

The Cordovan

Summer 2021
Issue 32

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



TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As representatives of the Cordova Bay Association, we acknowledge the WSÁNEĆ and Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory our community was built, and offer our respects to their ancestors who were living at the village of TEL IŁĆE at the time of the South Saanich Treaty of 1852.

We recognize that the treaty charted out a relationship with the WSÁNEĆ and Lekwungen peoples that we are hoping to continue to develop today and into the future.

(Courtesy of Dr. Brian Thom, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology UVic January 2021)

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CBA 2021 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

By Alex Izett, CBA President

It is my pleasure to announce that the recipient of this year's Community Award Scholarship is Akash Dhillon. Akash is a Grade 12 graduating student at Claremont Secondary School, who is now set on pursuing his academic goals at the University of Victoria studying Social Studies.

The Award Certificate, together with a cheque for \$500, was presented to Akash mid-June. Unfortunately, with the ongoing COVID restrictions on gatherings, there was no graduation ceremony to allow the handover in person.

Growing up in Cordova Bay, and when not at school, Akash could be found on the local soccer fields, initially playing with Saanich Fusion, and then Lakehill and Island Fire, and went on to share his passion for the beautiful game by coaching and refereeing in the community.

Akash is also an active member of Apna Virsa, a south Asian cultural association where dance plays a prominent role in the development of the Indian youth of the Greater Victoria community. He performs as both a student and teacher of dance; demonstrating leadership by example for multiple generations taking pride in their heritage.

The Cordova Bay Scholarship Award was first introduced in 2019 in partnership with Claremont Secondary School. This annual award is a 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 B.C. post-secondary institution.

Congratulations, Akash! The Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs wishes you every success as you enter your 1st year at UVic, and all the best in your future endeavours.



President's Corner

By Alex Izett, CBA President

The 2021 Annual General Meeting conducted over Zoom on April 28th proved to be yet another success, with active member participation from a good cross-section of our community. The re-election of returning board members was pleasing to record, as was the first-time election of three new members: Anna Hakim, Perry Fanthorpe and Karen Fediuk.

On behalf of the board, I welcome Anna, Perry and Karen and look forward to reaping the benefit of their undoubted talents in the coming years. (See more on our new members in the following pages.)

With the progressive BC/Covid Restart Plan entering Step 3 on July 1, we are excited at the prospect of life returning to a more normal state. The success of the provincial vaccination program provides for a greater degree of relaxation of the restrictions previously imposed across many fronts and allows for a gradual return to “live” gatherings with family & friends. With provincial borders opening up across the country, the opportunity for vacation travel is quite timely.

From a CBA perspective, we are also hopeful that in-person board meetings will recommence in September, subject to provincial health guidelines and the CB55+ Centre Covid-19 reopening plan.

These improved measures of course came just too late for us to organize Cordova Bay Day, however our re-energized communications strategy team are actively pursuing other opportunities for some fun start-up events. Enhanced community engagement remains at the forefront of the “action plan” to which this committee is committed.

On that note, I’m delighted to note the contributions to this edition of *The Cordovan* from within our community; it would be remiss of me not to recognize, and thank, Anita Kess (Doris Page Park Renewal Concept), Kelly Insley (First Nations Ceremonies in the Bay), and our Claremont student journalist Ruby Enns (What’s At The Beach).

Also being recognized in the newsletter is Akash Dhillon, a Claremont graduate and recipient of the 2021 CBA Community Award Scholarship. Congrats Akash!

A steady stream of rezoning/development applications continues to flow out of Saanich Municipal Hall; however no further news on the future of our Local Area Plan Update, wherever that is headed. The situation continues to languish awaiting comments from Saanich Advisory Committees, including the Mayor’s Standing Committee on Housing Affordability and Supply. It is

anticipated that it will eventually go in front of council for approval to send to a public hearing, although most likely not before the Fall of 2021. Meanwhile there is growing concern across the district arising out of council’s decision around the controversial 11-storey Doral Forest Park (Elk Lake Dr.) development.

Similarly, there’s been no update on the Saanich MVA/speed reduction pilot project other than to recognize the change to 30 km/h down from 40 km/h. A further revision to have this pilot project look beyond “residential” streets would also be welcomed. Meantime, you’ll have noticed that there’s been no change to the excessive speeding that continues to plague our roads.

It was troubling to hear of the recent spate of thefts from automobiles up on the Ridge area. Saanich Police did a great job in apprehending the culprit. The subsequent release of a SPECIAL CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN was widely circulated by the CBA to help ensure residents are taking precautions to avoid theft from vehicles.

There’s further positive news from Saanich Engineering with regards to the Cordova Bay Road Sidewalk Improvement Project. The Request for Proposals for a consultant to complete the detailed design and conduct construction supervision for the project has now been posted. The schedule for the project now reflects construction beginning in the second half of 2022. Regarding the planned installation of the porta-potti facility at Agate Park, Parks has advised that they are hopeful that we’ll see this in place by the end of July. Visitors to our beautiful beach are bound to welcome this added convenience.

Being that it is summertime, the board will be taking a well-earned recess over July and August. Any matter arising will be dealt with ad hoc, either by e-mail or by the convening of a special meeting as appropriate. Enjoy yours, wherever you choose to spend it.

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

In the meantime, please visit the Cordova Bay Association website www.cbsan.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.

Planning Committee Report

By Annie Djiotso and Mike Giordano

Welcome to Your Planning Report



Our beautiful community continues to grow, and we could not be prouder to see the level of engagement from Cordova Bay residents.

Cordova Bay remains one of the most vibrant communities in Saanich, with a total of 24 development projects, some of which are still being planned, and some that are fully underway.

The Haro is turning into a fantastic looking complex. You may have noticed most offsite road improvements have been completed, relieving recent traffic congestion in front of the site on Cordova Bay Road. Residents may also have seen that a median has been installed, calming traffic. There is however still concern over the location of the access ramp to the underground parking area and its proximity to the road entrance to Cordova Beach Estates. Additionally, consistent with previous correspondence from the CBA to Saanich Planning and Saanich Engineering, the CBA recommends lights controlling traffic from all 3 directions, particularly to facilitate movement in to/out of Doumac. Such an arrangement would then support a crosswalk in both directions; to cross north/south at the Doumac intersection, and also to traverse Cordova Bay Road east/west.



Construction is moving along at a brisk speed. There are only three units left in Phase I (2 buildings on the east property line along Cordova Bay Road). Expected move in date for Phase I (residential) is November 1, 2021. Phase II (larger building on the west end of property) is well underway, and the concrete for the ground level commercial is nearing completion. Phase II is 50% sold out (residential) and occupancy is scheduled for June 2022. CBA has been informed by the developers that there is still no grocery store tenant secured at this time.



Aragon, also known as the Trio Lands at Cordova Bay, has the vision to convert what was traditionally a gravel pit into a low-medium density development. At this time, the contaminated soil is

being removed from the site for disposal at an approved facility and clean fill is being deposited to restore grades. The haul route as required by Saanich is to be Highway / Sayward / Fowler / Cordova Bay Road. Aragon has impressed upon their workers to respect the speed limits and to keep the streets clean.

The 5229 Cordova Bay Road development application is awaiting reading and final adoption by Saanich. They are currently performing geotech drilling for preliminary investigation to provide site conditions and move forward with final planning. Construction is scheduled to start in early 2022. Approval has been previously granted from Saanich to rezone from C9 (Local Service Station) to mixed use zoning to construct a 4-storey building with 20 residential units over commercial.

The Rezoning/Subdivision Application for 5185 Del Monte was approved at a public hearing on June 15th. The project is to rezone from A-1 (Rural Zone) to create one RS-12 (Single Family Dwelling Zone) and two RS-10 (Single Family Dwelling Zone) bare land strata lots, resulting in a total of three lots.

Saanich Planning Corner: What happens when you submit a Rezoning and Subdivision application?

All property owners within 90 meters of the subject property will receive notification by mail from Saanich Legislative Services (Clerks) department. However, the public notification occurs only when council decides to forward the application to a public hearing. Not every rezoning application that goes to council goes to public hearing.

Rezoning applications go to council for a first appearance. At that council meeting, councillors can do several things, including send the applicant back to the drawing board. If they feel there is merit in the application (not that they support it, but if appropriate to do so) they can forward it on to a public hearing. Though the public can still make comments at the earlier council meeting, it is at the public hearing that the rubber really hits the road, and that is the public's best chance to make their views known (or "virtually", during the pandemic) to council.



Public Hearing

Until next time, stay safe and healthy,

Annie & Mike

Outcome of AGM Motions from the Floor

By Barb Lucas, CBA Secretary

At our Annual General Meeting on April 28, 2021, there were two motions put forward from the floor. Both these motions were tabled in order for the CBA Board to research, discuss and reach a decision. The Board also committed to letting members know the outcome of these decisions.

We encourage all residents to check out the CBA website as we continue to post more information there! www.cbasn.com

The first motion was as follows:

Motion: That CBA look into creating a CBA Parks & Beach Committee.

CBA Decision:

The Board recognizes that Cordova Bay parks and beaches are an important aspect of everyone's feeling of good livability and community. One of the newer board members, Annie Djioisa, is on Saanich's Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee, and through her, the board will get updates on the direction of that committee, and will have input from CBA's side, representing resident concerns.

At this time, the board will consider how parks and beaches could be managed under an existing CBA committee. This likely will be the current Transportation Committee, which has as one of its listed responsibilities -

- Addresses all road safety matters, such as traffic (volume and speed), bus transit, pedestrian sidewalk and crosswalks, and the CB trail network.

Parks, trails, and beaches are all linked, so it would make sense to include it here. CBA has a new board member taking on the Transportation Committee, Anna Hakim, and will be looking at incorporating parks and beaches as part of the responsibilities of the committee.

The second motion was as follows:

Motion: That CBA post all minutes to the website.

CBA Decision:

Based on the board's current steps towards more community engagement, transparency, and our goal to give our members and community a better understanding of what it is that CBA does, we will be posting approved board meeting minutes on the website, commencing with May 2021.

The link to the board meeting approved minutes is www.cbasn.com/meetings-and-agm-presentations/

The AGM minutes are already posted on the website.

First Nations Ceremonies in the Bay

A letter to the CBA Board

Just a heads up to all Cordovans who share our beautiful Bay.

Over many years, local Indigenous people have performed ceremonies including fasting, drumming, praying and singing for up to a few days along CESTEUWEC (Cordova Bay in Xwsenəəč (WSÁNEĆ)). Some of these ceremonies are on behalf of Elders who can not participate, and not just from WSÁNEĆ but from other communities across the country.

The police are well aware and supportive of the ceremonies. I've seen them come visit and bring supplies even in the wee hours of the morning.

Unfortunately, someone called the fire department mid-morning to report a ceremony. The fire department did not realize it until they arrived. They will be connecting with Saanich Police to make sure there is continuity between the two departments.

There are a lot of ceremonies going on at present to help process the grief from finding the unmarked graves of the children.

One of the Indigenous persons is a well-respected educator for the schools (including Claremont) on Indigenous culture and involved with the formal Truth and Reconciliation documents etc. He is a well loved member of the community.

One year, some neighbours saw an eagle fly down and sit on a log behind the ceremonial drummer! We are so very lucky to have the opportunity to witness the ancient ceremonies of our First Nations people.

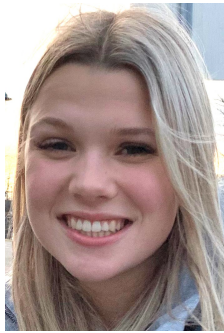


At this time, given the weight of the discoveries and out of respect for our local Indigenous people. I hope we can honour them with kindness, and respect their space and privacy during ceremonies.

Thank you all,
Kelly Insley, RN
Cordova Bay Resident

What's At The Beach?

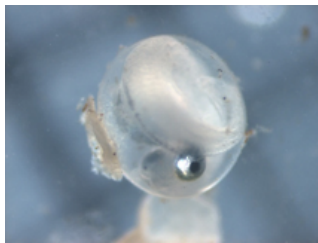
Ruby Enns, Claremont Secondary School Student



Did you know that forage fish eggs are vital to our ecosystems and can be found on our local beaches? The IGS 12 class (Institute for Global Solutions) at Claremont Secondary School has been working on a partner project with Brian Koval from Peninsula Streams to examine local beaches for these fish eggs and develop conservation strategies. The IGS program at

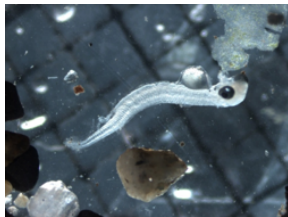
Claremont attracts students who are passionate about global issues and creating a sustainable future for everyone, particularly in our local community.

So, it was very fitting for them to partner up with Peninsula Streams, a local organization whose goal is to “achieve healthy aquatic habitat that supports self-sustaining populations of native species in both freshwater and marine environments.”



Close-ups of forage fish eggs under the microscope

This project consisted of the students travelling to two different spots on Cordova Bay Beach to collect sand samples and examine them under a microscope in hopes of finding forage fish eggs. These eggs can be found in the sand because their mothers lay them in high tide. It is important that we protect them since they play an important role in the marine food chain. In the areas where these eggs



were found, the students then worked towards developing conservation strategies, so that the eggs can be protected during spawning season.

This project was a positive experience for the students because it helped them become more aware and eco conscious of their surroundings when spending time at the beach, a popular spot for Claremont students. Even though we can't see them, knowing that these eggs are in fact there helps us to make smarter choices such as not burrowing holes in the rocky parts of the beach and not letting your dog do so either, as these types of actions can disturb the nest. Kaitlyn Fradette, a grade 12 student who plans to study Earth and Marine Sciences at UVic next fall, is grateful for this opportunity because it was “exciting and interesting to learn about what might be in store for [her] future education.”

Doris Page Park Renewal Concept: An Accessible Native Plant Interpretive Trail

The following article was written by and submitted to the CBA by local resident Anita Kess.

With the CBA's endorsement, the concept was subsequently presented to Saanich Parks with a view to possible Community Parks collaboration under the District's “Pulling Together” program.

Unfortunately, at this time, Saanich is not in a position to support such an initiative, partly because of COVID-19 restrictions, and also because Saanich is still engaged in developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the W̱SÁNEĆ Leadership Council (WLC).

Saanich Parks has informed CBA that any additional park improvements to be undertaken in Cordova Bay would require further discussion with the WLC. As Saanich moves through the MOU process, district staff have committed to sharing this initiative with the WLC, and to exploring future possibilities.

The CBA is hopeful that this topic will rise again, and that the community may be able to move forward on this special initiative.



1. Vision

In keeping with Doris Page's love of native plants, and in the spirit of reconciliation, to develop an accessible native plant interpretive garden and trail in Doris Page Park that will increase interest in the park, restore the area, and bring awareness of the importance of native plants to Indigenous forebears as well as to the contemporary environment.

2. Overview

a. Current Situation

The upper park currently has a picnic site and interpretive signage, but the lower park is underutilized and often empty, which can create opportunities for litter and mischief. The lower part of the park is neglected and is becoming overrun by invasive plants that are threatening the health of large native trees. A large number of poisonous, invasive daphne (spurge laurel) are taking over the understory.

b. Educational Opportunities

The development of a native plant trail that thematically connects the lower and upper parks would provide educational opportunities for the general public, but especially for Tsawout youth, students at Claremont, Lochside and Cordova Bay schools, as well as other schools in the Saanich district and beyond. Providing a native plant focus for the park would increase use and add value.

c. Indigenous Heritage

There is currently no free public site in Saanich that showcases the traditional cultural value, as well as the ecological value, of native plants and offers an opportunity for the wider public to gain an appreciation of the vast ethnobotanical knowledge that Indigenous ancestors developed. It would also serve to showcase the depth of knowledge developed by the Tsawout nation and remind visitors that this territory has been continuously inhabited, studied, and utilized for thousands of years.

A native plant garden exists at HCP, but it is not free for the public. A free public interpretive garden would ensure that everyone would have access to this important biological and cultural legacy. The expertise gained by HCP in developing their garden could be very useful in avoiding pitfalls in the development of a native plant trail at Doris Page Park.

d. Diverse Low-Impact Users

A native plant trail would attract a diverse group of relatively quiet, low-impact users to the park, most of whom would be local residents, and many of whom would arrive on foot or bicycle owing to the park's proximity to the Lochside corridor.

e. Enhanced Recreational and Cultural Value

A partnership between CBA, Saanich, Tsawout, and other interested community stakeholders could result in a project that would provide enhanced recreational value to the community and increase respect for Indigenous history and ways of knowing - as well as creating greater understanding of the biological and cultural heritage of Saanich among the partners and the broader community.

f. Cost/Timing

This project should be reasonably inexpensive considering its impact, and it can be completed in phases so that funding and resources can be brought on line as needed.

It should not require any expensive hardscape elements. The project calls for minimal heavy equipment use, if any.

It would be ideal if some of the work of invasive plant removal could be done by volunteers from the

community. Further, it is possible that new native plant material could be moved from development sites by volunteers in the Saanich Native Plant Salvage group, meaning minimal outlay for plant material.

The signage costs will probably be reasonable, and an estimate of that cost could probably be obtained from the HCP as they have recently completed a similar project.

3. Possible Partners

- Saanich Parks
- Tsawout First Nation
- Cordova Bay 55+
- Claremont School
- Cordova Bay Elementary
- Lochside Elementary
- Saanich Native Plant Salvage Group
- Haliburton Organic Farm Society
- Horticulture Centre of the Pacific
- Art Knapp Nursery
- Saanich Native Plants

4. Possible Organizational Tasks

- Identify partners and stakeholders
- Liaise with partners and stakeholders to develop a clear vision
- Get any necessary approvals
- Discover sources of funding
- Create timeline and apportion responsibilities
- Review ongoing work and check in with stakeholders/partners
- Publicize changes to the park and celebrate the achievements

4. Possible Development Tasks

- Remove invasive daphne and ivy (volunteers? students?)
- Inventory existing native plants / micro climates/ habitats to assess need for new plantings (Tsawout/Saanich/HCP?)
- Plan/ carry out any changes to grade, location, width and surface material of existing trails to enhance accessibility (Saanich)
- Replant appropriate areas with native species (volunteers?, students?, Saanich?)
- Liaise with Tsawout First Nation re: traditional plant names and uses
- Liaise with Tsawout First Nation to design interpretive signage for above
- Install interpretive signage
- Organize publicity for opening of renewed park

Meet the CBA Board of Directors

Community engagement is a key element of the CBA's outreach; two-way communication is vital to the health of the association. We encourage your feedback on matters of mutual interest. Please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can start with a note to cba.president@cbsn.com, which will be forwarded to a board member to continue the conversation.



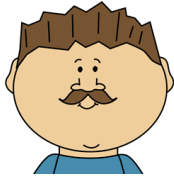
President
Alex Izett

The CBA president is responsible for overseeing the affairs of the association, supporting all other committee directors in their respective capacities as and when required. The president is the primary link to the District of Saanich, making representation to Staff and Council when appropriate.



1st Vice President and Website Administrator
Gloria Mills

With my many years of board experience, as VP I can support Alex in his role as President. I also manage the CBA website. I hope our residents find value in the website, and if something needs updating, let me know.



2nd Vice President
David Kuprowsky

I am the CBA representative to the Saanich Community Association Network (SCAN). The members of SCAN meet regularly to exchange information and experiences that can lead to creative and proactive solutions to issues affecting our communities.



Secretary
Barb Lucas

CBA minutes and meeting schedules are posted on the CBA website, but feel free to contact me if you have questions.



Treasurer
Karen Fediuk

As treasurer, I am responsible for keeping full and accurate financial records, and ensuring all the bills are paid.



Membership and Advertising
Neil Swart

If you're not already a CBA member, ask me about the 10 Great Reasons to Join. If you own a business in this community, you can talk to me about how the businesses and residents support one another.



Planning Committee
Annie Djitsa and Mike Giordano

We are the board's point of contact and developer liaisons for all planning-related issues in Cordova Bay. Planning and rezoning information can be found on the CBA website, but if you have questions, let's talk.



Events Chair
Perry Fanthorpe

I'm ready to see community activities resume and I look forward to receiving input on ideas. If you would like to volunteer at an event, drop me a line.



Public Relations
Brock Nordman

If you think of ways to make our community more connected, we want to hear from you. I also want to know:

What does it mean to live Cordova Bay?
What's your favourite street in Cordova Bay? Favourite walks in the area?

Got a good joke? (or a good pun) I want to hear it.



Transportation Committee
Anna Hakim

I'm excited to serve the community and interested in your thoughts and concerns around local transportation (all kinds) and safety.

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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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