

BARA Bugle

SPRING 2020



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Kirsten Barnes: Olympic Rowing Legend and More

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Rithet's Bog Conservation Society

We welcome new volunteers and/or new members.

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email: info@rithetsbog.org
website: www.rithetsbog.org


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Broadmead Valewood Trail Art Walk 2020

Fourteen amazing artists located at four sites in south Broadmead. Locations include:

- 33-4360 Emily Carr Drive
- 1063 Valewood Trail - some outdoor vendors
- 1054 Parkwood Place
- 1051 Thistlewood Drive

Artwork includes: Pottery, fibre art, watercolour, oil, pen & ink, photography, multi media

** Now POSTPONED to early Fall due to COVID-19 **

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Contact BARA:

info@broadmead.ca

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Bugle Production & Distribution:

Managing Editor: Beverley Merson

Layout Manager: Bruce More

Graphics Contributor: Nancy Craig

Editorial Assistant: Ann Wilson

Copy Editor: Eleanor James

Advertising: Ross Taylor

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President's Message

Doug Baer



As I write this column, Victoria is in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, with many of us effectively locked down. I am hoping that, by the time you read this, at least some of these restrictions will have been lifted. On the positive side, as I complete my daily bicycle exercise loop, I see neighbours talking to each other from across the street (observing physical distance but continuing to maintain social connections) and enjoying the sunshine.

The BARA Summer Music program held in August at the Broadmead Shopping Centre, and the Community Day held in September are both cancelled. Unfortunately, circumstances are too unknown to hold these future events. The BARA board has continued to meet monthly, albeit electronically.

Our Annual General Meeting, normally held in April, has been postponed; we are now hoping to hold it sometime in the Fall. Please check our website www.broadmead.ca for updates.

The BARA Board will be asking members what future projects they would like to see BARA undertaking. The Board is excited about the possibility of finding new ways to be of value to the Broadmead community when we have emerged from this health crisis.

We welcome suggestions as to how the organization can help the community during this difficult time. Please do not hesitate to contact:
PresidentBARA@gmail.com.

In the meantime, please stay well by obeying all of the protocols that health officials have asked us to follow.

Editor's Corner

Beverley Merson

Dear Readers,

Just as a reminder, the BARA Bugle is a bi-annual publication. The spring edition has traditionally been delivered before the AGM in April. This year, the AGM is postponed as noted in BARA's President's message. Coincidentally, it was decided to distribute future spring Bugles in late May.

Spring arrives with the power of nature bursting forth, and you will find that power is a major theme of this Bugle. Our "Broadmead Notable" is Kirsten Barnes, the powerhouse rower and Olympic gold medalist who also empowers athletes through her work. We feature an article on electrical solar power generation and highlight e-bikes. Thank you to Wayne Neumann for his extensive monitoring of nuisance helicopter noise in Broadmead. Another thank you goes to Ian Gibbs, Coordinator, Saanich Crime Prevention Programs and Volunteers. Although he is spread thin, he always takes the time to confer with me on Block Watch matters that are generally not covered in his newsletters.

Welcome to Mayor Haynes. I'd like to thank him for his time to contribute to this Bugle. Thank you to all of our regular article contributors. A special acknowledgement goes to Russ Pym and his volunteers, to whom we all owe a debt of gratitude for the ongoing and effective work in Rithet's Bog. Larry Statland continues to find interesting topics that help us in his column, "Exploring the unique natural environment that makes Broadmead a special place to live." Please remember not to feed grain to the ducks (see BARA Bugle Fall 2019). Thanks to Lionel Merson for his proof reading accumen.

Regarding the development near Lochside Elementary School: Covid-19 is contributing to the Saanich backlog of projects. As a result, the project is in a queue along with 200 other applications. However, when it becomes active, with staff actively negotiating, and opening opportunities for community input that information will become available. See the Fall Bugle for further updates.

Please note two new initiatives: a proposed community garage sale and the BARA Bugle photo contest.

As my husband, Lionel, and I have been strolling the streets of Broadmead, we have had the good fortune to greet, from a distance, many others including ducks. How fortunate we are to be isolating in such a wonderful environment. Stay safe. Stay healthy.

A keyring is a handy little gadget that allows you to lose all of your keys at once.

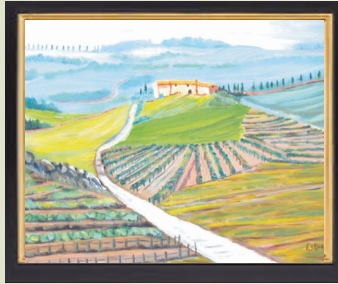
Notice of BARA Bugle Photo Contest

Please submit photos of interesting Broadmead mailboxes to BARABugle@shaw.ca by Aug 31, 2020. Include name, location of the mailbox for confirmation, and contact email for purpose of contact. The two top winning photos will be posted in the Bugle and runners-up on the BARA website.

Broadmead/Valewood Trail ArtWalk 2020

Linda Carswell-Bland

In 2003, a number of Broadmead artists participated in a Broadmead Studio Tour which became an annual event up until 2010. The group disbanded about eight years later. In Spring of 2018, a group of three artists who are neighbours opened their studios to show their work. They were featured in the Fall 2018 BARA Bugle.



artist F. Stock

An expanded group of likeminded artists living at 1063 Valewood Trail, a 19-unit strata complex, originated the idea of opening their homes/property to the public in an art walk in June of 2019. It was called a 'walk' as their property is off limits to the public's cars, but a short walk from the road! The first 'annual walk' was comprised of seven artists of various mediums, including fibre art, stained glass, pottery, oil, pen and ink, and watercolour. It was a successful, fun adventure resulting in the decision to hold a 'second annual' walk in 2020.



artist A. Amundrud

The modest beginning has now developed, in just one year, from seven artists to 14 artists located at four locations. All are still within walking distance; thus the name has continued with the inclusion of Broadmead in the name. Should the walk continue for another year (Spring 2021), there is a group of artists located in north Broadmead, who is considering joining the walk as well. Broadmead continues to berich with talent!

Broadmead/Valewood Trail ArtWalk was supposed to take place at four locations on Saturday, May 30 and Sunday, May 31, but due to the Coronavirus has been cancelled. The artists look forward to meeting neighbors, friends, and new acquaintances across the city at a future rescheduled date for the ArtWalk.

For further information, contact: lindacarswellbland@gmail.com

Helicopter Noise

Wayne Neumann

During the past 10 years the frequency of helicopters flying over the Broadmead residential area has increased to the point where several residents have requested BARA investigate why this is happening as well as what can be done to mitigate the trend.



Under Canadian Aviation Regulations, the minimum altitude for all aircraft over built up areas is 1000 feet. Most flights have maintained this minimum altitude, but there have been many occasions where helicopters have been lower, particularly during low cloud days. To reduce flight times, the aircraft have also been deviating from their mandated flight paths.

Transport Canada Safety and Security have a Low Flying Aircraft Complaint form which can be utilized to issue a formal complaint to the responsible federal agency. Several complaint forms have already been lodged by Broadmead residents who have been negatively affected by the downwash noise. Some common outcomes from the low flight paths over Broadmead are upset pets, inaudible conversation, rattled windows, and waking of babies.

In order to provide empirical data to justify my argument on behalf of BARA, I am compiling a database of flight frequency and would appreciate input from concerned residents. This would include number of overflights a day, time of day, colour and markings, and approximate direction of flight.

For further information or clarification of any details, BARA can be contacted for assistance at info@broadmead.ca

Social Distancing in Broadmead



Photo - B. Merson

The Bugle committee wishes to thank all front line workers for their care and dedication. Be safe!

Rithet's Bog - East Pond Restoration Project

Russ Pym

Work in the East Wetland area began in early 2016 when a wall of blackberry from the trailside was cleared to provide access and to survey the site. Volunteers are also working on the storm drain ditch on the outside of the trail, the trailside area, and further back in the pond. This article focusses on one facet of the work: the area close to the trail and visible to trail walkers.

The East Pond is 100 meters southwest from the Fir Tree Glen entrance to Rithet's Bog. It retains water all year round, but by 2017, had become overrun by two invasive species: hairy willowherb and reed canary grass. Hairy willowherb can be as damaging as purple loosestrife. Reed canary grass, a fodder crop, was planted when Rithet's Bog was farmed. Originally in early 2016, this restoration project's purpose was to eradicate the hairy willowherb. However, by late 2017, we realized that a series of exceptionally dry summers were severely affecting the park's wetlands. Since the East Pond is one of the few locations in Rithet's Bog that consistently remains wet through even extremely dry summers,



July 20, 2017

we decided to extend the project to include restoration of some shallow open water habitat to provide refuge for wetland species.

The first photo, from July 20, 2017 shows the trailside end of the pond before any invasive species removal. The entire surface of the pond was covered by a dense growth of hairy willowherb and reed canary grass.

The August 10 amplifolius photo shows the same area after removal of the hairy willowherb and some of the reed canary grass. However, as you can see in the foreground, the entire surface of the pond was still covered by a dense mat of reed canary grass rhizomes floating on top of the pond water and leaving no open water.

The March 11 photo shows shallow open water created by removing the floating mat of reed canary grass. We purposely chose a small area that is both accessible and a manageable size, since this is a trial project exploring unfamiliar



August 10, 2017

methods. The open water area will be planted with native aquatic plants, such as water smartweed and pondweeds (likely *Potamogeton amplifolius*), to provide cover for native animals such as three-spined stickleback, Pacific chorus frogs, and aquatic invertebrates. The ultimate goal is restoration of a functioning and self-sustaining ecosystem, not just creation of open water spaces.

The floating mat material and some pond sediment was used to restore the berm between the pond and creek, visible on the left edge of the photo. This berm will be planted with Cooley's hedge nettle and black twinberry, two native plants popular with hummingbirds that occur naturally in the immediate area.

If you are interested in helping us restore native habitat and ecosystems, we welcome new volunteers. Please view the events schedule on our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/rithetsbog

Photos Russ Pym



March 1, 2020

Kirsten's Rowing Career

1987 Pan American Games team. She won the gold medal in the coxless pairs with Kathleen Heddle.

1988 Seoul Olympics - her debut as an Olympian. She rowed a women's coxless pair with her partner Sarah Ann Ogilvie, and they came in seventh place.

1989 Summer Universiad. She won the coxless fours silver medal at the Summer Universiad.

1991 World Rowing Championships in Austria, She guided her fours and eights crew to gold.

1992 Barcelona Olympics. Along with her crew: Brenda Taylor, Jessica Monroe, and Kay Worthington, she won gold. The following day her fours crew plus Megan Delehanty, Shannon Crawford, Marnie McBean, Kathleen Heddle, and coxswain Lesley Thompson, were in the eights' final. They dominated the field, winning in Olympic record time (three and a half seconds ahead of the Romanians), to capture Kirsten's second gold medal of the Games.

Kirsten's Athletic Awards

Athlete of the Year for three consecutive years at U.Vic. 2001 Kirsten received the University of Victoria's Distinguished Alumni Award.

She was inducted into the following Sports Halls of Fame:

*'94 British Columbia
'94 Greater Victoria and Canadian Olympic
'06 University of Victoria '13 Canada's Sport
'17 Canadian Rowing
'19 North Shore*

Source (<https://olympic.ca/teamcanada/kirsten-barnes/>)

Kirsten Barnes **A Rowing Legend and Beyond**

Beverley Merson



Photo – B. Merson

15, Kirsten hit her growth spurt, and it was difficult to find skating partners of similar height. Fortunately, the school's rugby coach, Brian Lynch, had started Hillside's rowing program in the early 80s. Lynch was looking for rowers; and Kirsten and her girlfriends "leapt at the opportunity to have fun, be with friends, be social, and enjoy the camaraderie of a team sport."

Kirsten says that her "jump" from ice dancing to rowing was an easy one. First, "The mental aptitude for time management, organizing and planning just transferred over; and I loved learning new physical skills." Second, Kirsten's inspiring values were transferable: she shared that she had the desire to perform better, an appetite for embracing feedback, and a curiosity and resourcefulness to find whomever could help her improve.

It was impressive that in the interview Kirsten never mentioned the hardships of 5:30 a.m. practices in the dark, rowing in the rain, tortured muscles, or of any sticky interpersonal situations. She focusses on the positive. "Rowing was never a chore; it was just fun and something I enjoyed doing." She did say that there were "hard days to be sure; there were days that were not perfect. You just have to pick yourself up to go to the next session. When there were disappointing results, you had to acknowledge that you've had a tough day – you had to bounce back." What an admirable attitude!

Kirsten ended her competitive rowing career at age 25. She left rowing, "satisfied with her achievements - content really."

The successes and shared journey with her fellow rowers, are special outcomes of Kirsten's rowing career.

She will always remember the epic battle against Russia in 1991. The cox called out, "We can beat them. Our crew all connected at the same time, we pushed our legs at the same time, and our whole boat

My first reaction when Dr. Kirsten Barnes opened her front door was surprise. Instead of craning my head skywards to a height of 6' 1" or 2" or 3" or 4", I met her eyes at a much lower level than I expected. My impression, of Kirsten which lasted for the entire interview, was that she possessed quiet strength, exuded comfortable confidence, and demonstrated thoughtful communication. She is someone with whom I felt instant comfort.

Born in England to her Canadian travelling parents, Kirsten moved to Canada with them when she was one and was raised in Vancouver. Her athletic life started at a young age with the ambition to be an Olympic ice dancer. She attended Hillside High School in West Vancouver. At age



Photo - gvshof.ca

Boat naming ceremony

surged. It got us ahead for the next 10 strokes, and we beat the Russians by the tip of the boat." She will also never forget standing side-by-side with her crew on the podium with their gold medals.

She will ever remember the closeness of her relationships with her crews and treasure the bonds of friendship within the rowing community. She has enduring rowing friends internationally, and when she last visited Europe, those were the first calls she made.

Currently, Kirsten describes her rowing career as a window of time in her life. In 1992, when she returned from Barcelona, she graduated from U.Vic. with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Performance. She completed a Ph. D. in Sport Psychology at the University of Bristol, England in 1998. She worked with various sport organizations for 10 years in the U.K. and then returned to Vancouver.

In 2009, she connected with the Canadian Sport Institute Pacific and found that several of the sport programs with which she worked were based in Victoria. She is currently the Director of Health and Performance Services at the Canadian Sport Institute Pacific in Victoria and continues to work as a mental performance consultant. What exactly does Kirsten do? She leads a team of sport science and sport medicine practitioners who support our national sport teams in their training and preparation for international competition. "As a mental performance consultant for more than 20 years, I help individuals in the development and practice of their mental game plan with a variety of skills to support the sport performance".

That, and the fact that her husband, Terry Dillon, also a former Olympic rower for Great Britain, was appointed as CEO of Rowing Canada prompted them to move to Saanich, well, Broadmead to be exact in 2017. Kirsten and Terry have two children. Their daughter does ballet; their son soccer, and he has recently started rowing.

Kirsten never seems to skip a beat. She still manages to row three times a week with her friends/former crew members. She enjoys physical activities such as spin classes and circuit courses. Her passion is following young athletes' development within the subculture of their sport.

Her advice to the young sport minded: "Be curious, explore all sports, find your passion, and explore what might be possible". Kirsten is clearly a role model.

It is my hope that Bugle readers share this article with young aspiring athletes.



CP Photo/ COA/Ted Grant

from left to right: Kirsten (Shannon) Barnes, Brenda Taylor, Jessica Monroe, Kay Worthington gold medal winners , 4-rowing event- 1992 Olympic games -Barcelona

A Rowing Primer

A standard sprint race is 2km down a 6-lane buoyed course. Longer head races may snake down a river or around a lake. In both types of races, boats can carry from 1 to 8 rowers. The boats come in two styles: sculling (two smaller oars each) or sweeping (one larger oar each). Sweep boats may also carry a coxswain (pronounced cox-un or just cox) to steer and call the race plan; they are like the team's quarter-back. In boats without coxswains, one of the rowers steers by moving the rudder attached to their shoe.

Boat types

| | Number of rowers | Coxswain |
|--------------------|------------------|----------|
| Sculling | | |
| Single (1x) | 1 | x |
| Double (2x) | 2 | x |
| Quad (4x) | 4 | x |
| Sweeping | | |
| Straight pair (2+) | 2 | x |
| Coxed pair (2+) | | ✓ |
| Straight four (4) | 4 | x |
| Coxed four (4+) | | ✓ |
| Eight (8+) | 8 | ✓ |

Data from: https://www.rowing.org/resources/2018/6/28/6117_153107073735614546.aspx

Electric Bicycles: AKA e-bikes

Jim Pearson

E-bikes are also known as 'electric assist bicycles.' You've probably seen them on pathways or roads. What's the hype about? E-bikes are an amazing green transportation alternative. Some people can eliminate a vehicle by substituting an e-bike - we did! We are a family of five, with three school-age boys.

Most modern e-bikes are capable of travelling 20-50 km when assisting the rider. The rider can select a setting of one through five for the level of 'power assist.' Want to pedal with just a little help? Select level one or two. Tired or trying to avoid sweating while on your way to work? Select level three, four, or five.

We have a cargo e-bike and can carry two kids and a few bags of groceries if needed. It carries a lot, but many people will be happy with a smaller, nimbler e-bike that carries a bag or two.



Photo Jim Pearson



Photo B. Merson

Broadmead is a perfect location for an e-bike commute into Victoria. It's about 10 km from Royal Oak Drive near Lochside Elementary School to downtown. It takes about 20 minutes of beautiful scenery, lakes, and forests, and of course there's no traffic! Parking is free, and you can ride right up to wherever you're going. It's about the same time as commuting in a car, but far more fun.

What about the rain? It's not as big of a deal as most people may think. You need four things. A good rain jacket, rain pants, rain over-booties, and quality gloves. All this will cost you about \$500 at your local bike shop. This is overall a small investment.

What size electric motor and battery should you consider? In BC, we're legislated to a maximum of 500 watts of sustained power output. There are varying batteries; 36V and 48V are the most common. The battery amps

are important too. Typically, e-bike batteries range from about 10-amp hours (Ah) to about 17.5 Ah. Multiply voltage by amp hours and your final number is called "watt hours."

To run a 500-watt electric motor for an hour, at 250 watts, you would use half your battery power. We have a large cargo bike, and we've got a 17.5 Ah, 48-volt battery. It can run for 840-watt hours. It all depends on how much you use the electric motor versus pedal power. Ours would go about eight hours at 100 watts an hour, or just over four hours at 200 watts of energy per hour. Each e-bike has a computer display so you are able to keep an eye on your usage. E-bikes cost about \$1,500 to \$5,000. They are generally configured to fit people from 5' to 6'4" on the same frame. E-bikes are great for everyone from teenagers to seniors. Once you try one, you'll never want to drive anywhere locally again.

Learn more at: <https://electricbikereport.com>

Licorice fern (*Polypodium glycyrrhiza*) is a small to medium-sized native fern that ranges along the west coast from Oregon to Alaska. The name originates from the sweet licorice-like flavour of the rhizomes. It can be found in moist mossy areas often on rocks and logs. It also grows as an epiphyte on tree trunks and branches, as frequently seen on bigleaf maples (*Acer macrophyllum*). In Broadmead, licorice ferns form mats covering rocky outcrops and rock faces. I consider you as lucky if you have licorice ferns growing in your yard. They form a lush green ground cover over areas with thin or no soil where it is extremely difficult to grow anything else. They require no care, no watering, and stay green through winter. Licorice ferns senesce, turn brown and residents, mistaking them for dead during our seasonal drought in the summer, strip them from the rocks removing their perennial mat. This is unfortunate because these form over many decades, and once removed,

Green Spaces: Licorice Fern

Larry Statland



Rock-face above Emily Carr Park
Photo Larry Statland

are extremely difficult to re-establish. This is not only the loss of a beautiful natural feature enhancing an individual's property; but also, more broadly, an erosion of the neighbourhood's unique natural assets. Licorice fern can be purchased at the Thimble Farms native plant nursery on Salt Spring Island. For best results, plant in the fall. Avoid spring and summer when the plant is entering its dormant season. Site plants in cracks or crevices in and among the rocks.

Please do not raid our parks for licorice fern! Broadmead parks are under considerable stress. Saanich guidelines prohibit the removal of plants from its parks: "No person shall cut, break, injure, remove or in any way destroy or damage any tree, shrub, plant, turf, in any park or on any beach."

For additional information, contact info@broadmead.ca with 'green spaces' in the subject line.

Garage Sale Success: Security Tips

Ian Gibbs

On the eve of summer, many of us with too many unwanted 'treasures' are thinking of holding garage sales. Our reasons may vary from decluttering, making a bit of cash, preparing for moving, and/or downsizing.

However, a concern for us all should be security, and according to Block Watch, the current economy has also caused some people to view garage sales as targets of robbery and burglary. Criminals know you have cash on hand when you are selling your items at a garage sale, and they also know that the security will probably be lax. You can lower your risk by following these suggestions from home security experts.

- When you post your ad for your sale, do not advertise it as a "moving sale." This tells potential burglars that your house could be unoccupied for long periods of time, which could give them the opportunity to break in more easily.
- Do not try to run the sale on your own. There is safety in numbers, and you should have at least one other person with you at all times. If you are alone, you are more vulnerable.
- Always keep a cell phone nearby so you can contact the police if you need to. You should also have access to your alarm system's panic button in case you ever feel like you are in physical danger. This is a faster way of getting emergency help than calling 911.
- Lock your doors and arm your home security system, if you have one, at all times. If someone tries to get into your house, the alarm will sound, and you can get the police there right away.
- Greet every customer. You want them to know that you are aware of their presence.
- Be vigilant for teams of criminals working together. One will try to distract you while the other person steals from you or tries to get into your house.
- Never answer personal questions about your house or its security system.
- Never allow anyone to go inside your house, even to use the restroom.
- Consider keeping your cash in a fanny pack with the access in front of you.
- Put items of higher value near the cashier's table. This way, you can keep an eye on them and ensure no one walks away with them without paying. Here is some advice for handling money by an experienced cashier.
- Accept cash only. Do not accept bills larger than a \$20 because you don't want anyone to see the amount of change you have on hand.
- Do not accept a rolled-up bundle of cash from a customer as the money might be short. Instead, have them show or count out the money they are giving you.
- Always keep out the bill that the buyer gives you while you are counting out the change. This will stop the buyer who will tell you that they gave you a twenty when in reality, they gave you a ten.

Broadmead Community Garage Sale Proposal

A few Broadmead area residents have expressed interest in holding a community garage sale. The sale would take place at residents' own homes from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (strictly no tolerance for early-birds or latecomers).

Each home would be responsible for putting out balloons at the edge of their property. A list of garage sale locations would be kept and would be shown at locally visible locations.

Because of the Covid-19 situation, a date has yet to be determined.

If you are interested in participating and/or volunteering, please let us know, so we can determine if we have enough participants to hold the sale, designate a date, and advertise it. If you would like to participate e-mail garagesale@broadmead.ca and provide the following information:

- Contact name and phone number and/or email address (for the organizers).
- Your address.
- One or two examples of categories of what you are mostly selling: e.g. household items, games.

A few volunteers would also be needed to contact free media advertising sites.



Saanich Update

Councillor Susan Brice



Dear Broadmead Neighbours,

I acknowledge that we are all feeling apprehensive due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please know that Saanich Council and the municipality have been working in concert with the provincial government and Dr. Bonnie Henry, the Provincial Health Officer.

Sometimes as I'm out, everything seems normal: trees are blooming and birds are singing, but a quick look at the Broadmead Village shopping centre, and it's apparent that nothing is normal. It's impressive that our community's businesses have moved so quickly to provide safe places for us to get our essentials.

Saanich recreation facilities and golf course are closed. Island Health set up a testing site at Cedar Hill Rec. Centre. Please look to Island Health for any particulars relating to this operation. Some Saanich fire fighters have been re-located at Pearkes Rec Centre. The garden waste drop-off at Borden Street is temporarily closed. To keep up on current conditions visit [Saanich.ca/COVID-19](https://www.saanich.ca/covid-19)

We thank all those who have been following the B.C. advice and recommendations so far. To thank our health care workers and first responders, I have joined the growing number of people from across this region and province who go outside every night and make a noise in support. Some use pots and pans and others play instruments. So, on any night at 7:00 if you hear the raspy tone of a Kazoo floating down Ambleswood Drive, that's me, and I'd love to hear others. Together we will send a shout out of love to those front line workers caring for us at this challenging time.s

A Message

Saanich Mayor Fred Haynes



Hello Broadmead Residents,

I've always been aware of Broadmead's long standing as a well-organized and unique community. As we address these difficult times with COVID-19, the municipality understands the turbulence and uncertainties that residents are facing.

The Saanich Emergency Operation Centre has been staffed for many weeks, and we have ensured the security and continuation of our essential services of garbage pick-up, police, fire services, water supply, and road maintenance operations. I mention these as while we are each dealing with the uncertainty of COVID-19, you can be certain that Saanich has moved to a high level of pandemic preparedness to get us through the short, medium, and, if needed, longer term. In doing so, we need to rely on all residents responsibly following the provincial health officer's recommendations on physical distancing.

As mayor, I can tell you that your council and staff are also concerned with keeping our parks and trails available. We want your access to natural spaces to be as open as possible. In this COVID-19 time, it's important that all individuals can get out into the healthy, healing aspects of walking or cycling in nature.

I think we also know that it is especially important at this time to treat each other with extra kindness, understanding, and patience. We each individually are dealing with these unique stresses and triggers.

I see so much to be so proud of when I see the positive and resilient ways our residents and businesses are taking on this COVID-19 situation. Working resolutely together -- helping each other -- we shall get through this. Stay safe, stay well.

Artistic Addresses in Broadmead: A Photo Essay





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| 11am - 9pm | 11am - 9pm | 11am - 9pm | 5pm - 9pm |



Hi, I'm Mark. **Broadmead resident**, husband, dad, and real estate agent with an exciting new brokerage called **The Agency**.



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Solar Panels in Broadmead

Beverley Merson

Solar electrical power in Broadmead, really? There are many homes in Broadmead for which electrical solar power can work. The idea of writing an article on Broadmead homes with solar power originated with an email from two Broadmead homeowners who are solar power system owners and enthusiasts. I chatted with them and was referred to Brenda Lundman and Francois Dumas who graciously provided an interview.

Ric Peron, electrician and solar panel installer, provided more information so that essentially, what follows is gleaned from those sources.

Motivations

Homeowners have several different reasons for installing an electric solar system. These include: being green; willing to invest in a system from which they expect cost recovery, and a return on their investment; and expecting added home value. When some owners install an electric vehicle charger, they become interested in electric solar power.

Other Financial Implications

The longevity of the system; the cost of the panels and installation for the system which will be the initial outlay; plus, the amount of the power generated will inform the financial decision as to whether a system is affordable and desirable.

System Warranties and Longevity

Be aware that the panels are made in different countries; research is key. Note the warranty on potential systems. One estimate was 20 years. Essentially this is because the systems are static - meaning there are no moving parts to break down or wear out. There is the possibility that panels may be damaged by hail or by falling trees.

Cost and Installation

Cost for each home may vary. Contractors have a program to assess the shade of trees near the home, if any, and determine the amount and size of the panels required to give sufficient power for homeowners' needs. Where the home is situated on the lot is also a factor. Homes with unobstructed southern exposure will be more efficient and require less panel surface area. However, homes facing other directions may still be able to generate ample power. Solar panels can be installed on pitched or flat roofs. The electrical contractor can give homeowners the number and cost of panels as well as the



Photo Broadmead Homeowner

power that can be generated. Installation normally takes just days to complete. Permits are required in Saanich and obtained by the electrician from BC Hydro.

Amount of Power Generated

In past years, homeowners installed large systems that generated much more power than needed. Excess power was sold back to BC Hydro which resulted in tidy or even generous incomes for homeowners. This advantage is no longer an option. BC Hydro currently conducts an 'audit' of usual usage or prior electrical consumption. They then assign an allotment of maximum power that can be generated by the system based on that. In low consumption periods/aka summer, when homes are powered by their own system, excess credits are built up in their account. In periods of high consumption, homeowners draw credits down. Both couples report that they have monthly savings on their hydro bill.

Cost Recovery and Return on Investment

Cost recovery and ROI depends on the initial outlay and its efficiency. According to Ric Perron, the reduction in system costs and the increase in efficiency, makes cost-efficient systems. Brenda and Françoise report that they expect cost recovery in 12 to 15 years.

Maintenance

The most common need is keeping the panels clear of tree and other debris. If part is covered, the entire panel will not function.

Moving Forward

Saanich is developing an Electric Mobility Strategy to help facilitate the transition to electric vehicles and e-bikes in our community. To learn more, please visit the Saanich Electric Mobility Strategy page.

For more information:
perronelectric.ca

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

If you wish to remit by PayPal, visit our website: <http://www.broadmead.ca/members/membership/membership-renewal/>

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