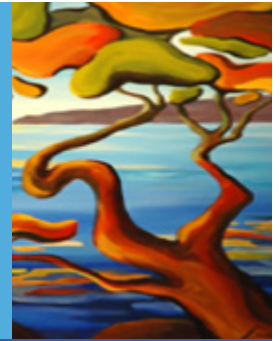


The Cordovan

Spring / Summer 2024
Issue 39



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 ʔEL, ʔĪĆ 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)

CORDOVA BAY ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AGM

April 24, 7:30 p.m.

Details in this issue.

CONTACT US

P.O. Box 41003
5166 Cordova Bay Road
Victoria V8Y 0A3
President: president@cbaca.ca
Membership: membership@cbaca.ca
Advertise: advertising@cbaca.ca
Website: www.cbaca.ca

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER **By Barb Lucas**

Welcome to the Spring-into-Summer *Cordova* issue! The theme of this issue is *Activities in Cordova Bay*, of which there are many. From local clubs and organizations to simply having a leisurely walk on the beach or a heart-pounding hike up any number of stairways and trails leading up to the Ridge, there is lots to do right here in our own backyard. I encourage you to take advantage of what our community has to offer, not only through the summer but any time of the year.

This issue features articles on various activities and organizations, including the Cordova Bay Community Club on Sutcliffe, Cordova Bay Golf Course, Greater Victoria Pickleball Association, and the Key Club at Claremont Secondary School. Many thanks to these new contributors; it is always interesting to hear what goes on locally.

continued on page 2

CORDOVA BAY DAY IS BACK – BIGGER AND BETTER!

By Sandra Arthur, Cordova Bay Day Committee Member

After a four-year hiatus, the popular, free community event, **Cordova Bay Day** is back! **Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 22, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** This community event brings together residents from across Cordova Bay and the surrounding area for a day of fun for everyone.

continued on page 3



President's Corner, continued from page 1

Another very active and engaging organization is the Cordova Bay 55+ Association. I would like to take a moment to recognize and thank the original "Fab Five" founding members who saw a need in our community, spearheaded the fundraising drive to successful completion, and celebrated the grand opening in 2006 – Inez Cole, Gwen MacPherson, Daphne Chazottes, Rich McMorrان and Jack Willoughby. The 55+ Association is a shining example of what is possible; it is now bursting at the seams with active members!

On that note, we continue to hope the Community Club is successful in seeing their approved new building plans come to fruition. Cordova Bay could use more community space! We are going to see a significant increase in our community population over the next 15 years with the Aragon development starting up again; community space will be a prime commodity! Please see the Planning Report in this issue for more details on what is proposed at the old Trio site.

The local parks – McMinn, Lochside and Fowler – have had, or are in the process of undergoing, upgrades. This is great news for outdoor activities for all ages; see the Transportation & Parks Report for the current status.

Speaking of activities, we are very excited to announce that **Cordova Bay Day is back!** Kick off the start of summer by attending Cordova Bay Day on **Saturday, June 22**, starting with an Opening Ceremony at 11 a.m. at McMorrان Park, and running through to 3 p.m. Many thanks to an energetic and dedicated team of seven volunteers who have stepped up to organize this event which will include activities taking place at McMorrان Park, The Haro, IDA Pharmacy, St. David Church, Cordova Bay Elementary School and Mattick's Farm. The whole village is participating in some way; come on out and enjoy the music, food, displays, arts and crafts, games, our local businesses, and prizes! Watch the website at www.cbaca.ca for ongoing updates to the day's program as we get closer to the event date.

Mark your calendars for another upcoming date – **Wednesday, April 24**. CBACA Annual General Meeting will take place at Cordova Bay 55+, **starting at 7:30 p.m.** Our guest speaker will be Lindsay Chase, Saanich Director of Planning, who will speak about the Province's new building and density requirements and the impact on Cordova Bay. Board elections will also take place at the AGM. This year we are electing or re-electing six members for a 2-year term, and two members for a 1-year term. I would be happy to meet any interested

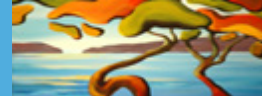


Fun and frolic in Doumac Park.

person who would like to learn more about Cordova Bay and could contribute a few hours a month of their time. Email me (president@cbaca.ca) or any member of the Nominations Committee; details are in the AGM announcement further on in this issue.

Nature abounds in Cordova Bay and we are very fortunate with all that is on offer: the beach, trails, views, parks and wildlife. Our local businesses are also a big part of the Cordova Bay community. I encourage you to support them all as much as possible, and when shopping at businesses who have advertised in the Cordovan, both current and past issues, please let them know you saw their ad! These printed-and-delivered-to-your-door Cordovan issues would not be possible without their financial support. For anyone who does not receive a Cordovan in your mailbox, you can pick up a copy at all business advertisers, in your condo lobby, and at the free magazine shelf by Red Barn Market.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM on April 24 and hope you join your neighbours and friends to celebrate Cordova Bay Day on June 22. On behalf of the Board, enjoy the rest of the spring season and have a great summer!



CBACA BOARD MEMBERS



Barb Lucas President / 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

Brock Nordman Public Relations / hello@cbaca.ca



Pat Bourke Membership / membership@cbaca.ca

David Chater Transportation and Parks / transportation@cbaca.ca



Quinn Yu Events / events@cbaca.ca

Vacant Secretary secretary@cbaca.ca



Cordova Bay Day Is Back, continued from page 1

The event will begin with an opening ceremony at McMorran Park at 11a.m., then enjoy returning favourites, like live music featuring local musicians, the ever-popular vintage cars to admire, inflatables, face painting, art and craft market and displays, and much more.

New this year is a Best Decorated Bike Contest for kids who arrive on their jazzed-up wheels. Another exciting addition is a demonstration by the Victoria Dancing Circle at Cordova Bay Elementary School, performing simple folk and traditional dances as well as routines to more modern music. Everyone can join in after the demonstrations.

Events take place on the grounds of The Haro, IDA Pharmacy, St David Church, Cordova Bay Elementary School and Mattick's Farm. Wander among the information tables and chat with representatives from community groups, emergency services and businesses. There are lots of hands-on activities for children such as Scout-organized mini car races, knot demonstrations, contests and other surprises.

The Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs is pleased to announce that a dedicated and energetic team of seven volunteers is putting together this day of fun. Please note though, more volunteers are needed for setting up the evening of Friday, June 21 and Saturday morning on June 22. If you can help, please send an email with your contact details and availability to Kerry at kerryjacox@gmail.com.

If you are part of a local community group or organization and would be interested in performing or exhibiting in St David Church, please contact Kerry at the same email address.

A full festival line-up will be announced soon. Meanwhile, mark your calendars and find more information on CBACA's website cbaca.ca.

PLANNING REPORT

By Mike Giordano and Eleanor Willing

On November 23, 2023, Aragon delivered two public presentations regarding their proposed vision for the Trio property at 755 Cordova Bay Road. One presentation was made to Cordova Bay 55+ members and the other to CBACA members. Aragon has continued to consult with various community stakeholders including Saanich staff and Council members. Aragon says it appreciates the thoughtful feedback and perspectives expressed to date and is committed to exploring creative solutions to satisfy the many requests from different groups. Aragon has also indicated they will continue to evolve their vision for this community in the coming months to ensure it is diverse and vibrant. Aragon states they look forward to sharing updates through further community engagement prior to a formal Development Application submission to Saanich later this year.

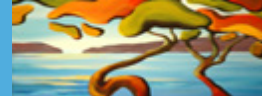
Included below is a photo of the concept presented in November 2023. Some key points regarding this proposed development:

1. This will be a huge undertaking for Aragon and will have a considerable impact on the future Cordova Bay community. The Trio property comprises some 26 acres which equates to over one million square feet of land. The current proposal calls for approximately 1,100 units of mixed housing such as townhouses and a number of high-rise and low-rise buildings. The housing will be a combination of owner occupied and rental accommodations. Some of the buildings may include 12-14 storeys.
2. At present, Aragon is working on decontaminating soil and believe they are about 1/3 of the way through this process. Aragon estimates they don't expect construction to start before 2027 and the build out will occur in 4 phases to about 2049.
3. The current plan includes a very small component of commercial space in one building. Aragon is open to community input regarding what would be a good fit for that space. Suggestions include a bakery with eat in café/ coffee shop, a restaurant or pub, or a grocery store.
4. There are 3 proposed entrances to the development, all on Cordova Bay Road. One will be at the current entrance just up from the intersection at Fowler, a second will be mid way up the hill across from the entrance at Sayward, and the third will be across from Hill Rise Terrace at the entrance by the Pinnacle.
5. The CBACA will be working closely with Aragon, Saanich and a committee of local residents as this development progresses. We will report to our membership as new information becomes available including additional notices of community consultations with Aragon.

Next issue we plan to highlight information from Saanich on the new processes for residents and developers in respect to new housing. This will also include building multi-family (up to fourplexes) with requirements to rezone.



Proposed Concept presented by Aragon, November 2023



AGM AND BOARD NOMINATIONS

By Gloria Wills

The Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs will host its 2024 Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you at the 55+ Centre, 5238 Cordova Bay Road, for our AGM with this year's guest speaker, Lindsay Chase, Saanich Director of Planning.

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:

David Kuprowsky, Chair - scan@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 6 board positions, each for a two-year term plus 2 for a one-year term. PLEASE CONSIDER LENDING YOUR SUPPORT FOR YOUR COMMUNITY AND PUT YOUR NAME FORWARD FOR A BOARD POSITION.

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!

THE "OLD BARN" ON SUTCLIFFE

By Fred Preiss

In 1946, the community of Cordova Bay came together to form the Cordova Bay Community Club. The purpose of the Club is to promote and extend good fellowship, to sponsor sports and social activities in the community, and to sponsor and support advancement of the community. In 1956 the Club completed construction of its current home at the end of Sutcliffe Road.

The Club currently hosts badminton, pickleball, tai chi and target practice. Participants range from school-aged kids to those in their golden years.

Plans are underway to replace the aging building with a new state-of-the art facility allowing us to welcome more community members to participate in Club activities.

For more information please visit www.cordovabaycommunityclub.ca/



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LET'S WORK TOGETHER!

Hello, Cordova Bay! I'm Mike Giordano, and I'm more than a real estate agent; I'm your neighbour and a proud member of this wonderful community. From my childhood on Cambria Wood Terrace to raising my own family here, Cordova Bay holds a special place in my heart. My son, Eli, is a proud student at Cordova Bay Elementary, and the love of my life, Chelsea (Ms. G), has dedicated 18 years to teaching at Claremont Secondary. Community involvement is at the core of who I am. I'm passionate about preserving Cordova Bay as the best place to call home for our families. That's why I am honoured to volunteer for two Cordova Bay non-profit organizations, support our local businesses, and offer the 'Slow Down' signs you see around the neighbourhood, aimed at keeping our streets safe.

At Giordano Collective, Your Friends In Real Estate, we take pride in offering award-winning, world-class real estate services and advice. I've been recognized with the prestigious MLS Award 10 times consecutively, as recognized by the Victoria Real Estate Board. I'm proud to be an eXp iCON Award recipient for the past 4 years in a row, the highest honour with my current brokerage. My approach to business has always been to have our clients' goals and best interests top of mind while offering consistent, predictable, and reliable advice, providing the highest level of service we can. When you choose to work with me, you're not just choosing a real estate agent; you're selecting a neighbour who is deeply invested in the well-being of our community. I would be honoured to discuss how I can assist you in achieving your real estate goals.

I hope you will connect with me soon. I am here to help the residents of Cordova Bay accomplish their real estate goals. Please consider trusting me with your real estate needs. Thank you!

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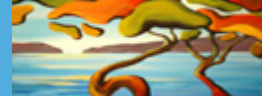
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TRANSPORTATION AND PARKS COMMITTEE

By Dave Chater

Introduction and Background

The Transportation and Parks Committee (TPC), formed in 2005, meets monthly to discuss community priorities and concerns (e.g., cycling, public transit, street safety, trails, amenities, public art).

Our work is primarily directed by the 2022 Cordova Bay Local Area Plan (LAP), which guides our community vision for development and growth over the next 30 years. While we use the LAP as our strategic guide, we also work with Saanich Engineering and Parks Departments on more tactical plans such as the Active Transportation Plan (ATP), Road Safety Action Plan, park specific improvement plans (e.g., Fowler and Lochside Park Renewal Plans) or on other issues (crosswalks, sidewalks, signs) important to the community.

The TPC is currently chaired by board member Dave Chater but also includes Karen Fediuk (also Board Treasurer) and four other volunteer members from the broader community.

Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety Improvements

Over the past year, the committee has predominantly worked to advocate for expedited implementation of pedestrian and cycling safety improvements (identified in the CB LAP) along the Cordova Bay Road (CBR) corridor (which includes Fowler and Sayward Roads) through letter writing and face-to-face meetings with the mayor and senior engineering staff. Although speed limits have been reduced and safety bollards added between Fowler and Sayward Roads and the recent installation of an advance green left hand turn light at the intersection of Sayward and Highway #17, we haven't seen any other community priority safety improvements announcements along the CBR corridor. We will continue to use every opportunity to advocate with Saanich Council and staff to advance these necessary safety improvements that were all identified and approved by council in the 2022 LAP. Unfortunately, it appears the approval of the LAP by Saanich Council did not come with funding for these projects in the next five or more years.

As I have noted to a number of residents in recent correspondence, it does not hurt as well if residents also write directly to the mayor and council regarding your concerns about the state of the CBR corridor. Many voices can be better than one!



Parks Engagement

The committee has also provided direct input to Saanich Parks into the Fowler and Lochside Park Renewal Plans, the People, Pets and Parks (PPP) Plan and also on a number of principal issues that were concerning residents near Sayward Hill Park. Committee input on the park renewal plans, PPP plan and Sayward Hill Park was recognized with changes on all three issues. We didn't see all that our recommendations approved, but there were some positive changes in all three issues for the community.

Future Priorities

As the committee looks to 2024 and 2025, we are updating our priorities for the next 1-2 years to increase our focus on parks. The presently posted list of 2012-2023 priorities (now out of date) are centred around specific traffic issues (see the CBACA website under the Transportation and Parks tab for more details). The parks and beach areas are really the essence of what makes Cordova Bay such a special place. Using the LAP as our guide for these priorities, we are likely to focus on:

- A partnership with Saanich Parks and local First Nations on an art and cultural feature in one of the beach parks.
- Improved access to the beaches (with a focus on accessibility).
- Enhanced wayfinding signs in the parks and beaches.
- Support and increased profile for local volunteer group efforts (See Saanich's Pulling Together Volunteer Program for more info) to remove invasive plant species and restore natural areas in parks such as Doris Page, Sayward Hill, Boulderwood and McMinn Parks (NEW this spring).

Our list of future priorities is still a work in progress, and I expect our updated 2024/2025 committee priorities will be posted on the CBACA website by May.

CLAREMONT SECONDARY SCHOOL'S KEY CLUB

By Shivantika Shegar



Shivantika is pictured here, fourth from left.

My name is Shivantika Shegar, and it is my pleasure to introduce you to the Claremont Key Club. Today, I'm going to show you the 2 different angles of our club: who we are at first glance, and who we are when you dig a little deeper.

From a surface-level perspective, we are what you might call a service organization; our united mission is to help others and make the world a better place, so on and so forth. Key Club is situated in Claremont Secondary School and is comprised of about 50 members, 6 executives (Shivantika Shegar, Sarah Lo, Holly Li, Felix Chang, Alexia Sogai and Judith Gatobu), 2 teacher sponsors (Karen Pang and Ruth Wadsworth), and two Kiwanis sponsors (Carla Cacovic and Terry Imhoff). Since I was granted my executive position 2 years ago, we've hosted 28 events, won 2 awards, collected supplies from 5 volunteer drives, and donated over \$4,000 to charities.

We've spent our Friday afternoons pulling expired milk bottles out of recycling bins in an attempt to wade through the complicated world of high-school recycling. We've baked dozens of cookies and hefted loads of trees onto cars and yelled "WATER" at the Royal Victoria Marathon more times than we can count. In terms of numbers and formalities, that's it. That's the Claremont Key Club.

CALL FOR ENTERTAINERS ON CORDOVA BAY DAY

Calling local entertainers - singing groups, instrumentalists, dancers! Would you like to perform and be featured at the upcoming Cordova Bay Day on June 22? For more information about this opportunity, please contact Cordova Bay Day team leader Kerry Jacox at kerryjacox@gmail.com.

Now, though, let me tell you who we really are. Key Club wouldn't be Key Club without the humanity behind it all. We wouldn't be Key Club without the inside jokes at executive meetings, or the energy that fills the room when we bring up our next project. We wouldn't be Key Club without the joy that ignites inside of us whenever we bake those cookies, and carry those trees, and volunteer at those events. Most importantly, we wouldn't be Key Club without the impacts of our actions — the smiles we hope to bring to faces, the mouths we hope to feed, the lives we hope to brighten.

We live in a world that can be dark and stormy and devoid of goodness; macabre as it is, that darkness seems to grow with each passing day. Maybe our little club isn't going to stop that ever-progressing darkening, or even slow it down, and maybe our tiny acts of kindness will only pale in comparison to all of the greater evils, but we're doing something, aren't we? And as far as I know, we'll keep on doing our little something until our miniscule tale triggers the start of a bigger story.

That's what Key Club really is about, then, beyond numbers and accomplishments and shiny badges — making ripples, regardless of their size.

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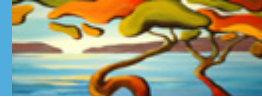
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PICKLEBALL IN CORDOVA BAY

By Damaris Brix

Pickleball has been in the news a lot lately. And no wonder – it is North America's fastest growing sport! It was invented on Bainbridge Island in the summer of 1965 by three dads to entertain their kids. The basics of pickleball are easy and can be learned in minutes, although it might take a few hours to master the third shot drop and maintain a dinking rally. Once you get proficient, you might want to try an around-the-post shot or an Ernie. And remember to keep out of the kitchen!

All of these fun pickleball terms aside, you can get started with minimal investment – you just need some running shoes and you can get two paddles and balls for under \$50. As your skills improve, you will likely want a better paddle which can range up to \$200.

Cordova Bay has several options for playing pickleball:

- McMinn Park has two dedicated courts plus two more marked out on the tennis courts. The courts are open from 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. Watch for Saanich's public engagement process around proposed changes to tennis and pickleball facilities in the park.



- Cordova Bay Community Club on Sutcliffe Rd. has indoor pickleball on Tuesdays & Fridays from 12-4 p.m., in two 2-hr blocks. Contact cbay.pickleball@gmail.com to register.
- Cordova Bay 55+ runs pickleball sessions at McMinn Park and at Saanich Commonwealth Place. <https://cordovabay55plus.org/> for more information.
- Saanich Commonwealth Place also offers daily drop-in play as well as lessons. Check out Saanich.ca/recreation.
- Fowler Park is getting a makeover with 6 pickleball courts, a tennis court, children's play area, bike hub, pathways, a drinking fountain and new trees. This Active Hub proposal was presented at an open house in Cordova Bay and underwent modifications after feedback was provided. The updated model was approved by the Saanich Natural Areas, Parks and Trails Advisory Committee on October 12, 2023, subsequently endorsed by Saanich Council on January 8 and now needs final budget approval. These courts will have the most up-to-date sound attenuation, complete with a geo technical berm. Hopefully these courts will be ready to play on by Summer 2025.

If you want to be more involved in the pickleball community, consider joining the Victoria Regional Pickleball Association (VRPA) which has close to 800 members. The association advocates for pickleball and runs tournaments such as the Inaugural Berwick/UVIC Women's tournament on April 13, and the Victoria Classic June 7-9 at Pearkes Recreation Centre. VRPA offers clinics and instructional programs at various locations across the region. If you are interested in Learn to Play lessons or want to improve other areas of your game, contact VRPA at programs2vrpa@gmail.com or check out their website at VRPA.org.

Paddles Up!

Damaris is a 4.5 level pickleball player, member of the VRPA Board and resident of Cordova Bay.

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SPRINGTIME FOR PARK VOLUNTEERS

By Anita Kess

Spring may be in the air, but it's also sprouting out of the ground throughout Cordova Bay's parks in the form of Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry and other invasive plants. Luckily, a growing number of energetic volunteers is continuing the work of clearing these species from our local parks.

Armed only with hand tools and a feisty spirit, a small army of local volunteers is tackling the tufts of shiny geranium, tendrils of European bedstraw, vigorous new shoots of blackberry and buds of broom. They enjoy the outdoor exercise, companionship and community building involved in the process; they are also proud to be helping our native birds, bees and rare native plants thrive.

DORIS PAGE PARK PULLING TOGETHER UPDATE

Invasive plant removal work is continuing in Doris Page Park under the guidance of the Saanich Pulling Together Volunteer Program in partnership with the Victoria Master Gardener Association. A great deal of success has been achieved since last year in the removal of invasive shiny geranium and spurge laurel (daphne). Doris Page Park is an example of the Coastal Douglas-fir Zone, B.C.'s smallest and most endangered ecological zone.

The removal of much of the massive Himalayan blackberry infestation along Cordova Bay Road has

revealed not only some relatively rare Douglas maple, but also some native rosebushes which will finally have a chance to thrive.

Anyone interested in lending the Doris Page group a hand can contact Lead Steward Coleen at coleenrogersmg@gmail.com.

NEW SAYWARD HILL PULLING TOGETHER GROUP – WITH GEOCACHING

A new group of Pulling Together volunteers has started bashing the ivy in Sayward Hill Park and they have their eyes on taming the Himalayan blackberry thicket – while still preserving some berry-harvesting opportunities for local residents.

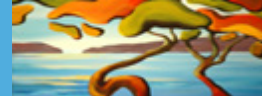
Lead Steward Joe reports her group has made a creative addition to their habitat recovery work by hosting "Cache In, Trash Out" (CITO) events with the local geocaching community. There have been several sessions on weekday mornings in February and March where geogachers clean up litter and help restore the grounds. More events will be held in coming months. Anyone who wishes to come out to lend a hand – or who wants more information about joining this group - can email Joe for more details at justjoe@live.com.

MCMINN PARK APPROVED FOR PULLING TOGETHER PROGRAM

The newest Pulling Together Volunteer Program in the Cordova Bay area has recently been given the go-ahead in McMinn Park. This much-loved local park features



Photo by Anita Kess.



mature forest and a charming stream in addition to the purpose-built recreation features that are so popular with local residents. This park offers parents the opportunity to volunteer while their children take advantage of play equipment or sports areas. For information about volunteering at McMinn Park, contact Saanich Parks parks@saanich.ca or 250-475-5522.

BOULDERWOOD IRREGULARS

On the steep trails of Boulderwood Park, an intrepid group is tackling the broom and other invasives in anticipation of being added to the Pulling Together Volunteer Program in the future. Neighbourhood locals who love this particularly stunning park are trying to preserve the Garry oak and wildflower habitat of this rocky park that features fabulous views. Anyone with an interest in helping preserve the beauty of this gem should contact Saanich Parks parks@saanich.ca or 250-475-5522.

MUNICIPAL SUPPORT NEEDED AS VOLUNTEER NUMBERS GROW

The cost of supporting volunteer invasive plant removal is small in comparison to the value of the hundreds of

hours of volunteer labour it produces. In 2022, volunteers in Saanich parks worked over 16,000 hours on ecological restoration projects in over 45 parks, and that tally is going up year by year.

As the number of volunteers in invasive plant removal groups grows, the demand for more parks to be supported by the Pulling Together Volunteer Program is also increasing. The CBACA feels the programs are essential for "healthy" parks and also contribute to building community in our neighbourhoods. To support these programs, the CBACA, through the Transportation and Parks Committee, will be advocating to the Chair of Saanich's Natural Areas, Parks & Trails Advisory Committee for additional budget funds to support and enhance the Pulling Together Volunteer Program.

WHY NOT DROP IN ON A SESSION?

If you are interested in joining a Pulling Together group, even on a very occasional basis, please contact one of the organizers mentioned above. It's a great way to get some outdoor exercise and do good for your community and the environment. There's no ongoing commitment necessary, and it's free.

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STEWARDSHIP IN THE REGION

By Emily Francis, TLC Communication Coordinator

Hello Cordovans! As newer members of the community, we appreciate the opportunity to introduce ourselves and share a bit about our programming. In the fall of 2020, The Land Conservancy of British Columbia (also known as TLC) moved its office to Cordova Bay; you may have even walked by our offices at 5150 Cordova Bay Road on your way to Agate or McMorran Park. Joining the Cordova Bay community has been a wonderful chance to meet locals and appreciate the fantastic coastal atmosphere just minutes from the beach.

As a charitable land trust, TLC protects important habitat for plants, animals and natural communities. With an incredible team of donors, members and volunteers, we protect more than 15,000 acres throughout the province. Our programming includes land restoration, acquisitions and conservation covenants, and educational opportunities to share how you can make a difference in your neighbourhood.

One program in particular has been making an impact on the local area this year – TLC’s Passport to Nature. Designed to connect TLC supporters and the public

with nature, our 2024 program is now open for event registration. With opportunities to get your hands dirty while restoring an impacted ecosystem and chances to learn more about TLC’s protected areas, this year’s program will delight those near and far with a variety of accessibility levels. I witnessed the impact of the program first-hand while participating at a TLC protected area just down the road last year.

In the heart of the Blenkinsop Valley lies the Alston-Stewart Estate bequeathed to TLC by the late Joan Alston-Stewart in 2022. The trio of properties span 8 acres and contain endangered Garry oak, Coastal Douglas-fir and wetland ecosystems connecting to the greater wildlife areas of the Blenkinsop Valley such as Blenkinsop Lake and PKOLS (Mount Doug).

Last year I joined TLC’s biologists to conduct an invasive species inventory of the properties. This mapping process establishes an understanding of the diversity, density (volume), and spread (area) of invasive species onsite. During our visit, we observed the “usual suspects” to Southern Vancouver Island: spurge-laurel (*Daphne laureola*), Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), and Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*). However, one invasive stood out more than the rest. What should have



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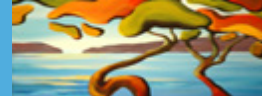
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Emily Francis.

been a patch of verdant Coastal Douglas-fir habitat, was a very different sea of green. Emerald vines washed over the forest floor: masking mosses, blanketing bushes, and swallowing stones. Trees were engulfed by heavy, leafy cables coiling 40+ meters for sunlight. We were surrounded by a forest of English ivy.

English ivy (*Hedera helix*) is a sneaky and rigorous invasive that can creep up rapidly. Vines can grow up to six feet a year. Ivy stems that have broken off can re-root. Just when you thought you'd rid yourself of it, a bird may impart you with a seedy surprise from the skies, and the cycle begins all over again.

Combatting invasive species is an arduous task even for the most proactive landowner. I have observed that it is a collective effort that really makes a difference. In October, TLC held Passport to Nature events to begin invasive species removal efforts at the Alston-Stewart Estate with support from the Greater Victoria Green Team, 66 community volunteers and friendly neighbour to the estate, Phil. With only two events, we managed to remove 15 cubic metres of invasive plants - a volume equivalent to 93 full bathtubs! 1,350 square metres of the forest floor was uncovered to the great satisfaction of underlying native dull Oregon grape (*Berberis nervosa*), trailing blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), and oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*). I couldn't tell whose smiles were bigger at the end of the day, the volunteers or the dozen or so trees who were freed of their stifling ivy scarves.

Be sure to join us for continued invasive species removal efforts at the Alston-Stewart Estate during the **2024 Passport to Nature event on Saturday, October 26 from 9:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Snacks will be provided! Register for one of our many Passport to Nature events in the region online today at www.conservancy.bc.ca/passport. Questions? Contact me at membership@cbaca.ca.



Gem of Cordova Bay: CB Beach Tiki hut
Not built by Brock or Owen. The guy who builds it is amazing!
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YOUTH GOLF IN CORDOVA BAY

By Jim Goddard, Director of Golf,
Cordova Bay Golf Course

Established 17 years ago as the Vikes Junior Tour, Junior Golf Victoria is a comprehensive, fully- integrated junior golf development program that teaches juniors how to hit a golf ball, how to behave on a golf course, and provides them with places to play. Its home bases are Cordova Bay and The Ridge golf courses. Program options include:

- Little Vikes Instruction Clinics: Teaches children how to hit a golf ball. Four clinics a week are offered year-round taught by PGA of Canada professionals. Participants are taken through a three-step program to get course ready and receive a bag tag when completing each step. Once they complete step three, they are deemed ready to attend the Ridge program.
- Little Vikes Ridge Events: Every second Sunday year-round, members of the Tour (see below) volunteer to take graduates of our Instruction Clinics around 9 holes at The Ridge. The kids are taught how to play quickly and courteously, how to keep a proper scorecard for a fellow player, and are given rudimentary instruction on the rules. Participants are not limited to those who have taken the instructions clinics as area teaching pros send their beginners to participate once they are ready. The included hot dog and a drink is very popular.
- Callaway Junior Tour: Formerly the Vikes Junior Tour, the program provides up to fifteen tournaments a year at all south and mid Vancouver Island golf courses, including the private clubs.



Unique to this program is the relationship with the University of Victoria which lends us their brand for the Instruction Clinics and Ridge events. Members of their Men's and Women's Golf Team, several of whom came through our programs, volunteer for our Tour events, handling registration and sometimes playing with our groups.

After juniors have completed Instruction Clinics and several Little Vikes Ridge Events, they are eligible to apply for Junior Membership at Cordova Bay Golf Course.

Fun and Character - Foundations for High Performance Golf and Citizenship

We see our mandate as creating a community and good citizens through golf. By emphasizing fun along with high performance, we've supported the development of close to 1,000 golfers who understand golf is a game that can be enjoyed for a lifetime.

We've also produced some outstanding athletes. Our players, male and female, have won:

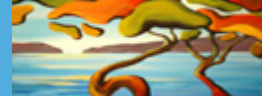
- Multiple provincial championships at all Junior levels;
- Multiple provincial amateur championships, most notably two (Nolan Thoroughgood and Chelsea Truong) while still Juniors; and
- Three national championships.
- Numerous members have been invited to join Team Canada at both the Junior and Amateur levels.

We've also seen many of our players off to golf scholarships at Division I Universities in the United States as well as Canadian universities.

We hope you enjoy reading your copy of *The Cordovan*. The next issue will be out in the fall.
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.

The Cordovan Team: Chris Harbord • Sari Naworynski • Debbie Sherwood



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

By Pat Bourke

A sustained renewal campaign over the fall and winter encouraged many former members to rejoin CBACA. At the end of February 2024, membership stood at 462.

Membership matters for many reasons:

- ongoing development proposed for Cordova Bay,
- provincial directive to increase housing rapidly to meet current and projected demand,
- important priority of ensuring the safe movement of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists as our community grows,
- continued imperative to preserve and enhance our green spaces and beaches, and
- our need to create and maintain a vibrant, livable community that is inclusive, welcoming and healthy.

Our combined voice matters when Saanich Council seeks input on proposed initiatives that affect our community. Some examples:

- community input helped shape the plans for new amenities at Fowler Park;
- the Transportation Committee continues to advocate to advance the timelines for proposed safety upgrades for Cordova Bay Road; and
- it matters when our community members are seeking active stewardship in helping improve our quality of life in the community.

A one-year household membership in the CBACA is \$10 and includes every member of your household who is age 18 or over. Membership is on a calendar-year basis for a one-year, two-year, three-year or five-year term. Those interested in advertising opportunities with the CBACA can contact Brock Nordman, Public Relations & Advertising, at hello@cbaca.ca.

Members joining or renewing before the April 24, 2024, AGM are eligible to vote in this year's AGM; their one-year membership expires at the end of 2024. Those joining or renewing after that date will be first eligible to vote in the April 2025 AGM; their one-year membership will expire at the end of 2025.

Find out more about what's happening in our community. The spring and fall issues of *The Cordovan* are supplemented by information made available on our website at cbaca.ca, and by ongoing emails to current members.

Questions? Contact me at membership@cbaca.ca.

CARS... CARS...CARS!

By Randy Otto

Cordova Bay Day will be back this year and so will the Cordova Bay Collector Car Show.

Show off your classic, antique, performance or specialty vehicle at the Cordova Bay Day Collector Car Show.

Saturday June 22, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at "The Haro" Parking lot.

Past shows were very successful and this year we hope to feature as many local vehicles as possible. Register now to show off your antique, custom, high performance, or any unusual or special interest vehicle. But space is limited so act now!

Register with Randy Otto rftotto@shaw.ca or call for more info. 250-858-7066.

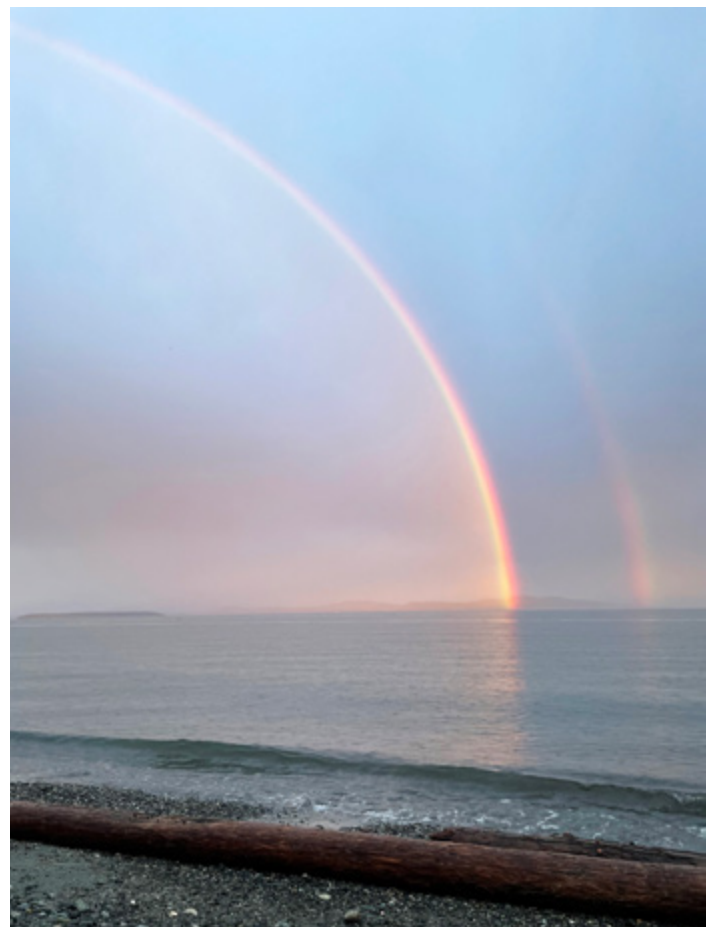


Photo by Sari Naworynski.

The Cordovan is produced and distributed 2 times per year by the Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs. The opinions expressed are not those of the Association Board unless specifically stated.



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