

THE Oak Bay Connector

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF OAK BAY QUARTERLY PAPER ■ FIRST EDITION APRIL 2009

Welcome to our first Oak Bay Connector! Please read all about us on page two. Also check inside for our "What's on in Oak Bay", history section and more.

Building a disaster resilient community

Are we prepared?

The Oak Bay Emergency Program (OBEP) and its community partners invite you to our May 3rd Evacuation Centre Exercise, Open House, Community Fair, Boat Dedication and Barbeque. The emphasis is to provide greater public awareness and education about all the participating

organizations. This Community Event provides us with the opportunity to increase awareness about the Emergency Program, its Emergency Social Services (ESS) and Amateur Radio teams, the operation of a Reception (Evacuation) Centre and the services that could be provided

there in the event of an evacuation or other emergency. It will provide the citizens of Oak Bay and the organizations that serve them with practical information and tools on how to become self-sufficient for a minimum of seven days.

It will also highlight the collaborative work that has occurred over the past two years to engage our community-based organizations as partners in preparedness, response and recovery planning and activities. This event involves many of the community partners and businesses that the Emergency Program will need at its side to respond and recover in the event of a large scale disaster.

The Oak Bay ESS and Amateur Radio teams will exercise parts of their response

plans during this small-scale ESS Evacuation Centre exercise and display. Red Cross and St. John Ambulance will participate within the Centre. Members of the public will be invited to spend 10 minutes playing the part of an 'evacuee' while learning about the importance of the registration process and answering a few preparedness questions to assist us with Emergency Planning. We particularly want to invite residents within our community who would identify themselves as being vulnerable in an emergency or disaster to take part as 'evacuees'. All 'evacuees' will be given a draw ticket to win a Grab & Go Bag (6-12 hour) assembled by Columbia Fire & Safety and sponsored by community

businesses and organizations.

Volunteers supporting the ESS staffing at the Evacuation Centre and other ESS/OBEP displays will include members from Recreation, Block Watch, Volunteer Services, Kiwanis Club, Monterey PAC, Oak Bay United Church, St. Patrick's Church, Community Association, Oak Bay High students and many others from our community.

Thank you to the Exercise Design Team who spent the past four months planning this Community Event with representation from the Emergency Program, Council, Recreation ESS, Block Watch, Amateur Radio, Community Association and Oak Bay Sea Rescue.

Bring your family, friends and neighbours!



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK

- Open House • Barbeque
- Evacuation Centre Exercise
- Community Fair

SUNDAY MAY 3
11:15am - 1:30pm

at the Oak Bay Rec Centre

Soccer Turf & Goldsmith
Parking Lot

Emergency Preparedness Week Events May 3-9

PUBLIC

Sunday, May 3

11:15 - 11:30 Oak Bay Sea Rescue II:
Dedication of New Boat!

11:30 - 1:30 Community Fair, Open House
and Barbeque

11:30 - 1:30 Evacuation Centre Open

Location: Soccer Turf and Parking Lot, Oak Bay
Recreation Centre, 1975 Bee St

WITHIN COMMUNITY

Tuesday, May 5

• Personal Preparedness Workshop
for Municipal Staff

Wednesday & Thursday, May 6 & 7

• Grade 3 School Presentations - Red Cross,
Emergency Program, Oak Bay High students
and Fire Department

Emergency Preparedness Free Workshops

Disaster First Aid

Wednesdays, May 20 & 27
(both nights), 6pm-9pm

Windsor Park Pavilion (Windsor at Transit)

*Learn to how to Triage & apply First Aid. Wear
comfortable clothes, Bring a blanket.*

Instructor: St. John Ambulance

Fire Extinguishment Training

Saturday, May 30th, 2009, 10am-Noon
Oak Bay Fire Hall, 1703 Monterey Ave.

*Learn about how to properly use
a Fire Extinguisher.*

*Pre-register at 250-592-9121 (Fire Hall)
or coordinator@oakbayemergency.com*

**Check the Oak Bay Emergency Program
website for upcoming meetings, training and
workshops at: www.oakbayemergency.com**

OAK BAY EMERGENCY PROGRAM CONTACTS:

www.oakbayemergency.com

Dave Cockle

Deputy Chief & Deputy Emergency
Coordinator
250-592-9121 (Fire Hall) or
coordinator@oakbayemergency.com

Sonja Ruthe

Community Emergency Preparedness
Coordinator (& ESS)
250-514-5249 or
sruthe@oakbayemergency.com

Philip Lin

Emergency Communications Coordinator
250-592-9121 (Fire Hall) or
dsfa@islandnet.com

We invite you to
create our
LOGO

THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF OAK BAY is a newly formed group who is interested in preserving the uniqueness of Oak Bay. If you are creative and have an idea you feel would best represent us, we would love to have you submit your design to our contest. Judges will be Black Press and Community Association of Oak Bay and is open to all Oak Bay residents. Deadline Friday, June 26, 2009.

Send entries to: jillcroft@telus.net

www.oakbaycommunityassociation.org



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Let us introduce ourselves...

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF OAK BAY – HISTORY

– Jill Croft

Oak Bay has a long history of community organizations serving the residents of the Municipality. An association formed in 1974, which was instrumental in the development of Oak Bay Volunteer Services.

The summer

of 2008 was when the germination of a Community Association in the Municipality of Oak Bay took place, once again.

Meeting at the OB Rec Centre to support the initiative of both City Harvest and Food Roots to hold a weekly

market in Oak Bay was where the seeds were planted. Out of that brief encounter, it was decided that a gathering of like minded folk here in Oak Bay will grow into a community based organization.

On Thursday, June 19, 2008, a gathering of optimistic Oak Bay residents met with Saanich Councillor, Vicki Sanders. Vicki, a passionate advocate of Community Associations, was more than willing to share her knowledge and enthusiasm of the importance of a formation of such a group. Local suppliers provided snacks which turned this initial meeting into both an informative and social evening. This event provided an opportunity to meet neighbours, many

for the first time, and discuss common issues. The evening focused on concerns for the environment, community planning, community vibrancy and safety.

A steering committee was struck and the seeds began to sprout. On a warm July evening in lovely Lokier Gardens it was agreed to draft a constitution, hold an election for five directors and incorporate as a non-profit society. Again, snacks were provided by a local cafe and kept the fun, social aspect of our group in perspective.

September 11, 2008, in The Lilac Room at

the Monterey Centre the constitution and by-laws were approved by a crowd of 45 Oak Bay residents. Five directors were elected and will serve until April, 2010. Our roots are becoming firmly planted here in our Municipality of Oak Bay.

On Friday, November 7th, the Community Association hosted an All Candidates Meeting for the Oak Bay Municipal Elections in the Garry Oak Room of the Monterey Centre. This was a standing room only event, and all eleven prospective candidates attended

to make this evening a great success.

Officially known as the Community Association of Oak Bay the Certificate of Incorporation was received on December 19, 2008 – what a fulfilling way to end the year. The Directors met for the first time on December 12 and have continued to do so monthly in each other's home.

We have many exciting events to look forward to in the development of our Community Association, including a web site, a seasonal newsletter and partnering

Our commitment to the Oak Bay community

1. Foster community involvement in all development and land use sharing;
2. Support development and co-operative use of community facilities;
3. Promote safety and well-being of community residents;
4. Maintain the character of Oak Bay in harmony with the environment;
5. Encourage the formation of neighbourhood associations.

with all Oak Bay organizations to give a cohesive feel to Oak Bay. We welcome all residents of Oak Bay to grow and have fun with the Community Association of Oak Bay, everyone in our community has something to offer.

Positively Environmental



The Victoria Car Share Co-op is a convenient way for people to do something positive

about our environment by driving less and reducing the number of vehicles on the road. Car sharing costs about one quarter as much as owning a car and leaves you free of the hassles and costs of maintenance and insurance. Car sharing makes it easy to drive less, not own a vehicle, or to switch to a fuel-efficient car with occasional access to larger utility vehicles.

To join, purchase a membership for \$400, which is 100% refunded if you ever leave the Co-op. To become a member, qualify as a safe driver (must be at least 21 years old), attend a brief orientation and sign a membership agreement.

Once you are a member, you will have access to 17 cars, trucks and minivans located around town. Members are charged by the time and distance they drive, an administration fee of \$15/month and taxes. Our rates are \$0.42/km and \$2.82/hour, including gas and insurance, with discounts for night time and multi-day use.

You will also have access to our sister car share co-ops in Vancouver and the Kootenays. And your membership includes co-op voting rights to help decide how we'll grow. The Oak Bay car is located in the parking lot across Monterey Avenue from the Library parking.

Learn more at www.victoriacarshare.ca or call us at 250-995-0265 to join!

WHAT'S ON IN OAK BAY

ONGOING EVENTS

WILLOWS BEACH TEA ROOM
is open every day starting April 25, 10-4:30pm until the end of Sept.

FOOD ROOTS POCKET MARKET
Estevan Village - every Thursday May 7-Oct. 29, 3-6 pm.
www.foodroots.ca

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF OAK BAY DIRECTORS' MEETING
www.oakbaycommunityassociation.org or 250-595-6284 for more info

ROTARY CLUB OF OAK BAY
meets Tuesday Noon, Oak Bay Rec Sportsview Lounge
www.oakbayrotary.com

KIWANIS CLUB OF OAK BAY
meets Thursday 5:45pm Kiwanis Manor 2075 Milton Street. Derek 250 477-1562 or Susan 250 477-7246.

VICTORIA CAR SHARE CO-OP
meets 3rd Thursday, 5-7pm #320-620 View St. Refreshments www.victoriacarshare.ca

MAY 2009

MAY 3, SUNDAY 11:30 - 1:30PM
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF OAK BAY COMMUNITY FAIR
in conjunction with Emergency Services at Oak Bay Rec Centre

MAY 6, WEDNESDAY, 7PM
OAK BAY HERITAGE - ECHOES OF THE PAST by Professor John Lucas Classic Oak Bay Interiors at Windsor Park Pavilion. Admission by Donation - Refreshments

MAY 15, FRIDAY 6:30PM
OAK BAY LAWN BOWLING CLUB OPEN HOUSE - 2190 Harlow Dr. (Carnarvon Park) (250) 592-1823. We're looking for new members! Our members enjoy year-round activities that include lawn bowling throughout the summer months and winter activities that include Short Mat (indoor version of lawn bowls), Cribbage, Darts, Bridge, Mah Jong, as well as Social evenings throughout the year. Come out and try your hand at lawn bowling and enjoy refreshments with us afterwards!

MAY 22-24 FRIDAY-SUNDAY
ST. CHRISTOPHER'S MONTESSORI SCHOOL 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - 250-595-3213 www.stcmsoakbaybc.com

MAY 23, SATURDAY, 12-2PM
SCOUTING PROGRAMS - REGISTER YOUR CHILD NOW FOR FALL
Scout Hall, 1703 Monterey Ave. at Firemen's Park (beside Oak Bay Fire Hall) Sasha Isnorman@telus.net

MAY 28, THURSDAY, 2:30PM
OAK BAY VOLUNTEER SERVICES
will hold its Annual General Meeting. Sportsview Lounge at Oak Bay Recreation Centre. To attend call 250-595-1034 no later than May 21.

MAY 28, THURSDAY, 6:30-10PM
MONTEREY SCHOOL ART 10TH ANNUAL GALA - info 250-598-4589

MAY 29 FRIDAY, 7:30PM
THE MARDI MINSTRELS INVITE YOU TO THEIR SPRING CELEBRATION CONCERT AND SINGALONG
Oak Bay United Church - Gardiner Hall (1355 Mitchell St.) By donation, refreshments, 250-598-5787

JUNE 2009

JUNE 13, SATURDAY 1-3PM
BOWKER CREEK CELEBRATION WALK
A family-friendly celebration walk. Meet at Oak Bay Rec Centre upper parking lot. Walk the creek and meet surprising creatures. Learn fun facts about our neighbourhood treasure. Free! Info: 250-370-4365

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF OAK BAY QUARTERLY PAPER ✻ FIRST EDITION APRIL 2009

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250-592-5544 112-2187 OAK BAY AVENUE (ATHLONE COURT OFF HAMPSHIRE)

Oak Bay Kiwanis Club shows strong community support

The Kiwanis Club of Oak Bay has served the Oak Bay and Victoria community since 1947 with our biggest fund raiser being the Willows Beach Tea Room. The Tea Room is operated by Kiwanian members, volunteers and also students from your community.

We have built or created many projects such as The Kiwanis Pavilion, the Reading Room at Oak Bay Library, Kiwanis Manor for Seniors on Milton St. and the Girl Guides and Scout Hall at Fireman's Park – just to mention a few among many!

Who in Oak Bay hasn't been to the Hallowe'en Party and Bonfire - we're there too! We contribute a yearly scholarship to Oak Bay High and the OB "Yes" awards, support Cops for Cancer and the Oak Bay Sea Rescue. These are just a few of the ways we try to help our local community.

We invite you to come and learn more about our very active service club. The Kiwanis Club of Oak Bay meets on Thursday evenings 5:45 pm at Kiwanis Manor, 2075 Milton Street, in Oak Bay. If you are interested in attending one of our dinner meetings, often featuring an interesting, topical speaker, please call Derek at 250 477-1562 or Susan @ 250 477-7246.

*The Kiwanis Club of Oak Bay...
"A Club worth belonging to".*



When we moved here on July 15, 1963, the whole street was single family residential. Now there are only four single family houses on the south side of Chaucer Street.

I remember walking down to the grocery store and turning off Foul Bay on to Chaucer and thinking how lovely it was to have all those trees shading the street. At that time we did not have boulevards, but we did have sidewalks. I still love the trees but sometimes all the limbs that come off in windstorms are not so welcome.

Around the corner on Oak Bay Avenue there was Mrs. Frost's store. She had stools to sit on while you had an ice cream cone which cost 5 cents or coffee. She knew everybody.

Next door to her was a grocery store and across the street

Oak Bay Pioneers

– Written by Marie Reeves

was another grocery store. At the corner of the building which housed the grocery store and Mrs Frost's store was Davenports Pharmacy.

We sure had everything we needed right close by. A bit further down the street was Oak Bay Lockers the only other business on that side of Oak Bay Ave. Their family home was out the back facing Chaucer Street.

Freezers were a real luxury, so we would buy our meat in bulk and store it in the locker. Once a week I would go and take out what I would need for that week.

All the rest of the buildings on the north side of Oak were single family dwelling also. The apartment building facing Oak Bay and backing on Chaucer was the first change.

Oak Bay Volunteer Services vital to our community

For the past 32 years, dedicated members of Oak Bay Volunteer Services have been providing one-to-one direct volunteer help to individuals of all ages who live in our community. There is seldom a job too big or too small for one of our volunteers.

One of the most requested services we provide is arranging drives for those who for physical, financial or other reasons cannot use public transportation or taxis. The drive could be to a medical appointment, the bank or hairdresser, to

the grocery store or even a recreational drive.

Another well-subscribed service is the Reassurance Phone Call. These phone calls let these people know someone is looking out for their welfare. If there is no answer, the volunteer has contact people whom (s)he

would phone to enquire about the client, and if needed emergency help is arranged.

Oak Bay Volunteer Services is always looking for new volunteers. For more information on services or to volunteer please email us at obvs@oakbayvolunteer.bc.ca.

Oak Bay youth key in community growth

– Written by Anneliese Sanghara

Coming from different grades and municipalities with unique dreams and goals, four involved youth are shaping the Oak Bay community.

The Oak Bay Youth Committee, led by Anneliese Sanghara and sponsored by Councillor Hazel Braithwaite, is a new community initiative that focuses on informing youth about municipal politics, bonding youth and the community, and bringing youthful voices to municipal deliberations and decisions.

This year, the Oak Bay Youth Committee has hosted a successful Silent Art Auction at the Oak Bay Recreation Centre, which displayed youth talent in the community and gave the Oak Bay Youth Committee well-needed start-up funds for future projects.

Currently, the Oak Bay Youth Committee is focusing on becoming politically informed and involved before organizing a seminar for youth about municipal decision-making processes.

For more information, please feel free to e-mail the Oak Bay Youth Committee: obyouthc@gmail.com.



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Oak Bay Clock photo taken and used with permission by Nancy Read

INVESTMENT INSIGHT SEMINAR APRIL 2009

WHEN WILL I GET MY MONEY BACK?

While we can't predict exactly how long it will take this time, we believe that over time, as it has done in the past, markets will rebound.

* Find out how the investment decisions you make today may influence the time it takes for your portfolio to recover. To reserve your seat, please call or stop by today.

Refreshments will be served.

*Past performance does not ensure future results.



Audrey L. McFarlane
Financial Advisor
2183 Theatre Lane
Oak Bay (Victoria), BC V8R 6T1
250-595-3900
www.edwardjones.com Member CFP

Date: Wednesday, April 29th, 2009
Time: 10:00 - 11:00 AM
Place: 2183 Theatre Lane, Oak Bay
RSVP: Debi 250-595-3900

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Contact Information

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MEMBERSHIP: \$10 per year from May 1, 2009

Published by:

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF OAK BAY

The views expressed in the Oak Bay Connector do not necessarily reflect the views of CAOB.

IF YOU HAVE AN OAK BAY EVENT...

you would like listed in the Oak Bay Connector Calendar please send an email with the subject line "OBC calendar" to

jillcroft@telus.net.

Cycling Master Plan now underway

Local cycling and walking enthusiasts have launched a project to create the first-ever bicycle master plan (BMP) for the municipality of Oak Bay. The goals of the inaugural plan are to support and develop the cycling community transportation needs, to guide the municipality in its infrastructure assessment and improvement, and to coordinate this development with adjacent municipalities in Greater Victoria.

"The momentum has been building over several years for increased bicycle infrastructure in our community," said Team Leader Corey Burger.

The Municipality needs information and encouragement to make appropriate decisions about bicycle infrastructure and urban planning, rather than simply reacting to accidents, controversies and increased automotive traffic congestion. And while adjacent municipalities have either a bicycle master plan or a bicycle advisory committee to inform and guide decision-making, Oak Bay has neither.

"What is lacking is a comprehensive bicycle master plan for our community," explained Burger. "When completed, this document will describe long-range planning for developing bicycle infrastructure, with an emphasis on designating and expanding bike routes, connecting bike

lanes with other municipalities, fostering a safe environment for cycling, and promoting bicycling as a viable transportation option. Creating a BMP will also assist Oak Bay to apply for its fair share of Provincial and Federal cost-shared infrastructure program funds --- money that is currently being left on the table."

Building bicycle infrastructure also promotes healthy living. A recent report by the World Cancer Research Fund International* concludes that diet and exercise are the most important determinants of cancer and recommends that cities be designed for walking and cycling rather than simply promoting automobile use through road expansion. The BMP aligns with this goal and the provincial government promise to improve the health of BC communities.

The initial call for interest in the Oak Bay BMP resulted in a core group of independent volunteers and additional volunteers are welcome to contribute to the ongoing vision and research process of the BMP. The project team is collaborating with community organizations and businesses to garner endorsement and support. They expect to present the plan to Oak Bay Council later this year. "We will make Oak Bay a leader in cycling transportation," said Burger.

**Website: www.scob.ca
 email: scob@telus.net**

Rainbows

- Estevan Food Roots Pocket Market
- Seeing familiar faces at Oak Bay Rec Centre
- New Oak Bay Village bike rack

Raindrops

- Idling Police Cars
- Lack of designated bike routes through Oak Bay
- English Ivy climbing up trees

Garry Oak Conundrums – Written by Kathleen Matthews

Garry Oaks characterize the natural spaces in our community, deeply connect us with our natural environment, and speak to the creative spirit of many Oak Bay community members.

Each Garry Oak tree has a unique life history. Some life histories yield very unusual structures. Some structures we understand. Others pose a conundrum and we wonder. This article invites you to look closely at our local Garry Oaks and to participate in an exploration and understanding of some of these fascinating structures.

The photos below highlight different Garry Oak trees living in our Community. Can you offer an explanation for the unusual structures featured in these photos? Please post your insights to our web site at <http://www.oakbaycommunityassociation.org>, starting May 2009.



Picture #1: This Garry Oak has an opening right through the middle of the main trunk. Can you explain this? Do you know where this tree lives? Do you know of other Garry Oaks in Oak Bay with this feature?



Picture #2: This Garry Oak has a reddish bowl shaped area that looks like bark. Can you explain this? Do you know where this tree lives? Have you seen other Garry Oaks with bigger structures, similar to this?



Picture #4: This Garry Oak has a classic Garry Oak shape and is a popular climbing tree. It may be the most photographed tree in Oak Bay? Do you know where this tree lives?

Picture #3: This Garry Oak has lost all its bark but look at how contorted the limbs are. Can you explain why the limbs of a Garry Oak tree take such twists and turns? Do you know where this tree is located?



Picture #5: This Garry Oak has a secret? Can you see its hidden treasure? Do you know where this Garry Oak Lives?

Information about Garry Oaks can be found at the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team web site at www.goert.ca and at the Oak Bay Village web site at www.oakbayvillage.ca/history/oak_in_oakbay.html.

Green Corner – Written by Jane Ramsay

Welcome to the Green Corner. This is a place where you can share ideas, thoughts, concerns and news about all things environmental in Oak Bay.

Think big and wide-ranging: plantlife; wildlife; viewscapes; landscapes; gardening; air/noise/water quality; local events; "what YOU do"; prose, poetry and art.

Consider this a hub and use it for connecting.

Idea: A Plant - Share Market

I thought I would jump right in and get this Green Corner ball rolling with an idea for an event which would be a grand way to connect gardening neighbours with one another.

Listen up... and remember to write or email to connect with us if you like the sound of this because people (plural!) make things happen.

What I have in mind is a plant share or exchange market event where gardeners could offer free surplus plants.

This could be a seasonal or regular get-together which could offer the enticement of great people, free helpful advice and lovely handmade labels.

I don't know about you, but I often have extra seedlings or divides that end up as compost which I would much rather give away.

Are You Growing Native Plants?

Native plants are suddenly

much easier to come by: most nurseries have a special section for them.

Once established, these locals are easier to care for than most exotics because native plants are literally ancestrally rooted in this climate and geography. They belong and look great!

I am hugely delighted with my small hedge of native Spirea (hardhack). Right now the reddish brown stems are, bright and cheerful in their own way, are just greening up.

In summer they will sport those lovely fuzzy pink flower spikes which last for a long time.

What is your native plant news?

Does nature inspire your art?

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OF OAK BAY QUARTERLY PAPER ■ FIRST EDITION APRIL 2009

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