



ROCKLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 5276, Station B, Victoria BC, V8R 6N2

December 2007 Newsletter

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Please share a copy of the RNA Newsletter with a neighbour.

NEWS FROM THE RNA

Government House Reception: Thursday, 10 January, 2008

The newly appointed Lieutenant Governor, The Honourable Steven L. Point, has kindly indicated that he will be inviting members of the RNA to a reception at Government House on the above date. More details will follow later, but in the meantime, please mark this date on your calendars.

Annual General Meeting: Wednesday, 13 February, 2008

The RNA Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13 February, 2008 at 7:30 pm (doors open at 7 pm) at the Victoria Truth Centre, 1201 Fort Street.

Our keynote speaker this year will be Jack Hull, General Manager of the Capital Regional District Water Services. Greater Victoria is blessed with an abundant supply of high quality drinking water which is the result of inspired foresight, astute management and strict protection of the watershed. Recent purchase of the Leech River watershed from TimberWest ensures that the supply will be maintained well beyond the present 50-year horizon. As General Manager of the Water Services, Jack is well qualified to talk about our water supply and what the future holds. It promises to be an informative presentation of interest to all residents of Rockland.

One of the key agenda items at the AGM is the election of the new Directors and Executive for the forthcoming year. The Nominating Committee is presently seeking members who are willing to stand for election to the Board of Directors in 2008. Please let the Committee Chair, Lloyd Ollila (598-1605), know if you are interested in serving on the Board – the more nominees we have the better! And please come out and vote on February 13!

Renewal of Memberships

It is now time to renew your membership to the Rockland Neighbourhood Association (RNA). Benefits of membership include supporting the purpose of the RNA to enhance the quality of life and environment of the Rockland neighbourhood and to provide a vehicle for public participation in the preservation and enhancement of Rockland's unique qualities. Membership allows you to vote for (and run for) the RNA Board. As well, membership includes a complimentary pass to Craigdarroch Castle. The RNA supports volunteer opportunities and promotes community spirit. It informs

residents about events and provides advice to City Hall on policy and land use.

Volunteers needed

We have a number of projects that require volunteers. The nature of the projects is long term and may not be realised within one year. Time spent can be matched to availability of the volunteer and availability of contact staff. A brief description of the projects follows:

1. *Benches for Rockland Ave. and St Charles St.*. Negotiation with the City for location and funding required.
2. *Development of replacement plan for boulevard trees.* Negotiation with the Parks Department required.
3. *Underground wiring for Rockland.* Negotiations with B.C. Hydro, City of Victoria and possible funding sources etc.
4. *Rockland Woodland Garden* Help required for ongoing maintenance.

Please contact us through our web-site.

D. Mueller, Chair Strategic Planning Committee

Grant Applications

The RNA applied for two grants last year:

1. Matching grant to the City of Victoria to develop a web-based atlas to support the RNA's planning and land-use activities.
2. Grant for 10 Garry oak trees to infill some of the trees lost during the past years.

Neither of the grants were successful.

We are looking for members willing to work on identifying grant opportunities and submitting the required paperwork. Please contact us through our web-site.

D. Mueller, Chair Strategic Planning Committee

Police Board

The Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board is a policy-making body comprising appointees from the two municipalities as well as five members appointed by the Provincial Government. A few weeks ago, the Board invited representatives from the various community associations to attend an open information meeting for an exchange

of views. I represented the Rockland Neighbourhood Association at this meeting.

Mayor Alan Lowe opened proceedings by summarising some of the problems associated with policing the downtown core. These centred on drug trafficking, homelessness and unruly crowds leaving city bars and nightclubs in the early morning. He pointed out that the average caseload per officer in Victoria was about 80, compared with the provincial average of roughly 50. Caseloads per officer in some of the other municipalities within the Capital Region are well below the provincial average. He also stated that much of the crime in the downtown core was not committed by residents of Victoria itself, and remarked that homeless people discovered in certain neighbouring municipalities were sometimes removed by the local police there and deposited in the downtown area!

The mayor of Esquimalt, Chris Clement, mentioned that they had eliminated a couple of drug houses in the township, and that although there was a noticeable increase in the number of persons pushing abandoned supermarket carts full of bottles around the district, homelessness was not a problem in Esquimalt. He also noted that despite some complaints, the amalgamated police force seemed to be working quite well.

There followed a lively discussion, much of it centering on the homeless problem, and the prospect of further amalgamation of police forces given the unfair burden presently borne by the Victoria police, not to mention the City's taxpayers! Mayor Lowe remarked that naturally there was little enthusiasm for this among the other municipalities and that the Provincial Government seemed unwilling to take any action. A representative from Esquimalt, who originally had been strongly opposed to the amalgamation of the Esquimalt and Victoria police forces, admitted that despite still having some misgivings, she felt it had proved to be less disadvantageous to Esquimalt than first anticipated.

It was emphasised that Police Board meetings, held on the second Tuesday of every month, are open to the public. Normally the meetings are held at 4 p.m. in the Victoria Police Headquarters on Caledonia St., although occasionally they may take place at the Esquimalt Municipal Hall, so please check <http://www.victoriapolice.org/board/pb.asp> for time and location. It is also hoped that a police officer and a member of the Police Board will be able to attend the next AGM of the Rockland Neighbourhood Association.

John Weaver, Chair Communications Committee

Blue Box & Beyond

There is so much excitement and growing opportunity around the recycling of materials these days that it is easy to get caught up in throwing things in your Blue Box without much thought as to whether or not they actually belong there. As a matter of fact, by simply “guessing” if an item is recyclable, or even organizing your recyclables poorly, you can contaminate your entire Blue Box load and it can end up going to the landfill. Many of us don't think about what happens to our recyclables after we put them on the curb; once it is out of our house, it's out of our minds. Therefore, it is important to develop a better understanding of the Blue Box Program and the Blue Box organization, as well as other recycling options beyond our curbsides.

The Blue Box program recycles three categories of materials; mixed paper, containers, and corrugated cardboard. Mixed paper goods are what go in to your Blue Bag and the acceptable materials are clearly outlined on the bag. Corrugated cardboard and pizza boxes with all wax paper and food bits removed should be flattened, tied together with string, and placed next to your Blue Box. Containers are where the confusion often lies. These are the items that go into the actual Blue Box. These materials include; glass, metal and plastic containers, including lids, and rigid plastic packaging. It's okay to place all

containers into the Blue Box together because that's how they end up in the truck. Remember to make sure all items are clean and free of food residue and labels only need to be removed from cans. For a more detailed list and description of acceptable Blue Box items, visit the [CRD Blue Box Program Frequently Asked Questions](#) website.

Don't have a Blue Box or bag? Fairfield and Oak Bay Home Hardware Stores sell the bags for 50 cents and the boxes for \$4.00

So what NEVER goes out on your curb?

Well, anything that is not on the list of acceptable materials. The most common unacceptable items that end up in the Blue Boxes and contaminate the loads are: metal and plastic hangers, batteries, plastic bags and wraps, Styrofoam, milk cartons, juice boxes, window glass, light bulbs, drinking glasses, dishes and ceramics, and broken glass. But doesn't glass get broken once it is thrown in the back of the truck? This is true, however, it's not allowed in your Blue Box as a safety precaution so the workers do not get cut or seriously injured.

The guys and gals who pick up our recycling have a hard job. It's extremely laborious. They drive up and down streets for about 10 hours a day, often alone while throwing heavy materials into the back of a truck. Then the next day they do it all again in another neighbourhood. It's always important to be respectful of the people responsible for picking up our recycling especially when it comes to safety. So maybe add the 'recycling guy or gal' to your list of people to bake goods for over the holiday season and leave him or her a little 'thank-you' on the curb with your Blue Box.

What many people are unaware of is that there are recycling options for materials that are not accepted in the Blue Box Program. The CRD website provides an excellent comprehensive [online recycling directory](#) for local recycling options, so that many of the items that are not allowed in your Blue Box can be recycled close to your home.

Hartland Landfill also provides a large and accessible [Recyclables, Household Hazardous Waste, and Salvage Area](#) that accepts a variety of goods year round, including yard and garden waste.

Finally, a note about scavenging and identity theft. Scavenging is when someone, other than the owner of the Blue Box, takes materials without permission. It's most common among bottles and cans. The CRD actually has a Bylaw against this due to contractual obligations, because the theft of recyclable materials could result in an increase in program costs. Identity theft is another concern and it is recommended that you tear up or shred all personal documents and place them in a closed or stapled brown paper bag or cereal box. If you ever see a scavenger in your area immediately call the CRD Hotline at 360-3030 and never confront them.

S. Melville, Victoria Resident

Glenlyon Norfolk School Campus

Earlier in the autumn a representative from the Board of Governors of Glenlyon Norfolk School kindly gave the RNA Board an opportunity to preview preliminary plans for the development of the School's Pemberton Woods campus. The proposal calls for the removal of several houses on Richmond Avenue which the School already owns and extension of the playing fields towards the road. At the same time a new entrance to the School and its car park will be created off Richmond Avenue. Although the area involved is on the eastern side of Richmond Avenue and does not, therefore, fall within the official Rockland boundary, the RNA Board was consulted as a courtesy and because of possible traffic implications.

Overall, the Board was satisfied that the proposed development would not detract from the character of the neighbourhood, and while recognising that there will be a slight increase in traffic using the new entrance at the beginning and end of the school day, the Board did not anticipate that this would become a serious issue.

Rockland residents who are interested in this development should consult the Glenlyon Norfolk website

<http://www.glenlyonnorfolk.bc.ca>

where the plans will eventually be posted.

John Weaver, Chair Communications Committee

LAND USE UPDATE

1322 Rockland Avenue

On September 5, the Association sponsored a community information meeting for a proposed rezoning application submitted by Large & Co. The proposal is for 25 units in three new buildings with underground parking, plus 4 additional units in the existing heritage mansion and coach house. The RNA Board's letter and the Land Use Committee's report are available on the Association's web-site at

<http://www.rockland.bc.ca>.

The application is now under review by the City Planning Department and it is expected to be considered by City Council at its Committee of the Whole as early as January 10. All Rockland residents are encouraged to learn about the proposal and to offer their thoughts about its consequences for the neighbourhood to city councillors. Please address correspondence to Mayor and Council at #1 Centennial Square, Victoria, BC, V8W 1P6; or call City Hall at 385-5711 and ask to be connected to individual councillors. For more information you can also contact the Land Use Committee through the Association web-site.

Mitch Hammond, Chair Land Use Committee

Fort Street Shell Station: New Traffic Pattern

Rockland residents are advised that there is an imminent change at the intersection of Joan Crescent and Fort Street. The newly configured exit from the gas station will direct traffic into Fort Street directly across from Joan Crescent. Please be alert, particularly if you are attempting to merge left into the U-turn lane for Yates Street.

The RNA Land Use Committee has expressed concern to the city that Rockland residents did not receive information or the opportunity to comment upon this rezoning and the change in traffic pattern. If you have concerns about safety at this intersection please call the city at 385-5711 and ask for Brad Dellebuur in the Traffic Department.

Mitch Hammond, Chair Land Use Committee

TREASURES OF ROCKLAND

A New Heritage Home

What do we think of when someone mentions heritage houses in Victoria? The fine Victorian wooden homes in James Bay and Fairfield perhaps? The opulent mansions built in the early 20th century or possibly the sleek art-deco homes found on Gonzales Hill, King George Terrace and Old Esquimalt Road? In Rockland especially, it is the Tudor-revival mansions designed by Maclure, Rattenbury and others or even Craigdarroch Castle itself that come immediately to mind. Many of these homes have been described and documented in the excellent Rockland Heritage Walking Tour brochure written by Linda Foubister, with photographs by Bill Birney (also available on the RNA web site at <http://www.rockland.bc.ca/walking.html>).



As the years pass by, however, what constitutes 'heritage' gradually creeps up on us, so that even houses built in the 1950s and 60s are now being recognized as significant contributions to Victoria's urban

fabric worthy of preservation. One of the city's most celebrated architects from that era, John DiCasteri (1924 – 2005), spent some of his early years in the Rockland area, on Wilspencer Place and Fort Street, and later designed and built his family home in the neighbourhood. It is tucked away on St. Francis Wood, a short cul-de-sac off Rockland Avenue. Remarkably, three of the eight homes on this quiet street are DiCasteri designs. Two of them, including the former family home, have a fairly low profile, but the third is spectacularly situated atop a rocky outcrop, and has recently been given Heritage Designation by the City as a fine example of early West Coast post and beam construction (see picture). So next time you are on the Rockland Heritage Walk, take the slight detour into St. Francis Wood to view the latest addition to Rockland's stock of heritage homes.

John Weaver, Chair Communications Committee

History of 1322 Rockland Avenue

Statement of Significance

Name: Schuuum

Address: 1322 Rockland Avenue

Other Names: Caroline Macklem Home

Architect: William Ridgway Wilson, Samuel Maclure (renovations in 1900)

Original Owner: Hewitt Bostock

Year of Construction: 1894

Description of historic place:

The historic place comprises a three-storey brick and stucco Queen Anne Tudor Revival mansion with adjacent wood two-storey coach house set amidst manicured Victorian landscaping in Victoria's Rockland neighbourhood.

Heritage value:

Schuuum has value for its architect, its architecture, its gardens, its owners and what its subsequent use says about social responsibility by early twentieth century families.

The mansion was built in 1894 to the design of William Ridgway Wilson, one of Victoria's most prolific and versatile architects. Born in China, but raised in

England, he began serving articles at age 13 then worked in London. At 25, he came to Victoria and worked with both Elmer H. Fisher and T. C. Sorby. By 1892, he was a sole practitioner. His Victoria commissions include *Gyppeswick* (1040 Moss Street), South Park School, the Porter Block, Mahon Block, St. John the Divine, and the Bay Street Armoury.

Built in the Queen Anne Tudor Revival Style, the mansion reflects the prevailing taste of the times. Although much of the building stock of the then-developing Rockland area was erected in this style, this example is an early one that sets the tone and character of Rockland.

The gardens are a rare Victorian survival amid the hectic subdivision of other large estates in the neighbourhood. Set largely to the west of the mansion, the landscape features mature trees including Garry oaks, ponds and perennial beds along with lawns.

Hewitt Bostock had this house built the year he joined a group of business associates to found a weekly review *The Province*. He divided his time between Victoria and the Monte Creek ranch near Kamloops. In 1896, he was elected a Liberal MP for the Yale-Cariboo constituency but did not run in 1900. In 1904 he was appointed to the Senate and became Speaker in 1922, a position he held until his sudden death in 1930. The mansion was purchased by James Douglas Prentice, provincial secretary in the Dunsmuir government, who hired Samuel Maclure to make renovations. William Agnew acquired the property in 1912. His son Augustus Waterous, a civil engineer, laid out Prince Rupert townsite and was killed in action in W.W.I. After Mrs. Agnew died in 1917 and William in 1922, the property was inherited by daughter Kathleen.

Kathleen Agnew was known for her community-oriented generosity and her eccentricities. She was a patron of art, the symphony and theatre and supported scholarships in Canadian history. Like many

others of her generation she took her social responsibilities seriously and used her finances and influence to make life easier for the unfortunate. In the 1950s, she donated this property to the Anglican Church as a home for elderly women of moderate means. She refused to have the home named in her honour so it was named for Caroline Macklem, a devoted church woman of the 1940s and 1950s.

Character-defining elements:

The heritage character of 1322 Rockland Avenue is defined by the following elements:

- characteristics of the Queen Anne Tudor Revival style including brick and stucco construction, half-timbering on the second storey, form and pattern of fenestration including oriel windows on the second storey, central gabled dormer on the third storey, corbelling, side porch supported by ornate wooden turned spindles and carved railings, porte cochere that shelters a dramatic front entrance, brick chimneys;
- stained and leaded glass windows particularly in the entrance hall;
- two-storey carriage house with wood siding, dormers, chimneys;
- relationship between house, carriage house and landscape and the siting of the buildings on the land;
- mature gardens including Garry oaks;
- connection with historical persons;
- social history as a home for women.

H. Edwards, Member RNA

Rockland Woodland Garden



Two garden volunteers spent approximately twenty hours during late August and

September rescuing Fawn Lily and Camas bulbs from a development site near Play Fair park in Saanich. Over five hundred bulbs were subsequently planted in the newly built-up bed at the northwest end of the garden. We're hoping these bulbs will provide a beautiful show of white and blue in the spring. Ray Sidwell, our newest garden committee member, helped Anthony, Bill, and me with the planting.

You may not be aware that Tricia Hodgins, the Rockland resident who just this summer completed gorgeous botanical drawings for the signage in the garden, was this year's Moss Street Paint-In People's Choice Award Winner. How lucky we are to have two of her works for our garden!



On that note, the drawings have been scanned onto a CD, labels for each plant and texts explaining the garden itself have been inserted, and the signs have now been prepared and installed by Don Prevost of AlleyKat Signs.



If you drop by the garden these days, you'll see lots of fat, white snowberries, swaths of

lime-green licorice ferns, and little red rose hips on the Nootka Rose bushes.

J. Simpson, Chair Woodland Garden Committee

Historic Lotbiniere Avenue

The City of Victoria is fortunate to have so many visible heritage features. This reminds us of the contributions of others, who built the foundations for the modern and privileged society that we are today. Our city has many locations that speak uniquely to our past. Lotbiniere Avenue is just one of these places. When strolling from Richardson Street up Lotbiniere, it does not take long to get the sense that one has stepped back in time as the appearance and most of the surroundings have changed very little in the last hundred years. The property of Government House on the right is now a National Heritage Site. The stands of Gary oaks, some very tall and some contorted, with their meadows of native plants and bulbs, give an almost fairytale impression. During the winter the bare branches look like a giant's basket weaving. I have it on good authority, from a student of Harry Potter, that on occasion, just before dark, a mysterious giant can be seen in that forest. I think I might have seen that giant myself in a particular spot. For sure I know that many wild animals call this part of our city home. Walking up the narrow lane, framed by old stone fences on either side you feel as if you are walking in an old European estate forest. The narrow part of Lotbiniere Avenue was created as a carriageway, so that horses and buggies could access Rockland from the south. This also facilitated the creation of three separate lots. Until then the property on the high ground, number 548 Lotbiniere, had a circular drive at the base of the hill. This allowed the horse drawn carriages to drop off passengers at the base. The restored stone staircase, built into the rocky incline, still exists today as a feature of the garden. One of the most important historical features is that the carriageway was named to honour the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia (1900-1906), Sir Henri-Gustave Joly de Lotbiniere. Sir Henri was one of the notable visionaries contributing during the

formative years of Canada, Québec and British Columbia. Born in 1829, into an Upper Canada establishment family, he was principally schooled in France. After becoming a lawyer in Upper Canada his mother agreed to him assuming the title and responsibilities of Seigneur of Lotbiniere. In 1861 he won the seat for Lotbiniere riding in the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada. After Confederation in 1867 he was acclaimed to sit as the member of the same riding in the parliament of Canada and the Legislature of the Province of Québec. In sequence he was first leader of the opposition, then the Premier of Québec, until he moved to the federal government serving as a cabinet minister under Laurier (1896-1900). As a member of that Cabinet he helped fire the existing Lieutenant General of British Columbia, T. R. McInnes. He left the same meeting with the appointment to replace McInnes.

Joly de Lotbiniere was seen as contradictory, accused of being politically naive and too honest a man to be in politics. His kindly affability, his natural elegance, his personal prestige, his political experience and his willingness to being an interventionist Lieutenant General during chaotic times in British Columbia added some much needed stability. In his own words he acted as "an advisor to his constitutional advisors". Poor health forced him to return to Québec at the end of his term. He died in 1908. Sir Henri-Gustave Joly de Lotbiniere richly deserves to be remembered for his contributions to British Columbia and Canada. After exploring the carriageway named in his honour, I am sure all will agree that this little street is a fitting memorial to a great man.

It was an act of vision when City Council implemented the Greenways Plan, the framework for preserving and improving the quality of our neighbourhoods by giving people preference over motorized traffic. Public usage of Lotbiniere Avenue was recently altered to comply with the Greenways Plan. This to the obvious delight of the many pedestrians, bicyclists and

joggers who use and love this carriage way! Thank you for that!

F. Hess, RNA Member

Luna



Before I moved in with Janet and Bill
At the foot of the Richardson/Rockland hill,
My reputation was not the best,
And it only got worse when put to the test.

I foiled their attempts at indoor containment,
Sang loudly off-key for my own
entertainment,
And warily sniffing the rules they created,
I decided obedience was much over-rated.

A camping trip suffered a change in plan
When I found the food before it began.
There was also a jacket, flavoured with
leather ---
I could have been banished altogether.

But they gave me a house, all my own,
With a deck where I gnaw on my favourite
bone.
They take me for walks, one on each side,
And my tail wags for joy as my heart swells
with pride.

I know I should mend my mischievous
ways,
And I'm sure that I will – one of these days.

**Margaret Christmas, Charter Member
Luna's Fan Club**

RNA Email Server List

Would you like to hear more about events in
Rockland? Please join the neighbours list
through the RNA website at
www.rockland.bc.ca.