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Photo from NNRA website

President's Message

Welcome to 2006! We hope all of you have had an enjoyable festive season.

In mid-2005, NNRA Directors decided our ongoing activities needed to be more transparent. We started this task by establishing an NNRA website that would allow members to obtain regularly updated information on Directors Meetings as well as accessing information on our Constitution, Committees and Newsletters. Feedback received to date on this initiative has been positive. Please let us know if you have any further suggestions that would improve and foster a better relationship with our members.

With the recent adoption of the Nanoose Bay Official Community Plan and the anticipated adoption of the Land Use and Subdivision Amendment Bylaw No. 500.324 in the near future, we anticipate that our attention in 2006 will shift from these matters to focus primarily on water and sewer issues.

In December 2005, George Holme, our Director for Area 'E', scheduled an initial meeting with Directors from the NNRA, NPORA and the Fairwinds Residents Association. Each group briefed George on their primary areas of concern. George agreed to discuss these concerns with RDN staff and get back to us. A second meeting with George and RDN staff has now been scheduled for February 12, 2006. We are looking forward to meeting and working with Carol Mason, the newly appointed Chief Administrative Officer for the RDN.

We have also scheduled a separate meeting with George Holme and RDN staff on January 19th to seek clarification on what will have to happen before the RDN would be prepared to seek a funding grant for the Madrona sewer project. We will keep you posted on the outcome of this meeting.

We have for some time been looking for a candidate to fill the executive position of Secretary for the NNRA without success. Hopefully, someone will step forward and volunteer in 2006. A special thank-you to Greg Field, our Vice-President, who has been kind enough to look after the Minutes of the Directors' Meetings.

Kirke MacMillan



Photo from NNRA Website

How to really help others in times of disaster

In times of disaster (tsunami, hurricane, earthquake, etc), many of us want to do something to help. Unfortunately, some of the things we choose to do are not all that helpful, and some may actually make a bad situation even worse.

The best way to help others in a disaster is to donate money.

Here are the reasons why.

It's easy. Money is easy to collect, store and transport to disaster areas. In fact, all reputable disaster relief agencies (such as Canadian and International Red Cross) are admirably equipped to manage cash donations.

It's effective and efficient. Money allows relief agencies to purchase exactly what is needed (making your contribution effective), and when it is needed (meaning no storage and distribution issues to deal with).

It helps local economies. Money allows relief agencies to purchase goods from merchants near the disaster site. This provides a much-needed boost to the local economy that will be feeling the impacts of the disaster. Disasters always result in severe local economic impacts. Disaster victims aren't shopping, and local merchants who may have been spared physical damage may nonetheless go out of business quickly because of the drop in trade. Your money, spent by relief agencies close to the disaster, can offset these impacts.

Let's look at the other side; what's wrong with donating goods?

For all the reasons that cash works well, unsolicited goods do not.

In most disasters, recognized relief agencies and emergency management officials who have the authority to accept or reject various forms of assistance will govern relief aid.

Relief agencies shudder at the prospect of truckloads of unsolicited supplies (food, medicine, clothing). I have been at disasters where trucks have been turned away

Food, clothing and toy drives take a lot of effort. The storage and arrangements for transportation to the disaster site also takes energy and resources. Typically, although these efforts provide considerable personal satisfaction to those who are donating, the truth is that there is seldom a corresponding level of gratitude at the receiving end by the relief agencies.

Unsolicited goods must be sorted, stored and distributed, efforts that consume considerable effort by relief agencies that often do not have the resources for this work. A telling story is provided by National Geographic magazine (Nov./05 edition) with a photo of unused clothing dumped on the beach for victims of the Asian tsunami to pick over. After a couple of tides, these were bulldozed up and burned.

Unsolicited goods sent by us may not be what the victims actually need. For example, do Pakistani earthquake victims need the same things as Asian tsunami victims, or New Orleans hurricane victims? We should let the relief agencies decide, rather than risk sending unusable goods that simply take effort and resources to deal with. Some relief agencies will not accept any unsolicited food or medicines, for obvious public health reasons. I have seen truckloads of unsolicited food turned away from earthquake relief camps in California. In one case, food was not the issue, but disposable diapers were in hot demand.

The bottom line is that we should let relief agencies decide what is needed, and give them the money to purchase from local merchants who will need the business. Let's not send unsolicited goods that bypass the local economy already hard hit by the disaster.



Water & Waste Committee

WATER



The single most prominent concern throughout Area E is that of water supply - is there enough to meet the increasing needs of the projected population? This became very apparent at a meeting called by our Area E Director, Mr George Holme, in which Directors from the three local resident associations – NNRA, NPORA and Fairwinds - met on December 11 to discuss issues of immediate concern.

Director Holme made it very clear that the RDN now insists that any new subdivision (or extension thereof) must, in order to secure approval for construction, provide sufficient new water supply to meet its own needs: it cannot rely upon existing supplies. NNRA residents will recall that the developers of Madrona Heights (across NWBay Rd from Beaver Creek Wharf Rd) were required to drill a new well, and were able to provide in excess of 40 Imperial gallons per minute of additional water supply. (See July and October newsletters)

The drilling of a new well itself poses a problem – does it tap into a new aquifer, or into an existing one which might thus reduce the security of supply for others who are already being supplied from it? A broad-based study of aquifers within the RDN's jurisdiction has recently been made. Director Holme agreed to take the matter up with RDN staff with a view to having a detailed study made of aquifers in Area E, with reference to their capability to support the build-out rates contemplated by the recently approved OCP.

SEWERS

The passage of the OCP has set the stage for the ultimate provision of sewers. The next step is to get approval of Bylaw 500 (which deals with minimum lot sizes) without which we cannot apply for Federal/ Provincial grants. This has had third reading, but was returned to staff to provide additional information.



A Public Hearing was held on January 11, 2006 at Nanoose Place and Board approval is expected early in the year.

At the December 11 meeting, Director Holme undertook to ensure that the 2006 budget will have enough money to fund the studies required by the OCP at Section 5.8, and to update the cost of the Madrona Sewer Project reported on by Koers in March 2004. He also agreed to try and move Bylaw 500 ahead as rapidly as possible.

It is the RDN staff's opinion that once these steps have been taken, sewers could become a reality for Madrona within about 2 years of a successful referendum.

Mike Rich

Citizens on Patrol Society District 69 (District 69 COPS)

The Nanoose Bay zone of District 69 COPS is one of five zones operating in the area, from Nanoose Bay to Bowser and Coombs. A team of two of our members patrols our community between 10:00 and 19:00 hours. Prior to starting the patrol they contact the Oceanside RCMP, by cellular telephone, stay in contact and report incidents or suspicious activities to the RCMP office. During the patrol they are also able to check a listing of stolen vehicles in BC. There are, on average, in excess of 2,000 stolen vehicles on this daily updated list.

We currently have 19 active members in our zone. For the 2005 calendar year our zone members provided the following services to your community:

Patrols	68
Patrol Hours	272
Patrol Kilometers	4,096

During the same time period the following crimes occurred in your community:

Theft	46
Break & Enter	31
Mischief	5
Vandalism	6
Other	2

Please note that your community has the second lowest crime rate of the five zones.

To maintain this low crime rate your community needs more volunteer members to continue providing this valuable community service. If you are interested in volunteering and wish to have more information, please contact:

Frank Van Eynde 468-1912 - Clair/Val Davies 468-7539 - Oceanside RCMP 248-6111

Safety Tips

- Don't leave ladders unsecured outside your residence. If your car fits into the garage so does your ladder, if you hang it on the wall or ceiling.
- Don't leave garden and power tools outside. Lock your tool and garden sheds.
- Install motion detection lights around the perimeter of your residence.

Frank Van Eynde



Membership Fees for 2006 Are Now Due

Your membership fee of \$10 is due now for Jan 1, 06 to Dec 31, 06. Pay now to make sure you receive the 3 other newsletters in April, July and October of this year.

This year, take advantage of our 'Payment In Advance Plan'. That's right – you can pay for as many years in advance as you want at \$10 per year. For example, pay \$20 and you will not have to worry about paying again for 2 years!

In case you have forgotten if you paid in advance last year, I will attach a note to the membership form in the center of this newsletter to refresh your memory.

If we have your information on file, you do not have to complete the membership form again. However, if you have changed your email address or some other information, we ask that you do fill it out again so we can update our records.

Once you have paid, I will include your receipt tucked inside the next newsletter issued in April, 2006 along with your password so you can access the NNRA website for 2006.

Mail your cheque and the Membership Form to the NNRA, Box 216, Nanoose Bay, BC V9P 9J9 or deliver it to the drop box at 1412 Madrona Drive.

Contact Diane Hill at 468-7757 or Rhonda Lott at 468-9969 if you have any questions about your membership.

Diane Hill



Legislation Committee

Nanoose Bay Official Community Plan

The Nanoose Bay Official Plan was adopted at the RDN Regular Board Meeting on October 25, 2005. The adoption of the OCP finally brings to an end a long and, sometimes, frustrating process. An annual report will be prepared by the RDN staff to monitor the progress of the OCP Implementation Strategy.

Land Use and Subdivision Amendment Bylaw No. 500.324

On November 22, 2005, at the Regular Meeting of the Board of the Regional District of Nanaimo, Amendment Bylaw No. 500.324 received second reading. It was also moved and seconded that the Amendment Bylaw proceed to a Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing was held at 7:00 PM on January 11, 2006 at Nanoose Place. George Holme, our Director for Area 'E', chaired the Public Meeting. Approximately twelve Nanoose Bay residents attended the Public Hearing. While there appeared to be little opposition in general to the Amendment Bylaw, concern was expressed by one of our members residing on Bay Drive. His concern stemmed from the fact that the zoning of waterfront lots on Bay Drive and waterfront lots having access from Terrien Road, as well as other lots in the area having access from Northwest Bay Road, had been changed without discussion or consultation with any of the residents. We are presently following-up on this matter.



Director Holme has advised that the Amendment Bylaw will be given third reading at the upcoming RDN Board Meeting in February, sent to Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services in Victoria for approval. The RDN Board will then give fourth and final reading to the Amendment Bylaw before adoption. We do not anticipate that the Amendment Bylaw would receive final reading at the RDN Board Meeting before April of this year.

Kirke MacMillan

NNRA Social Events for 2006

This year we will be planning two social events. By popular demand our first event will be our annual Garage Sale. This will take place on May 27th which is the Saturday after the May long weekend. This year the Garage Sale will run from 8:00 am until noon.

The second social function will be our Pacific Shores BBQ. We are hoping to hold this event on Sunday, September 10th. This is the weekend after the long weekend. The BBQ last year was a huge success, so keep your fingers crossed that our plans will work out again this year.

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss out on these neighbourhood events.

NNRA Social Committee

Diane Hill	468-7757
Jeanne Gregory	468-5553
Ann Voshall	468-1654



Daily, Weekly or Monthly Neighbourhood Activity Groups

We had some response to our survey a while ago concerning activities you might like to see in our neighbourhood. We would like to offer various activities this year and would ask for your input for the following questions and thoughts.

Would you be willing to join an event for the residents on a daily, weekly or monthly time frame? Examples could be a bridge club, a poker club, a gourmet dinner club, an exercise group for walking, a Tai Chi club, a book club, a breakfast club, a gardening group, a quilting group, an RV traveling or boating cruise group, a movie group, etc, etc. These are only a few ideas as there are many, many things that people are interested in doing these days. Please feel free to sign up for your favorite activity and we will do our best to find someone to join you. This is a great way to meet people in your neighbourhood who like the same activities as you!

Jeanne Gregory and I would be happy to set up and attend the first meeting of each group to help you on your way.

At the bottom of the membership form in this newsletter you will find a spot to indicate which activities you would be interested in joining. Remember, the list above are only suggestions – enter your favorite activity or activities. You may also contact a member of the Social Committee to register or ask any questions you might have.

Watch the next newsletter in April for a list of groups starting and their first meeting date.

The NNRA Social Committee

Diane Hill	468-7757
Jeanne Gregory	468-5553
Ann Voshall	468-1654



Diane Hill



We welcome letters to this newsletter and items of interest to the residents of this area. Member submissions must include author's name and telephone number.

address letters to:

Northwest Nanoose Residents Association
P.O. Box 216
Nanoose Bay, B.C. V9P 9J9

NNRA@shaw.ca

To all those who have recently moved to the Nanoose area, welcome to our community. We hope you will become members of the NNRA. It's a great way to stay informed and meet your neighbours and for us to get to know you. To save time, here is an application form to fill out and mail in along with your cheque for \$10. Membership is \$10 for one calendar year (Jan 1 to Dec 31) and you may pay for 2, 3 or 4 years at a time."

WORKING COMMITTEES

Budget and Financial Plans – Mike Gray, Frank Herman, Dave Jamieson
Legislation – Kirke MacMillan (Chair), Wolf Reidel
Neighbourhood Issues - Greg Field
Waste & Water – Greg Field, Bruce Galick, Martyn Green, Ken Kyler, Ryan Petersen, Mike Rich (Chair), Bonnie Robertson, Colin Wykes
Membership – Anne Dombrowski, Diane Hill (Chair), Rhonda Lott
Social Committee – Jeanne Gregory, Diane Hill (Chair), Anne Voshall

NNRA Board of Directors

President:	Kirke MacMillan	468-9284
Vice-President:	Greg Field	468-9764
Secretary:		
Treasurer:	Frank Herman	468-7226
Director:	Diane Hill	468-7757
Director:	Janet Farooq	468-7246
Director:	Mike Gray	468-5662
Director:	Dave Jamieson	468-9262
Director:	Mike Rich	468-1527