

BARA Bugle

Broadmead Area Residents' Association

Autumn Issue, 2010



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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From the Editor: Bill Wong

Come for the scenery and stay for the people

A warm welcome to all of you! This is my second issue as editor of our newsletter and my first opportunity to briefly introduce myself and talk about something that is important to me, namely volunteerism.

In the 1990's I lived in Victoria and when I graduated with my doctorate from UVic in 1999, I set off to explore other parts of BC. So, for the last 10 years, we have become really proficient with box packing, lifting and unpacking. At last count, we completed this cycle seven times. About two years ago, we were very fortunate to capitalize on a chance to return to Victoria. I am truly delighted to be working at Camosun's psychology department and each day I ask myself why we left this great city.

This time around, we chose Broadmead. The attraction to living in Broadmead is self-evident, with the natural beauty and numerous trails all being at the top of my list. However, it's all of the incredible people we have met in this community that will keep us calling it home. As many of you know, dozens of volunteers were needed to make our Community Day a success. It would not have happened without the time and effort from our neighbours. Here is another perfect example. This past summer, we woke up to find graffiti up and down our street. Later that day, we met Matt and Michael, both of whom decided to take matters into their own hands by cleaning up the blight left behind. This motivated my nine-year old son to help out. It is this sort of altruism that makes me proud to call this area my home.

As I further reflect on what makes my family happy, I realize that it's the relationships that matter and how this might be more important and powerful than anything else I have personally accomplished. For me, helping to assemble the BARA Bugle is my community contribution and it's also a great way to meet fellow residents. In this issue, I invite you to read about how some of your neighbours are volunteering and, in their own way, contributing to sustaining the soul of Broadmead.





Municipal

Affairs

Saanich Councillor,
Susan Brice
on Volunteering

Perhaps this quote from former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Anan best describes the value of volunteers:

“At the heart of volunteerism are the ideals of service and a belief that together we can make the world better. Volunteers share a human experience. They know that the true measure of success in life is not what we gain but what we give back to our fellow men and women.”

In Saanich and in our own neighbourhood of Broadmead we have hundreds of volunteers donating their time to making the community a healthier and happier place for us all. Any day in our churches, recreation centres, schools and organizations we have hundreds of people giving of their time and talents to assist seniors in getting to doctors' appointments, to protecting the natural state of Rithet's bog, to listening to a young child read or coaching youngsters in recreational sports. On a personal note my family was blessed to receive the devoted help from the volunteers from the ALS Society this past year. These volunteers are the heart of our community and they serve us in so many ways. The folks who serve on our Community Association and indeed bring us this very newsletter are our neighbours who give countless hours to ensure that Broadmead continues to be a safe and beautiful community.

Why do people volunteer? There are so many different reasons but we do know they want to make a difference or support a cause they believe in or share a skill or give back to society. Many volunteers are quite adamant that they get just as much out of the experience as those they are helping. We all benefit from this enormous resource that would be financially and emotionally impossible to replace.

For the future it is paramount that we instil in our children and grandchildren the value of volunteerism. Recently I took my grandchildren ages 7 and 9 to volunteer serving dinner to a group of seniors. I wanted them to understand that they were now at an age that they needed to get involved in helping others. I know many families in our area do similar activities. We should encourage young people to value their volunteer contributions and to include that experience on any academic or employment application. Because we are all benefitting from an era that valued volunteerism we must not take it for granted. If this basic tenet of our society was to diminish we would all notice a decline in the quality of life in our community.

Thank you volunteers; we are so grateful for the service you give.

Update on Island Blueberry Farm and the use of Cannons: Jim Griffith, BARA President

On October 18, 2010 a meeting was held with Saanich staff, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands staff, and community representatives. This included Barry Loucks (BVCA), Jim Griffith (BARA), Rhys Smallwood (Concerned Neighbours of Beckwith Farms), and Harold Wolf (North Quadra).

Saanich arranged and hosted the meeting for three primary reasons:

- To have community questions answered by Ministry staff on the use of propane cannons at Beckwith Farms, and on the issues of jurisdiction and process;
- To connect the community with Ministry staff who are responsible for the legislation and regulations;
- To allow Saanich and Ministry staff to obtain and share information on a number of legislative and jurisdictional matters.

Since that meeting the neighbours of Beckwith Farm (Island Blueberry Company) have filed an official complaint with the Ministry of Agriculture over the farm's use of audible bird deterrents, in the form of propane cannons, in the Blenkinsop Valley. The complainants maintain that the use of propane cannons or any similar loud audible bird deterrents (e.g. distress calls) should not be permitted immediately adjacent to neighbourhoods established long before Beckwith Farm came into being. The complainants further claim that the Company's introduction, in 2010, of propane cannons to the farm arrived at least 30 years after the urban neighbourhoods were established. They contend that Island Berry Company has violated a principle of "first in time, first in right", and that the cannons should not constitute a "normal farm practice" as stipulated by the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board.

As a way of showing support for the complaint BARA, along with other participants at the Oct.18 meeting, has submitted a letter to the Farm Industry Review Board requesting that they be granted intervener status. This designation will allow BARA to be part of the discussion process and lend additional support to the formal complaint.



Broadmead Artist: Margo Cooper

I met with Margo Cooper and her rambunctious dog, Charlotte, at their home on a sunny September afternoon. Margo's art portfolio is, as expected, quite impressive. The surprise was discovering exactly how modest Margo is about her art and her motivation for painting.

Margo has lived in Broadmead for about four years and prior to that the lower mainland and Penticton. As she explained to me, her artistic interests were always present; however, it was not until the 1980's at Langara College when those abilities were earnestly honed. It seems her husband, Dr. Michael



Cooper, encouraged her to further an interest. She happened upon the fine art department at nearby Langara and this is where she met instructor Gordon Caruso, during her second year. She recalls how liberating it was to learn from an instructor whose mantra was "Don't think, just paint!" The product of this influence was, at first, a wonderfully *Pollock-esque* painting. Later on, it invigorated the development of her self-defined "extroverted expressionistic" side, which represents her yearning to tell a story. At Langara, she was presented with the first place graduation award for printmaking and an honourable mention for painting. As well, in 2004, one of her short stories was recognized by an award from the 7th Annual Okanagan Short Fiction Contest. Yet, for each accomplishment, Margo understates the significance and maintains that she is "happy to simply to tell a story". Today, she continues to paint using acrylics and sometimes mixed media. Her work consists of many shades of black and white, often interspersed with bold colours. They are by no means direct replications of what we see but rather intuitive and spontaneous creations that speak a silent and unique story.

In 2009, Margo was delighted to share these visual stories in a solo show held in Penticton and recounts how rewarding it felt to see and hear others "reading" her paintings. Her works have also been on display in Nanaimo, Victoria and Chilliwack galleries.

She was quick to thank Michael for suggesting the construction of a home studio and her daughters, Angela and Juliana, for their ongoing encouragement and support.

If you would like to see some of Margo's paintings, please e-mail her to request an appointment: margocooper@shaw.ca

Bill Wong



Special Notice

The BARA phone number has been underutilized and is expensive, so as of January 1st, 2011 BARA will no longer have voicemail.

Please contact us by

Email: info@broadmead.ca

or write to

**Broadmead Area Residents' Association
Box 53527, Broadmead RPO
Victoria, BC V8X 5K2**

Broadmead Talk

An increasing number of ‘Signs by Trades’ are appearing on lawns in Broadmead. Please keep in mind the following **guideline**: The placing of any commercial or private sign on a property, including signs advertising the work of various contractors, etc, is normally prohibited; however, a contractor may, with the permission of the owner of the property on which the work is being carried out, erect a small sign which must be removed immediately after the work has been completed.

Membership fees for BARA are for the calendar year and are now due. The fee is \$15.00 per household per year. Renewal forms are available on our website at www.broadmead.ca.

Deer continue to be a problem for people in Broadmead. Survey your property and consider removing potential attractants.

Parks & Recreation Update: Signs are in place clearly marking the Royal Oak Trail and directing cyclists around the Rolston Trail. New maps will be published in November and a partial barrier at the entrance to the bog from Shadywood will be erected in November as well.

Vehicular Speed. We all love the walking, running, cycling, and simple enjoyment of being out on the streets and trails in Broadmead. Please remember that there are children, dogs, elderly walkers, running groups, cyclists, and even deer sharing our roadways and mind your speeding manners.

Reminder... One of the major responsibilities of BARA is to manage the covenants on behalf of all Broadmead residents. It is easy to forget what is contained in the covenants. Remember these are your covenants and are attached to your property. It is a good idea to review your covenant periodically so that you are familiar with the contents. If you do not understand the covenant or have lost it please feel free to contact BARA at info@broadmead.ca.

There are presently **two vacancies** on the BARA board of directors. If you are interested in playing an active role in your community and would like to become more involved with BARA please let us know at info@broadmead.ca.

Your ‘TAG’ Team - Together Against Graffiti: Martin Wood, Michael Carson, Kevin Cochrane

These three residents have formed BARA’s graffiti clean-up crew for the last few years. We acknowledge that their efforts are complemented by those of other independent resident volunteers who undertake graffiti removal on an as-needed basis. Fortunately, graffiti (tagging) is not prevalent in Broadmead. Its occurrence tends to be cyclical, and the most common targets have been BC Hydro and TELUS kiosks in a few high-traffic locations. The corporate owners of this ‘boulevard infrastructure’ simply don’t have the resources to keep up with graffiti removal, so it falls to residents to protect our community and our property values. It’s well known that widespread graffiti is correlated with other crimes and has been associated with a reduction in home values of 15% or more. Therefore, prompt removal is important to discourage repetitive attacks of tagging. If you see graffiti anywhere in Broadmead, give your TAG team a call at 250-708-2027, or send an email note to BARA, at info@broadmead.ca and we’ll respond. While the chore is not onerous, we can always use help. If you would consider participating, please let us know!



SNOWFALL ALERT

“Winter temperatures will be a bit below normal, on average with above normal snowfall. The coldest temperatures will occur in mid-and late December, mid January, and early and mid- February, with the heaviest snowfalls in mid-and late December and Late February”. (2010-11 Farmer’s Almanac)



Residents have a role to play in snow removal in Saanich and in the last five years we have had at least one snowfall each year. Let's hope that we are not betrayed by the weather this year but, if we are, do you know that it is the responsibility of all property owners and occupants to clean snow and ice from municipal sidewalks

adjacent to their property? This means when it snows we must locate our boots and shovels, and dig out our driveways and sidewalks. Fulfilling your responsibilities can improve the quality of life for all residents and reduce injuries caused by slipping and falls. Moreover, it’s the LAW: "Streets and Traffic Regulation Bylaw, 2002, No.8382, material upon streets".

Meet Your Neighbours: Pam and Dave Murray



routine. The Murrays receive about 2,000 copies of this newsletter and divide them into manageable packages for delivery to 25 locations. That translates to 25 drop-offs, twice a year, for the last eight years without any expectation of public recognition and that's indicative of the way the Murrays' view their contributions. David downplays all of this and says, "...it's only twice a year and really nothing near a full-time commitment". "From little things, big things grow" I think to myself. Whether it's providing a home for an unwanted dog, or helping the community, you have to admire the Murrays for their unrecognized (until this article) and altruistic sense of volunteerism.

Talking with David and Pamela is an absolute pleasure. Conversation flows easily because they really are friendly folks.

Upon arrival, I am greeted by a new addition to their family, Isla, a three-year old bearded collie. Pamela tells me that this collie has been "re-homed". A breeder in the US didn't want the pup as she did not measure up to show quality standards. Like their amazing contribution in the Broadmead community, the Murrays quietly helped Isla.

David is now retired from 30 years of oil refinery work. In 1994, he offered to help deliver the BARA newsletter on a part-time basis. Later on, this became a regular effort with David being dubbed the Bugle's de facto "Distribution Manager", starting in 2002. Here's the

Pamela was an Accounting Supervisor at Malaspina University-College until 1986. Afterwards, she worked as an Accounting and Payroll Supervisor with the City of Victoria, retiring in 2000. When I ask if she volunteers for anything else, there is a brief pause before she realizes that her 20-year involvement with the BC Rifle Association actually counts as volunteer work. She is currently the Treasurer and this long-term service is important. For many years, David and Pamela were both Navy reserves and this set the stage for a chance meeting on a rifle range in Vancouver in 1968 and the beginning of a shared life on Gabriola Island, Gordon Head, and finally Broadmead.

Officially, we would like to recognize David and Pamela for their lengthy volunteer efforts.

Bill Wong





BARA
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Rachel Calder, *Treasurer*
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Layout: Jean Ives
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Distribution: Barb Lawton, Katie Smith, Dave and Pam Murray and 50+ carriers

Membership List:

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Refreshments:

Maxine Campbell

Community Day Planning Committee:

Sulo Bawan
Judy Love
Donna Johnson
Mary Ward
Rev. Stephen Swift



Meet Your BARA Board Members

Rachel Calder

Rachel Calder was born in Victoria and grew up in Saanich with six brothers and sisters. She has a six-year old daughter and a one-year old son and actively supports her athlete husband who is training for his fourth Olympics in London, 2012. Rachel has a Bachelor of Social Work from McGill University and a Masters of Social Work, specializing in Leadership in the Human Services from the University of Calgary. Rachel has worked for the Youth Outreach Department of the Victoria Y for the past five years but will be stepping back from that role to focus more on her young children. Rachel's interests in community work revolve around community building and community well-being. In addition to her family focus, Rachel plays competitive women's soccer and enjoys painting, cooking, and the outdoors.



Johanna Morrow

Johanna was born in Holland and immigrated to Winnipeg at an early age. In 1976 she moved to Victoria where she met her husband Paul. They moved to their present home in Broadmead in 1997 and are thrilled to be living in such a lovely community. Johanna has had a long career with the Province of BC and presently works for Emergency Management BC managing several emergency and disaster funding programs. She has also been active in community volunteer work as a past vice-president of the Vancouver Island Strata Owners Association and volunteering her time to help a number of local charities including the CNIB, YMCA/YWCA Mum Reach and Kiwanis House. As a condominium owner and long term strata council member she is looking forward to promoting the benefits of BARA membership to other strata corporations and condominium owners in Broadmead.



THANK YOU GARY!

This is to let all residents know that Gary Potter will be leaving the Board at the end of November. Gary has served Broadmead for the past 20 years as a director on both the Broadmead Covenant Enforcement Society and The Broadmead Area Residents' Association. To say that his presence will be missed is an understatement. Watch for further announcements regarding Gary's departure.

BARA also extends thanks to Chuck Watson and Leo Bohnert for their tenure on the Board.



BARA is always looking for volunteers. Current needs are:

- **TAG Team:** graffiti...
- **Community Day**
- **BARA Board**
- **Bugle:** articles, layout, proof reading, delivery, advertising
- **Committees**
- **Covenant management**
- **Website**
- **Membership**
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Lana Popham, MLA Saanich South

I work in a non-partisan way to improve our
quality of life. If you are concerned about a
provincial issue, please contact me.

Community Office

4085 Quadra St. Mon-Fri, 9:30 am - 5:00 pm

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