



ROCKLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 5276, Station B, Victoria BC, V8R 6N4

Spring 2009 Newsletter

CONTENTS

News from the RNA

- 1322 Rockland Avenue
- 1729 Oak Bay Avenue
- Board of Variance

Applications

- Victoria Needle Exchange Services Advisory Committee

The Rockland Neighbourhood Graffiti Squad

Rockland Woodland Garden

Art Gallery Events

Neighbours Caring and Watching for Each Other

Historic Website

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

NEWS FROM THE RNA

1322 Rockland



Dear Neighbours,

It's likely you've heard that there are plans afoot for 1322 Rockland Avenue. Since Mayor Dean Fortin's television interview on March 13, 2009, your Land

Use Committee has been diligently gathering data to present to the neighbourhood.

Currently, nothing has been signed; however, VIHA is proposing to use the existing buildings to provide 35 beds, a combination of 23 "Supportive Housing" and 12 "Residential Care Home" beds. "Supportive Housing" refers to an intensive support site aimed at rehabilitation and community integration, which may be long term. The intended residents have serious and persistent mental health conditions and/or substance use concerns which have been stabilized.

It is important to note that Supportive Housing is distinct from the Supportive Recovery facility recently approved for 1729 Oak Bay Avenue, which provides short term transitional beds for 3 months only.

On April 1, 2009, your Land Use Committee met with Mayor Fortin and VIHA to ask questions and gather information. What follows is a summary of the notes I took at that meeting.

The Rockland Neighbourhood Association will be hosting an informational community meeting to provide neighbours with an opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns. Once we have arranged a suitable date with the Mayor and VIHA, we will issue an invitation to the community.

Please be assured that the Association appreciates your concern over the future of this signature property, and is doing its best to serve you well.

Sincerely,
Janet Simpson
President

*Notes from the Land-Use Committee Meeting of
April 1st, 2009*

*Present:
Rockland Neighbourhood Association Land Use*

Committee

Guests: Mayor Dean Fortin, Linda Johnson and Allan Campbell (Mental Health and Addiction Services).

Please understand that the following is merely a summary of what was discussed at this meeting, rather than direct quotes. The name following the heading of each category identifies the person who presented most of the information in that section. The comments and questions in parentheses are from the committee.

Communication (Dean Fortin)

If the proposal for 1322 is going to be a reality, it is important to talk to the neighbourhood. We are committed to openness and transparency.

(Negotiations have been going on for months but there has been no consultation with us. Six years of misinformation and rumour regarding 1322 has sown seeds of distrust. This could be a positive opportunity but the neighbourhood needs to be involved.)

Nothing has been signed yet. There are lots of steps. We need to hear from you. We are committed to that. I need to hear the issues so we can immediately deal with the ones that we can foresee. It is imperative we do real consultation. We need to set the format. What is going to make it workable? What is not? The CRD Housing Action Team has a list of 40-50 potential proposals (a lot are just dreams). Once there is a strong potential – then it's time to talk.

To whom do we need to talk? I am getting a steady stream of emails. Do we need to do a mail drop explaining what we know so far? I am focusing on this development and what is good for the neighbourhood. If we do this right, others will say it is acceptable for their neighbourhood.

Zoning (Dean)

The zoning is in place – it is zoned “institutional” – it used to be a nursing home.

Residents (Allan Campbell and Linda Johnson)

The blended plan is for 35 total units for people who have been stabilized elsewhere. (12 licensed care beds and 23 supportive housing) These people are not from directly off the street. They are

demonstrated to be stable and able to survive. They are at a lower level of risk. Continuous, long-term treatment has been done but there may be remaining challenges. This falls completely within the nursing home definition. It is a blended use. It provides improvements for rehabilitation. We see some moving on to more independent living in a few years, but a few could stay on longer. All will be ambulatory.

Licensed beds will be on the main floor between the house and the coach house. The bulk of them will be from mental health. This proposal provides for those with stable mental illness issues (depression, schizophrenia, etc.) and stable addiction issues. Often have addictions as “coping” strategy. It is estimated 80% have had addiction issues in the past. Mental health and addiction have a wide scope; the mentally ill may have had addiction issues. These people are NOT the “hard-to-house,” those who were previously homeless and those with addiction issues who are not accepting support. The housing is NOT for those actively using – that would be too disruptive. We would know right away if someone started using – it cannot be hidden.

The staff would take it to the case manager. If there is a problem, the client would be removed. There would be extreme pressure from the clinical team because of the effect of exposure to others, and the impact on stability. We have quite a lineup – we can be very selective. It is not just one individual's home. No pets are allowed. Access process: Case managers (nurses and social workers) with psychiatrists make referrals through the access team – a rigorous process with appropriate placement for likely success.

Services (Allan and Linda)

The service provider will be Dawn Davies from Mount St. Angela – she is excellent. This is comforting; she is tried and true.

Credentials?

Private operator contracts with VIHA for over 10 years. She is a nurse. Operates two licensed care facilities – up to 7 in the past. Responsible for hiring staff. The right staff will be there in ratio to the people there.

1322 is zoned at higher care – staff will cover both care and supportive housing groups.
The care beds require nursing staff.
There would be a nurse during the days and a health care worker 24/7.
Supportive housing for mental health (not recovery)
Amount of nursing time, trained staff – details in Community Care Assisted Living Act.

Are there any models of these blended arrangements?

No. There are 40 existing facilities in Victoria – expressed in different ways.
Group homes: licensed residential or supportive housing. We do not have one similar to 1322, except with seniors. 1322 would be the first combination. Logical – it works well for seniors. (Mount St. Angela) There is an array of levels to allow stepping in mental illness care. They can recover much of their functioning – daily living, coping strategies, psychiatric support, case planners. Meals will be provided. Two kitchens allow for residents to do some cooking. Match individual and need to facility. Plan is for progress, moving toward goals. Case managers will visit regularly. Care plans in place. Psychiatrist visits done at the hospitals. Most will not be “movement challenged.”

Standards - Dean

Our goal is to make it successful, or the next one will not be. Ideally, you will not even know it is in the neighbourhood. It will be kept up to government standards. Adequate support and care is what makes it work. There will not be too many people for the site. Smoking may be an issue. We may not lease a small portion of the property to allow residents a place to smoke.

(There has to be some understanding and commitment. Some mechanism needs to be in place in case the situation turns into a “Harris Green 2 - if there are constant cars coming in and out, or if there are many visits from “acquaintances from the past.” These are real fears. Much depends on the operator. If the CRD were the owner, there would be more control.)

There are possible benefits to the neighbourhood:
This will stabilize the property.
This is an amazing heritage building which would not be knocked down.

There will be improvements to the house itself (e.g. roof).
The property will be improved.
There will be no camping.
There will be more security.

Funding (Dean)

VIHA/City partnership
Housing Trust Fund grant application – value for money insisted upon.
Lease being negotiated.
We will push for a 10-year lease with option for an additional 10 years and a first right to purchase. We do not put public investment in and then pull out. Standards must be in place before money is spent. My intention is to make this run the right way. My expectations are very high.
There is no way two levels of government are going to be taken.
We are into quality service.

Property Management

(What will the obligations be to keep up the property?)

It has not been taken good care of for the past few years. The residence needs to be brought up to the level of the neighbourhood, not the other way around.)

One topic of the lease is grounds maintenance.
(Linda)

(Estimated renovation costs are huge.)

My intention is a high quality of life for the residents. The building must be appropriate. We shall make sure it happens. We shall make sure you will be part of that process. We will not pay out (the grant) until the conditions are met.
This is going to be a well-run facility. (Dean)

Traffic (Allan and Linda)

Deliveries would be via Royal Terrace. Supply truck to the pantry. Clients do not have vehicles. Staff and case managers only - (approx 8/9 in 24 hours) You will see clients walking in the neighbourhood.

Security (Allan)

(What will the security protocols be?)

No illicit drug use. No tolerance. (no medical marijuana)

Searches only if necessary. Residents understand the rules. Non-compliance means they can be removed. If they are caught, they will be relocated. This is for the benefit of the residents as well. If we see signs of drug use, we shall deal with the situation immediately. There will be a level of oversight and accountability not seen elsewhere in the neighbourhood. This is not a treatment facility. We try for a normal living situation.

Complaints?

We do not get them too often. We do not advertise the locations. The police are rarely called. We will have control. Folks at this level of care will probably be indistinguishable from the general population.

Good Neighbour Policy

(Is there the possibility of a binding good neighbour policy? If real neighbourhood problems are impacting the quality of life, there needs to be a defusing mechanism - we urge consideration of this.)

A good point.

This is not something I have any concerns about. We have a noise bylaw, a problem property bylaw. We have legal tools in place. (Dean)

(Is there a written operational agreement between Dawn and VIHA?)

Yes. There are in the others.

(Can we see the agreement?)

Yes, if the owner is agreeable, but a legally binding agreement is not the way to start working with a neighbour. (Allan)

(You are not just a neighbour – you are a business – there are different concerns.)

Do you think it has the potential to be a “party central”? (Dean)

(There does need to be rezoning, a neighbourhood meeting, extensive public consultation. This is a momentous change and it is very much an experiment for you. There need to be very clear expectations up front.)

I would be very interested in your LUC / neighbourhood association having a list of expectations. (Dean)

We find it preferable to wait until a problem arises and then fix it. This is not an experiment. We are well-versed in both populations. Days, evenings, nights – concerns can be called in immediately and there will be immediate results. If it does not go as planned, we need a process in place to which we can refer – to meet, discuss, come to an agreement. In the past we have had very few calls. There have been no issues in other facilities – we would respond immediately. (Linda)

(We need an agreement with safeguards. 1322 has not been amicable.

With a process for a good, working relationship, a well-run facility might work. It is absolutely essential for a better process than we have seen for 1729 Oak Bay Avenue.)

1729 Oak Bay Avenue



April 5, 2009 letter to Mayor Dean Fortin and Council

Dear Mayor Fortin and Council,

Re: 1729 Oak Bay Avenue Development Permit Application

We have reviewed B.C. Housing’s application to change the use from “college fraternity” to a “Supportive Recovery program” for ten semi-independent clients. A variance is required to the existing standards in the R3-A2 zone to relax the minimum lot size by 358 square meters. The following issues require attention for this proposal

and others concerning health care facilities and forms of supportive housing:

The City's applicable definitions and allowances for use are inadequate and urgently require clarification. Municipal zoning definitions (in Schedule A and elsewhere) no longer correspond to the models for supportive facilities now used by VIHA and BC Housing.

Community consultation for this proposal excluded the Neighbourhood Association and did not meet a sufficiently high standard for transparency.

In its application, BC Housing incorrectly stated that the facility would be "Supportive Housing." We learned from VIHA representative Linda Johnson that the facility's clients will participate in "supportive recovery," involving ongoing treatment at the Adult Addictions program (1250 Quadra St). "Supportive Housing" and "Supportive Recovery" are completely different uses. Such errors are misleading, give rise to potential legal challenge, and set an unhelpful precedent. As we now understand the facility, it would correspond either to a "hospital," or a "Rest Home-Class A" but not a "Rest Home-Class B," which explicitly excludes drug treatment facilities. Without better coordination of the definitions among all parties, the City's zoning framework cannot provide an adequate foundation for transparent changes in land use.

Neighbourhood consultation concerning this proposal was inadequate for the following reasons:

The Land Use Committee was not invited - as outlined in the Caluc Development Permit Process - to the Community Information Meeting on January 8, 2009.

The City did not provide the neighbourhood association with the correct deadline for submissions to the March 19th Committee of the Whole meeting. A petition against the application signed by thirty neighbours was disregarded by Committee of the Whole on March 19th.

"Supportive housing" attempts to reintegrate its clients into the community. A disregard of due process does not contribute to the success of such a facility. Rather, it sows suspicion where none need exist. We also urge Council to consider the need for a formal understanding between the facility and the neighbourhood with a "Good Neighbour Policy" or other binding agreement.

It is our expectation that future proposals accurately disclose the envisioned change in use; solicit neighbourhood concerns according to CALUC guidelines and incorporate them into the project; clarify their relationship to the applicable bylaws and the Rockland Neighbourhood Plan; and create an agreement that serves a long-term, productive relationship between the community and the facility. We will not support initiatives that do not adequately protect the security and enjoyment of all residents in Rockland.

Janet Simpson
President
Rockland Neighbourhood Association

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Board of Variance Applications

The following is for your information only.

We have experienced Board of Variance applications in the past in our neighbourhood and they appear to become more prevalent in the City of Victoria today. For your information, these applications bypass the community associations and they only become visible to the community associations and the rest of your community if they are brought to their attention by the applicant or the immediate neighbours. The mandate of the Board of Variance is precise. The Board will only address immediate neighbours and the application generally has to cause undue hardship and be of minor nature and cause minor change to the community.

If you are contacted by the applicant or become aware of such an application that involves your property and you wish to discuss the situation with your Rockland Neighbourhood Association please ensure that the following minimum documentation is available:

- City of Victoria Board Variance letter identifying the proposal
- Letter by the applicant or on behalf of the applicant identifying the requirements.
- The B.C. land surveyor's site plan identifying the location and change.
- If appropriate some indication that the City of Victoria heritage planner has viewed the changes.

You may contact us through our web-site www.rockland.bc.ca or by mail:
Rockland Neighbourhood Association,
P.O. Box 5276,

Station B, 1625 Fort Street,
Victoria, B.C.,
V8R 6N4

We will attempt to assist you in your endeavor.

Doreen Mueller, Past President

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Victoria Needle Exchange Services Advisory Committee

I reported at our AGM that our association had joined an advisory committee under the tutelage of the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) in July 2008. The mandate of the Committee is to provide input and feedback on issues related to policy, program development and the delivery of health and social services by needle exchange programs. This Committee will endeavor to address the needs and concerns of all community and service providers/users.

The committee concentrated on three areas namely centralized services versus decentralized services, location criteria for such services and a communication plan.

As you are aware from the various discussions reported in the Times Colonist (TC) and by public statements made by Mayor Dean Fortin, our City is in dire need of identifying and domiciling these services. We are currently providing mobile services only which are considered inadequate. The advisory committee has recommended decentralized services of smaller nature with adequate budget, staffing and a facility for people to congregate off premises 24/7 to avoid the difficulties experienced by the Cormorant location. Criterion for locating these services was identified as not near schools, daycares and playgrounds. The recommendations for a communication plan are under development. VIHA is actively pursuing location identification and leasing arrangements.

As you know our Council has identified priority criteria for a “to do” list. Topping the seven strategic priorities is homelessness. Addiction is a contributor to homelessness. With reference to some of the articles, letters to the editor and Mayor Fortin’s public statements it becomes apparent that every community in the City of Victoria is expected to share in the load of providing these services. To-date no analysis has been provided as to how the

equitable distribution of these services will be administered by the City. We are not aware of any policy on the geographical placement of such facilities, or whether the sharing of the burden of these facilities will be randomly allocated based on the availability of buildings. To give you some food for thought following is a short profile of our neighbourhood for your consideration.

Rockland Neighbourhood’s footprint is small in square meters with 3565 (2006 census) residents about 4.8 % of Victoria’s population. Since our Rockland Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) was developed the composition of the community has changed significantly. Today we accommodate Government House, three senior rest homes, two supportive housing facility, a Friary, two churches, one daycare, the Art Gallery, Langham Theatre and fifteen + bed & breakfasts. Our numerous historical mansions also embrace condominium developments and rentals with up to four to eleven rental apartments. Our resident population has more renters in the area than single family occupants. We are an **integrated residential single/multiple family neighbourhood** according to our plan, with wonderful social characteristics and no trace of **nimby**. We have always expected transparency from the City and have worked with staff and Council and numerous volunteer hours to achieve consensus. Our concerns generally relate to size of the development and whether it fits the neighbourhood’s social fabric and our RNP. We have questioned the cherry picking and interpretation by city staff of our established criteria and questioned when the neighbourhood reaches the tipping point. **When do we stop being an historic single family residential area?**

We are tentatively planning an information meeting in the neighbourhood on similar subjects. Please give the above some thought, attend the meeting and let us know what you desire for your neighbourhood.

Stay tuned for confirmation of the date, place and featured speakers.

Doreen Mueller, Past President

THE ROCKLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD GRAFFITI SQUAD



The graffiti problem in Victoria has become especially visible. In Rockland it is particularly offensive when viewed in juxtaposition with the fine heritage and natural features that give the neighbourhood its ambient charm and long established historical presence in the city. The long-standing concern over this form of vandalism has given rise to many attempts at redress where individual citizens paint out graffiti on telephone poles and mailboxes.

It is proposed that the Rockland Neighbourhood Association establish a Graffiti Squad to provide a more comprehensive approach to combating this scourge. It is simply a call to create a group of citizens who would undertake through coordinated action timely eradication of offensive paint work on objects all over Rockland. The Squad would be a response that would attempt to act quickly denying the “artists” the audience they clearly crave. The key word in this call is coordinated. Once formed the Squad would seek to develop an extensive list of volunteers who would offer their time and labor to the removal of the material. Because this is a big job two to four people should work together as co-

coordinators. They would divide the tasks of receiving calls about material and finding volunteers (possibly homeowners from affected blocks similar to Block Watch) to undertake the cleanup. The Coordinators would also maintain a kit of supplies (paint, brushes, scrapers, etc.) for the use of the Squad. If possible the Squad would attempt to find suitable places in which the materials may be stored and accessed by the group.

It is thought that the Squad would collect information on graffiti events through a campaign from residents and also through the Squads own regular patrol. Once noted, the Coordinators would assign volunteers to repair the damage.

When we walk or drive around the Rockland Area each day we are all saddened in seeing the graffiti creeping like a virus into our neighborhood from downtown Victoria. Defacement leads to more defacement and psychologically this makes us all depressed when we see our area defaced. We need to clean it up!

It is possible that a supply of materials can be obtained from Hydro, City and Post Office but that may take time to orchestrate. We would like to be able to obtain a distinctive apron or coverall that could be used by the Squad members.

It is too big of a job for a few individuals to do, but if there are enough volunteers throughout the Rockland area to help clean up the telephone poles it would make the area a more beautiful place. If you are interested in helping us set up the Graffiti Squad contact Lloyd Ollila 250-598-1605 (lollila@uvic.ca), or Don Hamilton 250-383-5448 (donaldhamilton@shaw.ca). If we get enough people interested we can set up Graffiti Squad.

Lloyd Ollila, Past President Rockland Association



ROCKLAND WOODLAND GARDEN



ROCKLAND NEIGHBOURS

You are all invited to the second Rockland Woodland Garden open house, where you'll find

Master gardeners to answer your questions

A weed identification table – bring your mystery weeds!

Refreshments will be available

Garden tours

Handouts on native plant gardening

Invasive plant identification and removal techniques

Evergreen plants for your native plant garden

Ethically salvaging native plants and others!

Check out Tricia Hodgins' beautiful drawings on the new garden signs, and our new plantings.

Meet your neighbours on a spring day in Rockland's very own Woodland Garden.

Sunday, April 19th, 2009
2 pm to 4 pm
where Joan Crescent joins
Craigdarroch Road,
just south of Fort Street
(serious rain cancels)

Rockland Woodland Garden Committee
Contact Janet jesimpson@shaw.ca for more information.

Janet Simpson, Garden Committee Chair

ART GALLERY EVENTS

Current Exhibits:

Assume Nothing:
New Social Practice runs to May 24,
2009

EDO: Arts of Japan's
Last Shogun Age

runs to August 3, 2009

Emily Carr and her
Contemporaries

ongoing

See aggv.bc.ca for details

NEIGHBOURS CARING AND WATCHING OUT FOR EACH OTHER

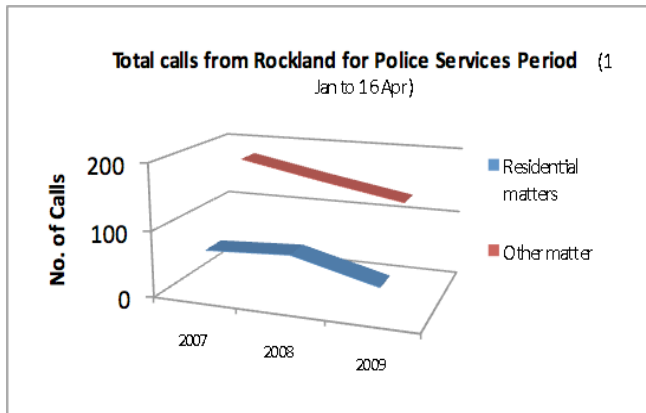


Just before Easter in the middle of the afternoon a man broke into and entered the home of a long-time resident on Montgomery Avenue. The female occupant who was at home alone at the time confronted the person and was able to scare him off. The police were called, but were unable to track the man down.

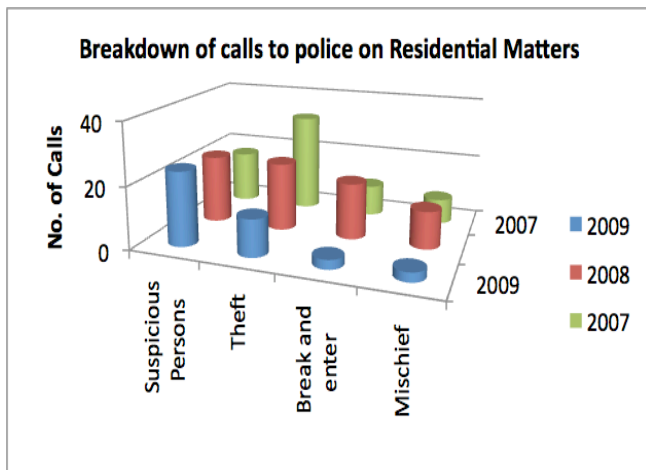
Only a couple of weeks before that, another woman on the same street was woken up in the middle of the night by the sound of the doorbell which she chose not to answer that time. However, she observed from her window a man checking to determine whether the doors were locked presumably with the

intention of entering the house. She confronted him from inside the house and he left. The police were called and arrived promptly but were unable to find the interloper.

Perhaps it says something about the ferociousness of the women of Rockland! Crime in Rockland it is not particularly severe. On the other hand, the tranquil and peaceful neighbourhood is not as free of criminal activity as you may expect and as can be seen from the following statistics.



The first chart shows that the overall number of calls made to police concerning criminal or other activities has fallen steadily in the period 2007 to 2009. Calls on other matters include suicides, motor vehicle accidents etc. which are not of direct interest to and control by residents.



The second chart overleaf breaks down the “residential matters” into four sub-categories of concern to local residents. Although the overall trend is quite good particularly for “Break and Entry”, “Theft” and “Mischief (damage to property)”, there is an adverse trend in the case of “Suspicious and Unwanted persons”. This final category, while being of concern, is something we as

residents are likely to be able to address through Block Watch and similar arrangements.

When the sort of experiences described in the first paragraphs above occurs, it would be nice to know that your neighbours are watching out for you which is what Block Watch is all about. Beverley Stewart, the Victoria Police Block Watch Coordinator servicing both Victoria and Esquimalt argues convincingly that “No amount of public safety spending can buy the kind of security that comes from neighbours caring and watching out for one another. Block Watch has proven itself as one of the most effective ways for citizens to get involved.” According to the Block Watch Society of BC, the Block Watch Program was started in BC in 1986 in response to the concerns of citizens about crime. The program was modeled on a similar project in Seattle which was effective in reducing residential Break and Enters by up to 60 percent.

Communication is at the heart of any successful Block Watch. By establishing and using communication networks such as telephone trees, electronic emails, and 911-cell phones, residents can alert police and one another of crimes in progress, suspicious activity and neighbourhood concerns. Keeping in regular contact with police, community leaders, and other agencies allows Block Watch members to identify crime trends and patterns, such as a series of robberies or burglaries, and to alert their neighbours to take crime prevention steps. Law enforcement is not able to be on every corner at all times, but neighbours can be on the lookout at any point during their daily routine. Residents are familiar with the problem areas or individuals in their neighbourhood and are easily able to identify unusual activity or behaviour.

How does Block Watch work?

Some Useful Websites:

Victoria Police Dept.: www.vicpd.ca
 VicPD BlockWatch: www.vicpdblockwatch.ca
 Block Watch Society of BC: <http://www.blockwatch.com/>

Block Watch is simple to begin, and can improve the security of your neighbourhood while increasing your sense of community. The program works through cooperation – Neighbours Watching out for Neighbours. Neighbours know who you are, what your habits normally are and what type of car you own. They

may be the first to notice a burglar at your window or door. Each neighbour can effectively watch those homes to each side, the front and back of his own home.

Residents learn how to become the extended eyes and ears of the police. Promptly reporting all criminal or suspicious activity to 9-1-1, or the Victoria Police Department at 250-995-7654, helps the police to assist you in promoting a safe and healthy neighbourhood. Being aware of criminal activity can help in keeping your neighbourhood safe.

Block Watch participants DO learn the best techniques for securing their homes and property, along with tips on personal safety for themselves and their families when shopping, traveling and engaging in other activities away from home.

How to start a Block Watch

The strength of the Victoria Block Watch Program is based on the efforts of our members in each neighbourhood. The program is voluntary, but is very effective in reducing crime.

1. Define your neighbourhood geographically. Identify the blocks or apartment building that residents of the area want to recruit into a Block Watch group (or join an existing Rockland group - see below).
2. Consider starting small – recruiting one apartment building or 15-25 homes – so you and your neighbours can get to know everyone.
3. Talk with your neighbours to see if they are interested in forming a Block Watch - include homeowners, renters, working parents, young people, single parents, senior citizens, teenagers and local businesses. You are aiming for at least 40% participation.
4. Select a Block Watch Captain and Co-Captain - Before becoming a Captain or Co-Captain, you must undergo a security clearance (no cost).
5. Contact the Victoria Police Block Watch Coordinator, Bev Stewart (bev.stewart@vicpd.ca) to receive a Block Watch package. Training is required.
6. Canvas door-to-door to sign up your neighbours

7. Have your first block watch meeting. Two police reserve officers will give a Crime Prevention Presentation.

Roles and Responsibilities

What Does a Block Watch Captain Do?

The Block Captain holds one of the most important functions in the Block Watch Program. He or she is responsible for coordinating and completing or delegating these important tasks:

- Organizes, advertises and conducts at least one neighbourhood meeting a year for Block Watch members. This meeting is to review communication, neighbourhood issues, disaster preparedness and other items of discussion or concern.
- Serves as a link between Block Watch participants and the Block Watch office.
- Receives and distributes special information such as crime alerts, newsletters, to Block Watch members.
- Makes sure phone/email tree and neighbourhood map are kept up to date.
- Contacts new neighbours to see if they are interested in joining the Block Watch
- Encourages residents to communicate with each other.

Roles of Block Watch Participants

- Get to know your neighbour! If you know those who live on your block, it is easier to spot those who do not belong on the block
- Be open to assisting the Block Captain by helping to plan meetings or events or volunteering to head up a project or activity
- Keep your eyes and ears open for suspicious activity
- Learn to report suspicious activity to the police using the correct phone numbers
- Attend the program meetings and read the newsletter
- Secure your home and personal property.
- Inform your neighbours and block captain if you plan to be away so that special attention can be given to your home.

Rockland already has several established Block watch groups -- you may be lucky and be able to join a pre-existing group or maybe you will need to

start a new one. Existing Block Watches include certain blocks on Rockland Ave, Pemberton Road, St Charles Street, Algoa Place, Joan Crescent, Craigdarroch Road, Lotbiniere Avenue, and Revercomb Place.

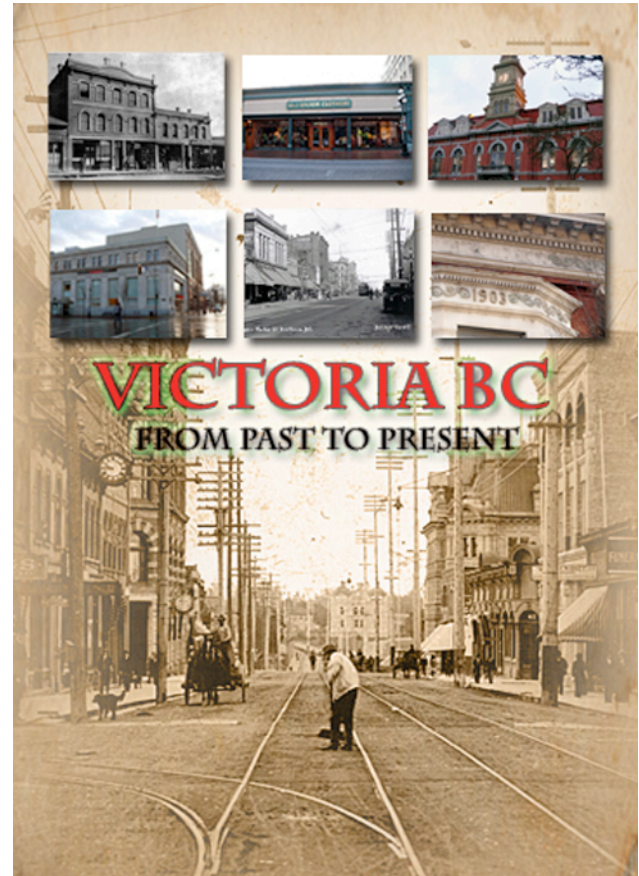


If you think you might fall under one of these, please give Bev Stewart a call at 250-995-7409. Despite having the good fortune of living with one of those 'fearsome Rockland women', I think the Block watch is an excellent idea and hope we will be establishing one with our neighbours. If anyone reading this article and living on Montgomery Avenue or Despard Avenue is interested in exploring the idea further, please email me at tony.wade@yahoo.com or give me a call on 250 - 298-7335.

Tony Wade, RNA Director

Block Watch Orientation Meeting
 Wednesday, April 29, 2009
 7:00 P.M. Esquimalt City Hall
 1229 Esquimalt Road
 To register contact the Block Watch
 Office at 250-995-7409 or email
bev.stewart@vrcpd.ca

NEW WEBSITE SHOWS VICTORIA IN 1907



Saturday, May 4, 1907 was a special day in the history of Victoria. That was the day that William Harbeck produced a cinematograph of downtown Victoria. Using a streetcar loaned by the British Columbia Electric Railway Company, he travelled down the streets, turning the hand crank of a camera fixed to the front of the car. He began at City Hall, travelled down Douglas Street, turned on to Yates and then on to Government, where he concluded his journey at the Post Office.

He was so taken with the view of the Empress Hotel being built on the former mudflats that he took a panoramic view of the harbour including the Empress Hotel site, the Legislative Buildings, and the CPR terminal.

In the afternoon, he travelled by sea to the Point Ellice Bridge where he photographed the harbour and the sealing fleet. He then transferred to an electric launch and travelled up the Gorge Waterway as far as the Gorge Bridge. On the return trip he captured the Isle of the Dead and the sawmills, conveniently in full operation.

The *Victoria Daily Colonist* of May 5, 1907 documents the experience and notes that Mr. Harbeck would be travelling "along the line of the E & N to Nanaimo: Stopping at Shawnigan Lake for photos of the "glittering sheet of water and the pretty little hotel." He then made his way to Vancouver where he shot 400 feet of film and planned to then travel up the CPR as far as Lytton. From this trip, only the footage of Victoria and Vancouver remains. It was found in the Australian archives a few years ago and brought back to Canada. What is interesting about the video is the number of buildings that are shown along the route that remain today, over a century later.

William H. Harbeck was born in Toledo, Ohio in September 1863. He married Catherine (born in 1863) in 1886, and they had two sons, John (born April 1887) and Stanley (born Feb 1892). He gained his reputation in 1906 when he filmed the aftermath of the San Francisco earthquake. He was subsequently hired by the Canadian Pacific Railway to "put Western Canada on the motion picture screen." He produced 13 one-reelers designed to show Canada at its best and to attract Europeans to Canada. The Victoria and Vancouver reel was obviously one of these.

In 1912, the C. P. R. sent him to Paris to study with Leon Gaumont, who had mastered the outdoor location shoot. According to the *Weekly Advocate* for Newark, Ohio (January 23, 1913), William Harbeck had been in Europe "arranging for the disposition of 110,000 feet of motion picture film which he had made on a trip to Alaska, together with his motion picture machine valued at \$600."

Mr. Harbeck had notified relatives that he would sail for New York on the ill-fated vessel. It is likely that he was hired by the White Star Line to film the maiden voyage and it is thought that he was going to be taken off the vessel to film the arrival in New York. Strangely, Mr. Harbeck was travelling on the Titanic with Henriette Yrois, a 24-year old model he had met on his European trip. Both died in the sinking; he was identified by his membership card in the Moving Picture and Projecting Machine Operators Union.

The Hallmark Society received funding from the Hbc Foundation and the BC150-Heritage Legacy Fund to produce an interactive website including the original video. There is extensive information on the buildings that would have been on the route in 1858,

and then in 1907, and what is now here today. New original research has unearthed many stories and has cleared up some misconceptions about buildings along the route.

Check out the website at <http://www.hallmarksociety.ca/Harbeck/index.html>

Helen Edwards, Newsletter Editor

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