



# ROCKLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

## Summer 2017 Newsletter

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

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### PLANNING IS A VERB

It is so good to see people out and about enjoying the beautiful summer weather in Victoria. Neighbours connecting with neighbours as they walk the neighbourhoods or chat over the fence with gardeners. Working in my garden, or reading on the front porch, I feel so fortunate to be able to meet neighbours, strollers and visitors. At the same time, I find my mind projecting forward to the fall and the projects that I will be involved with at City Hall.

The long anticipated work to draft a new neighbourhood plan for Rockland will begin in the late fall. The Rockland Neighbourhood Association has already been undertaking work in order to be prepared to participate in the long-awaited initiative. Once the City begins to formally undertake the planning work there will be many opportunities for the public to be involved. A working group will be created, open houses scheduled, surveys distributed and pop-up events planned throughout the community. I hope that all Rockland residents will find the time to participate in the way that is most convenient for them.

A Local Area Plan, in conjunction with the Official Community Plan, will guide development in your neighbourhood for years to come. It will shape not only how the community looks but also how it functions. Under the principles of the Official Community Plan each neighbourhood in the city is projected to absorb a specific amount of population growth over the next number of years. How that growth will be accommodated in Rockland will be determined by the details of the Local Area Plan. Rockland is a neighbourhood that is defined, at least in part, by the large estate character of many of the properties, the generous tree canopy, rocky outcroppings, etc. If these characteristics are valued by the community how can growth projections also be accommodated. Perhaps sensitive infill principles can be identified that provide housing units but do not detract from the established character of the neighbourhood. Secondary suites and garden suites may be housing forms that add to rental stock options while retaining existing housing.

Fort Street is seen as the gateway to Rockland and it is characterized by the heritage houses located east of Cook Street that now function in commercial capacities. An important question that will need to be answered in the plan is what will the rest of this corridor look like and how will it function. The corridor already contains many multi-family dwellings. Will the new plan encourage the retention of these existing, primarily rental, buildings or will it seek to further densify the corridor. Will rental units be displaced by condominium units?

It is often stated that the devil is in the details. The internationally renowned architect, Mies van der Rohe maintained that 'God is in the details'. Based on my experience with the local area planning that has been completed in the Burnside-Gorge neighbourhood, and is underway in Fairfield-Gonzales, I must say that I am in agreement with Mies. When reviewing a draft plan it is so important to turn one's mind to the potential outcomes when theoretical initiatives evolve into actual planning proposals.



I hope that you will join me in working to ensure that the new Rockland Local Area Plan is a document that is well supported by the community and one that will, through the careful consideration of its elements, serve the community and deliver on their expectations for this very special part of Victoria.

In the meantime, have a happy and safe summer!

Pamela Madoff,  
Councillor,  
City of Victoria  
Council Liaison to Rockland  
pmadoff@victoria.ca

## ROCKLAND WOODLAND GARDEN

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Here are a few thousand words about the Woodland Garden and its volunteer workers.



*Photos taken by Caitlin Bingham.*

# Rockland-wide Yard Sales



[rockland.bc.ca](http://rockland.bc.ca)

Hold a sale at your own home,  
or reserve a table on the Art Gallery lawn

For information, or to register, email  
[environment@rockland.bc.ca](mailto:environment@rockland.bc.ca)

List of participants will be published on  
Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup> in the Times Colonist,  
Craig's List and Used Victoria

# Saturday August 19th





2017/07/13

The Rockland Neighbourhood Association (RNA) is pleased to announce that the Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, will be hosting the Rockland Neighbourhood Association active members on Friday, August 25, 2017 at Government House beginning at 5:00 p.m. for a wine and cheese. RNA members will be sent personal invitations with a RSVP due date of August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Dress for the event is Business Attire.

In order to participate at this event, please make sure you are up to date on your R.N.A. membership (\$10 per resident). Please note that invitations are sent to R.N.A. individual members only and do not apply to households or friends who are not R.N.A. members.

For non-members who wish to attend.

For the nominal membership fee of \$10, you can become a member of your Rockland Neighborhood Association. Your membership also supports many worthy causes specific to Rockland, such as land use, traffic, environmental and special events impacting our historic neighborhood. As an added bonus you will receive the personal invitation to meet the Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia for the wine and cheese event at Government House on August 25<sup>th</sup> 2017. To become a member please visit <http://rockland.bc.ca/wp/membership/>.

Please make sure to monitor our website [www.rockland.bc.ca](http://www.rockland.bc.ca) for more details as they become available. In addition, any updates for the event will be reported out using the distribution list. We look forward to seeing you at this wonderful event!



## HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW ROCKLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION WEBSITE?

If you haven't yet seen our beautifully redesigned Rockland Neighbourhood Association website at [www.rockland.bc.ca/wp](http://www.rockland.bc.ca/wp), please take a peek to enjoy our new look and updated information.

The website is attractive and easy to navigate and includes lots of easy-to-access information about Rockland and the Association's committees and activities, with links to useful contacts in the City, CRD and Province. You can find information about our upcoming Board meetings and other RNA special events.

As work will start on the revision of the Rockland Neighbourhood Plan this Fall, in conjunction with the City, and we hope to have as much participation from

local residents as possible, the website will be particularly important for the RNA to keep you posted on what is happening, where, and when, so we recommend that you check it regularly, especially once this process begins.

And, if you are not already a RNA member, you will find a membership application on the website – you can either send in a membership application by mail, or you can join online.

*Reminder:* In order to attend the RNA Reception at Government House on 25<sup>th</sup> August, your membership needs to be current!

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## ROCKLAND HERITAGE by Helen Edwards

It is good to remember that memories are part of our heritage, not just the buildings and sites that remain. Looking back in time to see what was “there then” is a favourite pastime of mine. We are often not aware of commercial activity that took place in what are now exclusively residential areas. This story is an example of a manufacturing operation that lasted for over 60 years in one location.

When I think back to my childhood in this area, I vividly remember the clinking of glass bottles at the Crystal Spring Bottling Company. It had almost a musical sound, and the rhythm was quite lyrical.,

You may recall that we told the story of Gisburn and how five lots, cut off the southern portion of the property, were offered for sale on March 28, 1911. One of those lots was purchased by the Crystal Spring Water Supply who established a plant at 1244 Richardson Street.

The company was set up in 1912 to sell the fresh water from an underground spring that ran under their location. An early advertisement in The Daily Colonist read: “Drink pure spring water delivered daily to all parts of the city. Crystal Spring Water Supply, phone R5168.”

When I was young, there was a well that drew from that spring in my neighbour's property and I used to pump up the fresh, cool water for my goldfish to swim in—no chlorinated water for my pets! It was wonderful to drink as well. It's no wonder that a smart businessman sought to bottle it for sale.

The company then purchased the assets—and presumably, the recipes—of Chris Morley who had operated a soda works downtown in Waddington Alley from 1882-1911. His building, which has been converted to living spaces after being derelict for many years, still contained old bottles. The firm manufactured soda water, lemonade, essences of peppermint and ginger, and a variety of syrups and is one of the last buildings of the boom period of the 1880s. However, times changed, and the manufacturing processes were moved to the Richardson Street location.

According to a 1913 ad in The Colonist, the company used “nothing but the pure crystal water for manufacturing highest quality of carbonated soda water beverages, syrups, essences.” It also boasted that “once you try ours, you'll use no other.”

By 1914, they were encouraging visitors to visit their “model plant.” Again they stressed the quality of the products when they said, “A glass of water from the Ice cold Crystal Spring will convince anyone that the carbonated drinks manufactured from it must be the best and purest on the market.”

In 1949, Crystal Spring Beverage Co. sponsored the “Orange Crush Safety Club” and advised local children to listen the “Trouble Shooters” on Vancouver radio station CKWX at “980 on your radio dial” at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We moved into our new house in that year and became accustomed to the gentle sounds of the bottling process. The plant was a great place to visit as we always came home with a free bottle of pop.



What more could youngsters want?

The plant operated until 1976, and the property was sold. A small apartment block was then built on the site and remains there today.

The building may be gone but for some of us, the memories remain. Think about this long-time business the next time you walk along Richardson Street.

I have been unable to find a photograph of the bottling buildings. If anyone knows where one can be obtained, please let me know at [heritagelady@gmail.com](mailto:heritagelady@gmail.com).



*Crystal Springs bottle, second from the right. These bottles are now highly collectible.*



*There is nothing like lying on the grass and looking up through tree foliage. Have a great summer! Photo by Helen Edwards*

## FOLLOW YOUR ASSOCIATION ON FACEBOOK

Do you want to know what is happening in Rockland on a regular basis? Follow our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Rockland-Neighbourhood-Association-444293285610322/?fref=ts>. The most recent discussions have been about buildings that are no longer there. It is quite enlightening to see the before and after photos of different sites around the neighbourhood.



## RNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2017-2018

**President:** Janet Simpson  
**Vice President:** Marc Hunter  
**Secretary:** Susan Simpson  
**Treasurer:** John Edwards  
**Directors:** Lawrence Bortoluzzi  
David Clark  
Vanessa Dingley  
Art Hamilton  
Bob June  
David McWalter  
Stephen Roughley  
Susan Wynne-Hughes

## 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](http://www.rockland.bc.ca).

## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The Rockland Neighbourhood Association Newsletter is published during the year. It is distributed electronically to all members. Submissions from members on issues of interest are always accepted and photographs are particularly welcome. **Deadline for the next newsletter is October 15, 2017.** All submissions should be sent to Newsletter Editor, Helen Edwards at [heritagelady@gmail.com](mailto:heritagelady@gmail.com).

## CAN WE HELP YOU?

Is there a building in Rockland that you would like to know more about? Do you have an old photo that needs identification? Let me know at [heritagelady@gmail.com](mailto:heritagelady@gmail.com) and I will see what I can find.