The Cordovan

Spring 2023 Issue 37



Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs (CBACA) www.cbaca.ca

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As representatives of the CBACA, 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,IŁĆ 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)

CONTACT US

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER By Barb Lucas

Welcome to the Spring 2023 issue of *The Cordovan*! The Board of the Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs (CBACA) is very excited to have this issue delivered to every household in Cordova Bay, something that has not been done since going digital in 2009. We hope to continue this at least once per year. You can also find all past issues of *The Cordovan* on the website, *www.cbaca.ca*, as far back as 1947. It's been going that long!

With so many new families now living in Cordova Bay, the board felt it was time to reach out to everyone, let our community know that, first, there *is* a Cordova Bay community association, and second, what it's all about. In a nutshell, the CBACA is a member-based organization whose objective is "to work for physical and social improvement in the Cordova Bay community." It is governed by a group of 11 volunteers, elected or re-elected to the board by the membership at the AGM each April.

continued on page 2

CORDOVA BAY DAY 2023

Gloria Wills, CBACA 1st Vice-President and Website Administrator

The Cordova Bay Association is proud to organize and host the annual Cordova Bay Day in June of each year. The event is held primarily at St. David's Church on Cordova Bay Road, along with activities at Cordova Bay Elementary School, IDA Pharmacy, Mattick's Farm, and in prior years, at the Plaza, now The Haro.

continued on page 3



President's Corner, continued from page 1

Let me introduce you to the board.



Barb Lucas President and Secretary / president@cbaca.ca

Gloria Wills 1st Vice President and Website Administrator / website@cbaca.ca



David Kuprowsky 2nd Vice President and SCAN Representative / scan@cbaca.ca

Karen Fediuk Treasurer / treasurer@cbaca.ca







Mike Giordano and Ellie Willing Planning Co-Chairs / planning@cbaca.ca

David Chater Transportation and Parks / transportation@cbaca.ca







Perry Fanthorpe and Anna Hakim Membership and Advertising Co-Chairs / membership@cbaca.ca, advertising@cbaca.ca





Vacant Events / events@cbaca.ca

Community organizations, and especially this one, are formed to give voice to residents in areas that matter, such as transportation, parks, changes and improvements to the build environment. A recent example to demonstrate this: in November a board member spoke to Saanich Council, on behalf of CBACA, to obtain clarification and express concern about the District's interim building heights policy. More about membership and the importance of growing our numbers to boost its influence in front of the District of Saanich later in this issue.

CBACA offers ways to find out what's happening in the community and promote opportunities for engagement. Members receive advance notice of all candidates meetings in election years, and invitations for events such as a recent speaker series forum on fraud prevention and education.

I urge you to visit and bookmark CBACA's website to stay on top of events in the community. On the home page, you'll see other initiatives CBACA organizes such as awarding grants to worthy recipients, and the popular fun festival Cordova Bay Day hopefully making its return after a three-year Covid-19 absence.

In this newsletter you will read about the areas that each board member is responsible for. Some areas have sub-committees which draw on the assistance and expertise of other community members in furthering the goals of that committee. Many, many thanks to all current board and sub-committee members for their commitment to making our community a great place to live, work and play.

There is currently one vacancy on the board and plenty of opportunity to participate in other ways. If you are considering getting involved, I would be happy to meet with you, discuss your interests and what kind of time commitment you might expect.

This issue would not be possible without the financial support of our local business advertisers. Some businesses have been here for ages and some are brand new; our sincere thanks to all those in this, the first direct mail drop issue in 14 years. Please support our local businesses! They are at the heart of making Cordova Bay such a wonderful livable, walkable community.

I hope you enjoy reading *The Cordovan*. We have tried to make it as informative as possible and would also appreciate your feedback! Send us your thoughts and ideas on this and future newsletters to *hello@cbaca.ca*.



Cordova Bay Day 2023, continued from page 1

The 16th annual Cordova Bay Day was held in June of 2019. Due to the pandemic and the lack of volunteers, we haven't been able to host it since. We are missing a Community Events position on the board right now. There is a call out now for nominations for our upcoming AGM on April 26, where we hope to fill this position and garner enough volunteers so that we can host the 17th Cordova Bay Day in either June or September this year. It's a great opportunity to have fun, meet neighbours, support businesses and find out what's happening in the community

Cordova Bay Day is not a fundraising venture as no revenues are earned, with the exception of some donations. The CBACA funds this event and the expenses necessary for the enjoyment of the community.

If you are interested in continuing this tradition, please contact any board member to lend your support and maybe we will enjoy Cordova Bay Day in 2023!

CBACA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs will host its 2023 Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 7:00pm.

Please join us at the Cordova Bay 55+ Centre, 5238 Cordova Bay Road. Saanich Mayor Dean Murdock will be the guest speaker.

Along with presentations from the various CBACA Committees, the AGM also includes the election of directors. Nomination for director positions can be made in advance to any member of the Nominations Committee: Barb Lucas, Chair – president@cbaca.ca; Randy Otto – rfotto@shaw.ca; Debbie Sherwood – cordovan@cbaca.ca

Nominations can also be made in person at the AGM, by any two members in good standing. This year we are looking to elect or re-elect five board positions, each for a two-year term. The Nominations Committee welcomes inquiries from any Cordova Bay resident to discuss areas of interest and time commitments. We hope to hear from you soon!



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PLANNING REPORT

Mike Giordano and Eleanor Willing

The Planning Committee is the board's point of contact and liaison with developers for most planning-related activities in Cordova Bay. We also provide communications to local residents about Cordova Bay developments and ensure current development application updates are listed on the CBACA website. When requested by Saanich, the committee examines proposals for development, subdivision and/or rezoning changes in the community. Our focus is mainly to ensure that developers meet the requirements of the Cordova Bay Local Area Plan and respond to Saanich Council in a timely manner when asked for support or to identify any issues regarding project proposals.

Many residents are aware that the Cordova Bay Local Area Plan was finalized in March 2022. This document is intended to guide development in Cordova Bay for the next 20–30 years and can be found on the District of Saanich website www.saanich.ca

(type Cordova Bay Local Area Plan in the search bar or via www.saanich.ca/EN/main/community/community-planning/local-area-plans/cordova-bay.html.)

The Saanich website provides a lot of other valuable information, such as the status of various development activity in Cordova Bay, including a new Permit and Development Tracker,

www.saanich.ca/EN/main/local-government/development-applications/active-development-applications/cordova-bay.html

Here is an update on projects in the community:

The Haro commercial and residential buildings are now complete with most owners fully occupying their spaces.

The Cordova Bay Community Club rezoning was unanimously approved in February 2022, however demolition/construction timelines have yet to be announced. The new building will feature eight courts, bathrooms/change rooms and a meeting area. Visit https://cordovabaycommunityclub.ca/ for more details.

At 986-990 Doumac Avenue, a four-storey condo with above-ground parking was unanimously approved by Saanich Council in February 2022. Demolition/construction timelines have not been announced. The new building will feature a 17-unit strata-titled building just up from the corner of Doumac Avenue and Cordova Bay Road.

The Tiller & Grace Development at 5229 Cordova Bay Road at Fenn has yet to acquire a building permit from Saanich for a planned 20-unit complex.

Regarding the Aragon Development (Trio site) at 755 Cordova Bay Road, the company has done some soil contamination remediation and placed clean fill onto the site in efforts to reinstate historical grades. As future donor sites become available for contaminated soil, they will continue to bring in clean fill. A geotech and environmental engineer have been in place for a number of years and will continue to move forward with the development. Discussions with Franc D'ambrosio Architects will also progress and a new rezoning/development permit package will be submitted to Saanich Council when available. Aragon doesn't anticipate any construction happening on site for possibly three to five years or more at which point the build-out will probably be around 10 years. This is a rough estimate.

What else is happening? The majority of development applications in our community this past year were for additional single-family lots and larger properties subdividing/rezoning into smaller single family development parcels. We have seen a number of homes demolished and new homes constructed, mainly along Cordova Bay Road.

It is worth noting that the CBACA has not received a referral request from Saanich regarding any redevelopment, rezoning or construction variance on a property in our community for several months. This is an indication that redevelopment, rezoning, and construction requiring variances has significantly dropped off since the summer of 2022.



BLOCK WATCH PROGRAM

By Ian Gibbs, Saanich Police

Did you know there are 28 Block Watch groups in the Cordova Bay area? *Do you live in a Block Watch area?* If so, you're probably aware that theft from automobiles constitutes the bulk of crime reported, and fortunately rarely anything more serious. Now that we're moving into Spring, people get more casual about securing their cars, and possibly leave windows open.

Theft from cars is a crime of opportunity and you have the power to alter that opportunity. One of the ways is to have a Block Watch and be active about reporting anything suspicious or unusual. The following tips may also help prevent theft from automobiles:

- 1. Lock your car doors and close your windows, no matter where it is parked.
- Do not leave valuables in your car. If you do, make sure they are kept out of plain sight – hide them under a blanket, or better yet, lock them in your trunk.
- When transporting valuables, place them in the trunk before you get to the location where you intend to park. Do not transfer them at the parking place in open view of other people.
- 4. Do not leave your garage door opener on the dashboard or front seat. Put it in your glove box, hide it, or take it with you.
- 5. Remember: briefcases, sunglasses, clothing, keys, gym bags, and small change are all tempting to a thief.
- 6. Keep your driver's license and vehicle registration with you. If left with the car, the documents can be used by a thief to impersonate you when transferring the car's ownership.
- Car keys left at home (or at your business) should always be hidden. This will help prevent the theft of your vehicle if you are burglarized.
- 8. Install a locking gas cap to help prevent gasoline theft and limit a thief's driving range to one tank.

If you have any other crime prevention questions or would like to start your own Block Watch, please let us know at *Blockwatch@saanichpolice.ca*.

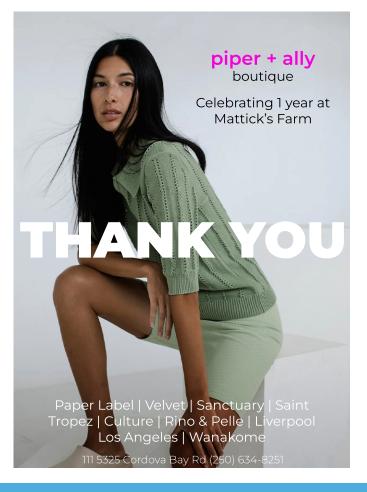




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MEET OUR TEAM:

Scott Marshall: Co-Founder, Cordova Bay Resident since 1982, and Cordova Bay Association Member and Contributor, Associate Counsel

Clare Marshall: Second Generation

Owner, Lawyer

Benjamin Peterson: Associate Counsel

Olivia Southern: Chief Financial Officer &

Chief Sustainability Officer

Brian Rae: Articling Student

Eldora Gruber: Receptionist

Lynn Ritchie: Paralegal

Kirsten Snedden: Paralegal



TRANSPORTATION AND PARKS COMMITTEE

Dave Chater, Chair, Transportation & Parks Committee

In past years, the Transportation and Parks committee focused solely on traffic issues and it was known as the Traffic Committee. The committee now has a broader mandate that includes transportation (e.g., cycling, public transit) and parks, which was added in 2021.

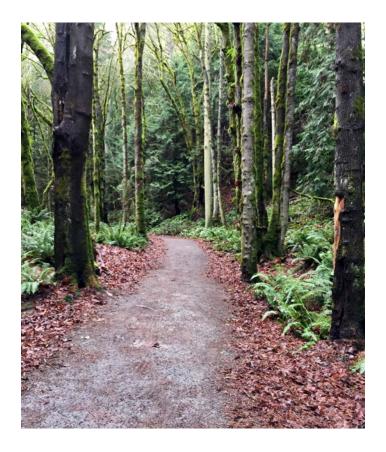
The Transportation and Parks Committee is currently chaired by Dave Chater and also includes Karen Fediuk (also Board Treasurer) and five other members from the broader community. Working under the guidance of the board, this committee represents our area to liaise with Saanich Engineering and Parks Departments on plans, projects and issues that are important to the community.

Cordova Bay as a community has been highly active over the years working with Saanich on transportation and parks issues. The CBACA has played a large role in this engagement as have local advocacy groups with specific interests or concerns.

The committee's engagement and advocacy has been included in plans that have been accepted or approved by Saanich including the Cordova Bay Streetscape Action Plan (2000), previous CBACA surveys and the recently-approved Local Area Plan. The Transportation and Parks Committee has built on this previous work by others from the association or community in our recent discussions with the municipality.

Examples of our work with the municipality include a meeting with Mayor Murdock to request action over the next 2-3 years on several transportation and traffic priorities within Cordova Bay. In late February 2023, we also met with senior staff in Saanich Engineering to focus on the upcoming pedestrian and cycling infrastructure improvement project along Cordova Bay Road in front





of the elementary school. We have also continued to provide input into the update of Saanich's Active Transportation Plan and Road Safety Action Plan (part of the Vision Zero Program). The committee will continue to stay engaged with Saanich on these important community issues.

The parks and beach areas are really the essence of what makes Cordova Bay such a special place. The transportation and traffic issues and priorities have been well covered over the years (and with lots to still do), but the park portion of the portfolio has probably not received the attention that it should. For parks, the committee is currently working to develop a list of priority issues and potential projects that we could use to begin to work with Saanich Parks on a more regular basis (as we have been doing with Engineering on traffic projects and issues).

As a committee, will be looking for ways to engage the broader community, particularly with youth, as we look to understanding and presenting the park priorities and issues with Saanich.

The committee is still learning about this area of our expanded portfolio but hopes to build out this portion of our work in the coming year.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT SCAN, THE SAANICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NETWORK

By David Kuprowsky, CBACA representative to SCAN

Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs is one of 18 community organizations in Saanich. Opportunities are available for representatives across the district to regularly gather, discuss and learn about issues specific to each community, or issues we have in common. This "umbrella" organization is SCAN, Saanich Community Association Network.

SCAN meets on the first Wednesday of each month, at 7:00 p.m. at Commonwealth Centre, with the exception of January, July and August. Among the topics we discuss are land use and traffic, economic, social and environmental issues. All the participants are volunteer representatives, the meetings are informal, usually consisting of roundtable discussions about what is happening in our respective associations.

Nearly all meetings feature a guest speaker, presenting insight into topics such as transit, policing, youth employment and social media as it relates to community association communication. This year recently-elected Mayor Dean Murdock attended one meeting, and we also met with Director of Planning in Saanich, Lindsay Chase. We talked about moving from the concepts of local area plans to centres, corridors and villages. We're looking forward to more such discussions in the coming months.

For information about SCAN, visit the Community Associations page at the District of Saanich website: www.saanich.ca/EN/main/community/community-associations.html





GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS

By Brock Nordman, CBACA Public Relations Chair

Here are some of the things people around the community have been saying to me when I ask them about Cordova Bay.

Q: What's your favourite street or trail, and what makes it special?

Our favourite trail is in Doumac Park. We are incredibly fortunate to have a beautiful and healthy forest in the middle of our community. It's truly a magical place in there!

The Boulderwood Hill trail is a favourite for me and my mini-Aussie shepherd. The views from this part of our slice of paradise is amazing!

Q: What's your favourite summer activity here?

Easy...golf, beach combing, or just sitting on a log to read a book, or strolling down to Mattick's Farm for an ice cream.

Gardening!

Q: Ok - what about winter?

We visit the beach every day in the winter. We love being in the elements and observing the ever-changing beach.

Meeting friends over coffee at Adrienne's.

Q: Why did you choose to live here?

We chose Cordova Bay because of the ocean views, the proximity to the beach, the amenities and the feel of the community.

Q: What would you like to see happen in the community in the coming years?

More activities where people can meet, perhaps an open air market, or live outdoor music.

Q: If you could describe Cordova Bay in one line what would it be?

A walkable community, amazing sunrises, a beach to explore plus easy access to city, ferries and airport.

It's a lovely community, full of life and fun.



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TEN GREAT REASONS TO JOIN CBACA

By Anna Hakim and Perry Fanthorpe (borrowing from Randy Otto, former CBACA Membership Chair)

Your community organization undertakes the following on behalf of the members:

- Informs the community and attends public city council meetings about applications for zoning and development, and provides feedback to Saanich Planning.
- 2. Campaigns for traffic safety improvements in the community.
- Notifies Cordova Bay residents of Saanich issues, surveys and events, such as the Climate Action Workshop, or People, Pets and Parks Strategy.
- Designs and implements community improvements, such as the Cordova Bay interpretive sign at McMinn Park.
- 5. Provides and maintains the notice boards at Mattick's Farm and The Haro.
- 6. Maintains an informative and up-to-date website www.cbaca.ca with valuable links to other resources.
- 7. Publishes *The Cordovan* newsletter three times a year to keep members informed of community news.
- 8. Donates funds for scholarships for Claremont Secondary School students, and to non-profit groups such as, Cordova Bay 55 Plus Association, the Cordova Bay Co-op Preschool and local sports clubs.
- Organizes events such as the all-candidates meeting during federal, provincial and municipal election campaigns.
- 10. Holds the annual Cordova Bay Day event each summer.

Plus – it costs only \$10 annually for the whole household.

Does your membership count? Yes, it does. Municipalities pay attention to numbers, so the larger our membership, the greater our voice with Saanich Council on issues that affect Cordova Bay.

It's so easy to support your community. Join today! Visit *cbaca.ca/membership/* or complete and mail the form on page 16.

Thank you!



LET'S WORK TOGETHER!

Hello! My name is Mike Giordano. I'm so proud to live in Cordova Bay. From the day my parents moved us to Cambria Wood Terrace when I was 5 years old, it has been my dream to raise my family here. My childhood memories of Cordova Bay are so precious. Today I live this dream. My son Eli is in Grade 2 at Cordova Bay Elementary. The love of my life, Chelsea or "Ms. G", has been teaching at Claremont Secondary for the past 17 years. Being involved in our community is important to me. I'm invested in making sure Cordova Bay stays the best place to call home for our families. I volunteer in our community for two non-profit organizations, support local businesses as much as possible and offer the "Slow Down" signs you see scattered around with the aim to keep traffic speeds down.

You, your friends and family deserve the best! I'm proud to offer award winning, world class real estate service and advice. Our team at Giordano Collective, Your Friends In Real Estate, are here to offer you just that. Connect with me directly, or the team, and let's discuss what we can do for you and our community. We are dedicated to helping the residents of Cordova Bay reach their real estate goals.

What can I do for you, or our community that would make you feel comfortable discussing your real estate goals, or those of the people you care about most with me?

Please consider trusting our team. Thank you!



- ⋈ INFO@GIORDANOCOLLECTIVE.COM
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THE ORIGINAL CORDOVA BAY VILLAGE: TEL IL CE

Brian Thom, Associate Professor, UVic Anthropology

Our present day community of Cordova Bay has been built on the much more ancient village site called TEL,IŁĆE, in SENĆOŦEN (the language of the WSÁNEĆ communities of Tsawout, Tsartlip, Pauquachin, and Tseycum), or ćəlíłč in Ləkwinjínəŋ (the language of the Lekwungen communities of Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations).

The original name (pronounced something like *tsul-i-lh-ch* though not all of the sounds in these languages are found in English) was glossed by the late Elder Dave Elliott Sr. as meaning 'place of the defeated,' alluding to events that happened here deep in the ancient past. Indeed this is a place with many important stories.

This is the first in a series of articles in *The Cordovan* to share information from an ongoing research project between Tsawout First Nation, the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council, the University of Victoria's Anthropology Department, and the District of Saanich

Researching Ancient History in Cordova Bay

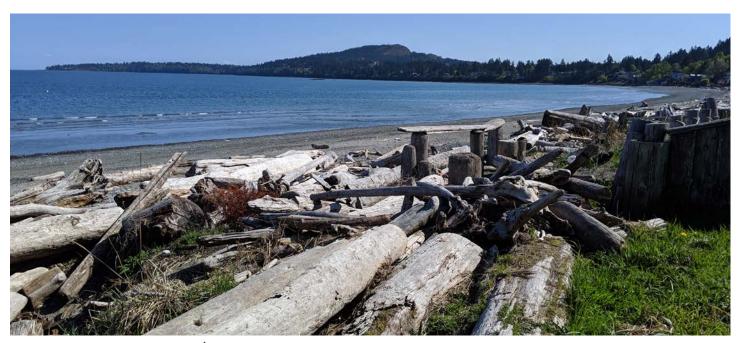
This summer – July 2023 – will be the first researchfocused archaeological project ever done at the original village site of the South Saanich Treaty (one of the Douglas Treaties from 1852). UVic Anthropology and Tsawout First Nation have partnered to run the 2023 summer archaeology field school. UVic undergraduate and graduate students, together with youth and cultural works from WSÁNEĆ First Nation communities, will map out the footprint of the ancient 7EL¸IŁĆE village and surrounding use and occupancy areas within District of Saanich held lands in Cordova Bay. Working under the direction of professor Brian Thom and archaeologist Heather Pratt, with formal approvals from BC Archaeology Branch and Tsawout First Nation, we will undertake scientific archaeological investigations at key locations including Agate Lane, McMorran and Cordova Bay Parks, various waterfront road ends, and the intertidal area of the Cordova Bay beach. (Friendly reminder, it is illegal to disturb any archaeological site without fully authorized permits!)

Leading with Technologies like Ground Penetrating Radar

We will start this work this spring with careful baseline mapping using technologies like Ground Penetrating Radar to help devise our survey and excavation strategy in ways that are consistent with respecting ancestral burial sites. Then this summer, using ground-truthing techniques like oakfield soil probes, systematic shovel tests, and evaluative excavation units, we will work to reveal elements of the village site and associated cultural landscapes in District of Saanich lands in Cordova Bay.

Connecting to Cultural Teachings

Our research project is to establish baseline information in support of better understanding the ancient village site at TEL,IŁĆE (which is the "village and enclosed



View to PKOLS from the old TEL_IŁĆE village site. Photo by Brian Thom



fields" mentioned in the South Saanich Treaty 1852). We will work to see what we can say about the age of this village site (through radiocarbon dating) and describe any significant architectural or related features. We will archaeologically document artifacts and features from this area to support the further understanding of the "right to fish as formerly" and inherent rights that flow from this original use and occupation of the Cordova Bay area. The work is being done in conjunction with oral history and archival research and will provide significant insight into Indigenous histories, values and teachings related to Cordova Bay.

Please be a Part of the Work

In the next article, we will share some of the opportunities you will have to visit these excavations first hand and learn more. In the meantime, please help make this project a success! The University of Victoria is accepting donations in any amount to support the archaeological excavations at TEL_ILĆE. You can make your cheque payable to 'University of Victoria" and indicate it is for "Cordova Bay Archaeology Project" and 100% of those funds will go to support this particular project. UVic will issue you a tax receipt for whatever you donate, so thank you! We



UVic Graduate student Gemma Tarling. Photo by Brian Thom

are running on a shoestring and have a fundraising goal of \$35,000. Donations from businesses and community members to support archaeological collaboration will make all the difference! Please donate before April 30th for greater impact! If you have any questions about making donations, or want to make a larger donation, please contact the UVic Development Office soscdevt@uvic.ca and they can help with all the details.



TREE PRUNING IN CORDOVA BAY THIS YEAR

Saanich Parks arboriculture staff will be undertaking proactive boulevard tree pruning work in Cordova Bay this year which will include the following:

- Pruning all dead, diseased, decayed and weakly-attached branches that are 5 cm or greater in diameter
- Pruning to provide 4.4 m of clearance height over roads, and driveways sections that are within the boulevard
- Pruning to provide 2.5 m clearance height over sidewalks
- Pruning to provide up to 1 m of clearance radius around house service wires
- Pruning to improve streetlight cast onto the roadways
- Pruning to improve sight-line visibility for street signs

If you have any questions when you see this work being carried out in your area, please contact:

Michael McLellan - Urban Forestry Coordinator - Parks Department, District of Saanich 250-475-5488 • Mike.McLellan@saanich.ca • www.saanich.ca































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SHORE AND FOREST

By Stephen Topfer, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Manager of Collections and Exhibits

In the early summer of 2009, the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria (AGGV) was able to apply some of its art acquisition funds to purchase a rare painting by Emily Carr, Shore and Forest (Cordova Bay). The work, painted in 1931, was done during one of Carr's many sketching trips. In this case, Carr was travelling with another pioneering woman artist, Edith Hembroff-Schleicher. In May of that year, Carr took a three-week trip to Cordova Bay. She and Edith stayed at Edith's family cottage, situated halfway between the beach and the road. Also along for the trip were five dogs and Carr's pet monkey, Woo. Similar to many of Carr's paintings at the time, Shore and Forest is a work of oil paint on paper and demonstrates Carr's vibrant approach to capturing the forests and landscapes of Vancouver Island.

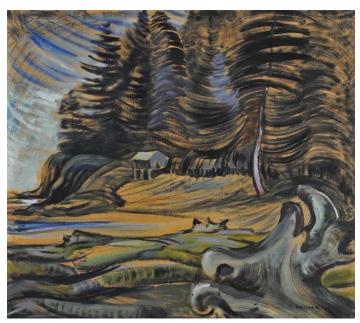


Photo credit Stephen Topfer, AGGV Manager of Collections and Exhibits



Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs (CBACA)

Membership Application Form

The larger our membership, the greater our voice with Saanich Council on issues that affect Cordova Bay.

Please help meet our goal of 1000 members!

Please check one:	Renewal Member(s)	New Member(s)
Address:		Postal Code:
All residen	ts, 18 years of age or older, residing a	at the same address, receive a membership.
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Members	hip fees are used to support the CBA	ACA's activities on behalf of the community,
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For an ele	ectronic fillable membership form, an	d instructions for e-transfer payments, visit
www.cbaca.ca/membership		
	Thank you. Your supp	ort is appreciated.

We hope you enjoy reading your copy of *The Cordovan*.

If you have suggestions for articles, drop us a line at hello@cbaca.ca

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