as several other interested retail and office groups.

5488 Pat Bay Highway

The developer is still negotiating with Saanich on a few outstanding items for the Development Permit but hopes to have the redevelopment of the Fas Gas site underway early in

the new year. Confirmed tenants include a new gas bar and two drive thru restaurants. A second building with a small retail space is still available for lease.

941 Sutcliffe (Cordova Bay Community Club)

The new design of the development has undergone major changes. It is now proposed to be a larger multi use facility with a more interesting design. Many residents of Cordova Bay are expressing positive interest in this proposed development. Like most development proposals, there is always some concern about density and traffic. The applicant continues to consult with residents.

5229 Cordova Bay Road

The project team for the proposed condo development is awaiting comments from Saanich on the rezoning application submitted in the spring.

Former Trio Lands

The developer has recently received approval on their environmental remediation plan for the property. They now also have Geotech information to help guide placement of the proposed larger multi-family buildings within the master plan of the development. They await the draft Cordova Bay Local Area Plan which should help guide modifications to the master development plan going forward with plans to be in front of council for reading in the new year.

5035 Del Monte Avenue

A public hearing took place on October 22 for the proposed subdivision rezoning which includes creating two additional lots (three lots in total) for single family dwellings.

986/990 Doumac Avenue

The developer has revised their plans for the proposed condominium/apartment project to now include 17 units over four storeys. They hosted an open house with more details on the project on October 23. The CBA sent an announcement to members inviting them to attend.



Cordova Bay Day Car Show

By Randy Otto and the CB Day organizing committee

Amidst the backdrop of great live music and delicious food, this year's Cordova Bay Day boasted our biggest car show yet.



Over 30 proud owners brought their restored and original collector cars, hot rods, electric cars and police vehicles to the Cordova Bay Elementary parking lot. Hundreds of

people passed through and mingled with the owners who answered questions and loved to talk about their cars.

Ballots were distributed for the people's choice awarded to the most popular car and the finalists were:

- A matte grey Charger police cruiser displayed by Saanich Police
- A 1960 Concourse winning Corvette owned by Jim Sloan
- Sheena Pennie's Tesla Model S
- A 1959 Triumph TR3 recently acquired by Mark Hedger
- A 1903 Waverley replica converted to electric, built and displayed by Gary and Sybil Kangas
- And the winner, a 1965 Mustang GT owned and restored by Linda and Ray Powell.

Thanks to the Cordova Bay community for supporting Cordova Bay Day. We hope this exciting event continues for many years to come. Volunteers are essential to keep it going so anyone interested in helping next year can contact Mike at mr.michaelgiordano@gmail.com.



From the Archives

The Cordovan Naturalist, originally printed January, 1979

Winter in Victoria thankfully doesn't mean the end of good birdwatching or enjoyment of the out-of-doors. Next time you step out to survey the progress of snowdrop, anemone or daffodil shoots in the garden, listen and look for some of our feathered friends that stay with us all winter, cheering gray days with their calls and activities.

A large flock of Pine Siskins is ranging the Cordova Bay area. They flit from alder to alder in a tight swarm, constantly chattering. We saw the whole group in early December down behind the shopping center, and have observed smaller flocks on top of the ridge.

The Siskin is a small finch with a yellow wing stripe and heavy streaking all over. Besides eating seeds, catkins and buds of alder, it feeds in conifers and birches. Siskins range across Canada and from Alaska to Guatemala.



In contrast to the Siskin's free-feeding habits, the Dark-eyed Junco feeds on the ground and is a common visitor to feeding stations. An easy bird to recognize, it has a distinctive "hangman's" black hood and flashy white outer tail feathers. Its vocabulary consists of a variety of soft chips and trills. Juncos feed mainly on weed seeds, and at the feeder, enjoy millet but ignore sunflower seeds. Though common in winter, usually in loose flocks of up to twenty birds, only a few remain to nest in our area. During the summer most birds are at higher elevations ranging to the sub-alpine. Migration is mainly altitudinal, their seasonal pattern being a case of up and down, rather than north and south.

We have a constant reminder of summer in the vicinity of Piedmont Drive. A few Townsend Warblers seem to have taken up residents for the winter. Usually insect-eating birds head south to gentler climes, but a few hardy ones like chickadees, kinglets and nuthatches remain. It is with a flock of these forest birds that the yellow and black Townsend's Warblers are found. Unfortunately, their habits keep them high up in the conifers where few can see them. The best way to locate these elusive beauties is by knowing their soft metallic "chip." The warblers survived that last cold windy spell so there is a good chance they will remain here all winter. Personally, California or Central America where the rest of their kind winter has great appeal for us on this winter's day.

Good birding and best wishes, Mike and Teresa Shepard

Cordova Bay Day 2019

By Larry Gontovnick

The Cordova Bay Association was proud to organize and sponsor the 16th annual Cordova Bay Day this year on Saturday, June 22. This annual event gets more popular every year with residents, friends, and visitors celebrating the beginning of summer in our wonderful neighbourhood. This year as with most years, the weather was ideal and people roamed up and down Cordova Bay Road from 11 am to 3 pm to check out the activities at four venues.

At St. David's Church, we had an inflatable play structure for the children which was sponsored by Lana Popham, vendors and display tables with crafts and information both inside and outside. BBQ hot dogs, pretzels and strudel were served by the Victoria German School, an ice cream truck served frozen treats, and loads of free popcorn was given out. The CRD Water Station and Educational Station provided refillable water bottles and municipal water. Live music made the atmosphere even better as a flute ensemble played all through the day.



At the CBA membership table, 50 new and renewed memberships were entered into a draw and the lucky winners were Ed and Linda Boomars, who won a lovely gift basket courtesy of IDA Cordova Bay Pharmacy.

For a short while, a Saanich Fire pumper truck was on display in front of the IDA Cordova Bay Pharmacy. The new Sales Centre for The Haro was also open at the IDA Pharmacy location.

A couple of blocks down the road a collector car show was held in the parking lot of Cordova Bay Elementary / 55 Plus Assn. For a full description of this car show, see the story by Randy Otto in this Cordovan.

Further up the strip at Mattick's Farm, the Red Barn featured their well known Barn-B-Que selling hamburgers and hot dogs. Mattick's had live music, as



well as displays and demonstrations by some of their merchants.

Cordova Bay Day is not a fund-raising venture as no revenues are earned with the exception of some donations. The Cordova Bay Association funds this event and the expenses necessary for the enjoyment of the community. The CBA organizers plan to continue this tradition and we invite members who wish to become involved to contact any CBA Board member.

Special thanks to these supporters: St. David's Church, Mattick's Farm, Cordova Bay 55+ Assn., Cordova Bay Elementary, IDA Cordova Bay Pharmacy, Anthony Minniti and family, CBA Board Members, Lana Popham, Rick Whalley, Randy Otto and family, Anita Kess, Carol Burman, David Cronkhite, Victoria German School, Saanich Fire, Saanich Police, CRD Water Conservation, and Ford and Friends Car Club.



Winter is Coming – Are You Ready?

By Debbie Sherwood



February, 2019 - Photo by Sharon McMoran

One day we'll look back on the Winter of 2019 and marvel how we managed to get through it.

"Yes, children, really! Without power, there was no router, and no WiFi!"

We may or may not be hit with another blizzard in the coming months, and though our friends in other parts of Canada think we've got it easy, winter on Vancouver Island does have its perils.

Consider these tips to prepare yourself and your home.

Now is a good time to locate your boots and shovel, and have them handy. For icy stairs and walkways, sprinkle rock salt, sand or even clay-based kitty litter to prevent falls, (although salt can damage lawns and plants). If you do opt for rock salt, stock up early.

Check the exterior of windows and doors for cracks; caulk to seal them and prevent air leaks. Repair and replace weather stripping around doors and windows.

Clean gutters and downspouts, clear them of leaves and moss and make sure they're draining properly. When temperatures plunge, you don't want ice to form in them. Shut off and drain sprinkler systems, disconnect hoses, and drain outdoor faucets. Cover outdoor furniture.

Have your furnace checked and change the filter. Check that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly, and insert fresh batteries.

Wild winds are inevitable, so you can take precautions to avoid or minimize damage. Look around your home for loose branches on trees, especially ones that extend over hydro lines. Move planters to the sheltered side of your home to prevent them toppling in a gust.

Power outages occur every year, sometimes briefly, or they can last several days. Do a regular audit on your

emergency supplies, food and water. Don't forget food for pets, and a manual can opener. Refill prescription medications before you run out.

When a storm is a-brewin', it's a good idea to fill your car with gas, charge up your cell phone. Then hunker down with a hot drink and a good book.

For more information to prepare for everything from emergencies to minor disruptions, visit the Saanich website www.saanich.ca/EN/main/community/emergency-program.html



Dark-eyed Junco

What's on the CBA Website

Have you checked in on the CBA website lately? www.cbasn.com/

You'll find a treasure trove of valuable information for residents and visitors. The website is updated continually by Gloria Wills, the CBA's Community Services Chair, and it's your most up-to-date source for what's happening in our community.

Read up on news and events, and follow planning and traffic developments. Discover how to support local businesses or locate CBA board members. The website contains many links to other useful sites, from community grant applications to how to prepare for an emergency. You can find back issues of the newsletter, and even archived material as far back as 1947. It's like having the entire contents of a neighbourhood library at your fingertips.

If you haven't already done so, bookmark the CBA website on your favourite device, and check it often.

Any suggestions are welcome to make the website more useful to residents. You can contact Gloria directly at Gloria Wills, g_wills@telus.net

Business Directory – Support our Local Advertisers

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

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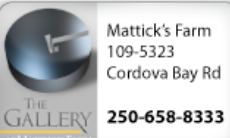
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