



ROCKLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

Spring 2018 Newsletter

CONTENTS

Save Rockland's Baby Birds
St. Matthias Anglican Church Gardens
Welcome New Directors
The Woodland Garden
Honorary Citizen Award
Sangha of Oaks
Block Watch
Services Available to Seniors in Need in
Victoria
Board of Directors 2018-19
About This Newsletter

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Marc Hunter, RNA president

In February, 2018, I had the honour to succeed Janet Simpson as the President of the Rockland Neighborhood Association (RNA). Little did I know what was I was getting in to so early in to my tenure! I must admit the RNA Board has responded to some serious and far reaching issues affecting our neighborhood in the past little while.

1201 Fort Street

Proposed development of the Truth Centre at 1201 Fort Street continues to be a controversial issue and keeps moving along with the next City hearing scheduled for April 26.

This is an opportune time to re-iterate to our RNA membership that the RNA board is bound by the RNA Constitution, our Bylaws and the Rockland Neighborhood Plan. I encourage

you to visit our website <https://rockland.bc.ca/wp/> for more information. I mention this as some may have wrongly interpreted that the RNA is anti-development and will simply take an opposing view to any developer's proposal.

Our mandate is clear and binds the board members to a position that members must adhere to. Your RNA board is also very active in the Official Community Plan (OCP) process. This is a ratified and accepted process that was put in place to ensure Victorians have a voice in the long term development and growth of Victoria. Working diligently within this process, we endeavour to ensure that the unique characteristics of Rockland are preserved.

With the above in mind, the RNA cannot support the developer's proposal for 1201 Fort Street **as currently presented**. This decision is founded on our Constitution, Bylaws and the Rockland Neighborhood Plan.

I must also add that it is unfortunate that the RNA has also been subject to some strong, inflammatory and unfounded contempt based on our feedback to date on the proposed development. Your volunteer Board works hard to represent the views of its RNA membership while again adhering to our mandate as provided for in the RNA Constitution, our bylaws and the Rockland Neighbourhood Plan.

Having said that, we are committed to working collaboratively and constructively with the City, area residents and other key community stakeholders. These are important community related considerations with long term implications.

1322 Rockland

Your RNA board has also been following the serious health and safety issues unfolding at 1322 Rockland. Whether you hold a position for or against poultry within the city, we think it's fair to say that 103 chickens are too many in a city environment. In our opinion, that is a number best suited for country life. More importantly, the number of chickens produces a great deal of waste. Health issues associated to chicken compost (and other un-compostable items) placed directly alongside a neighbor's property line (and far away from the owner's residence) has caused considerable health and safety related concerns.

In the very short time the chickens have been placed, disease, smells and rodent infestations have already begun to manifest itself and VIHA and other relevant authorities have noted the inability of neighbours to use their garden this coming summer given the public safety related issues that have resulted.

In terms of current status of this issue, on April 19th, Victoria City Council gave 1st, 2nd and 3rd Readings to a bylaw amendment that would limit backyard chickens to 15 per lot, and require all chicken waste be kept in a container no larger than 3x3x3 feet in size. While we recognize this is a start, the issue of the open compost bins and issues around public safety still remain unresolved.

I should also note that the RNA has received anonymous messages with all sorts of dangerous rhetoric on this topic. The offensive words and actions of these individuals will not sway us in our efforts to ensure that public health and safety remains a paramount consideration in the Rockland community.

Volunteer Week

This edition of our regular newsletter coincides well with **National Volunteer Week** which was April 15 to 21, 2018 in Canada. The purpose of National Volunteer Week is to recognize the contributions of volunteers in our communities. This year's theme is "**Celebrate the Value of Volunteering – building confidence, competence, connections and community**".

Based on the two controversial topics described above and the difficult issues that the Board has been dealing with on behalf of its membership, I am reassured by the simple message of National Volunteer Week. The RNA Board is made up of residents of Rockland who freely given up their time and energy every month. For example, Board members attend monthly meetings, respond to correspondence, prepare newsletters, organize social activities, welcome new residents to Rockland, work collaboratively with the City, our Councillor, Police Department and other key stakeholders. We also head up committees and work on community related issues like land use, the importance of maintaining heritage related values, and safety related issues such as traffic and crime.

Simply put, there is immense value in giving up your free time to create a better sense of community. With that in mind, I encourage anyone that is interested in becoming a Volunteer for the RNA to contact us to discuss opportunities for community engagement. We need good folk like you. I'd also like to convey my sincere thanks for the amazing work of the current volunteer RNA Board team – your efforts are very much valued and appreciated.

In conclusion, I was recently reminded of how beautiful Rockland is and how fortunate I am to live in Victoria. I couldn't agree more. Having said that, recent events have highlighted the heightened need for collaboration, respect and the importance of community.

I hope that we look back on 2018 with a sense of pride and accomplishment in our commitment to maintain Rockland as the beautiful historic neighborhood it is.

SAVE ROCKLAND'S BABY BIRDS

Please give the baby birds in our neighbourhood a chance to survive by keeping your cats indoors, especially in the springtime, especially in the mornings. In Canada, domestic cats kill 1 billion birds every year.



ST. MATTHIAS ANGLICAN CHURCH GARDENS

St. Matthias Anglican Church has extensive gardens. Located on the southern border of Rockland, the church office address is 600 Richmond Avenue. The photo is the view of the church entrance and parking off Richardson. All levels of interest in gardening can be accommodated. There are three large gardens already established, plus the huge backyard. If you are interested in gardening or would like to learn about gardening, please call the church office (250) 598-2833 and leave your contact details or send an Email to MarilynDenton@hotmail.com. We are blessed with a lot of land, let's find a creative way to put it to use.



WELCOME NEW DIRECTORS



Lisa MacIntosh

I moved to Victoria in 2015, from my hometown of Vancouver. I chose Rockland to make my home largely because of the wonderful heritage homes, the gorgeous mature trees, beautiful gardens and the wonderful sense of community. I am a real estate agent, heritage advocate and passionate gardener. In Vancouver I sat on the Vancouver Heritage Foundation Board, the First Shaughnessy Design panel, and was also a board member of St. James Community Square. Community involvement has always been important to me. I have a keen interest in ensuring that development in Victoria, and in particular the Rockland, respects the character and scale of the existing neighbourhood.

Anthony Danda



My husband and I recently moved to Rockland in Vancouver for the sense of community and overall quality of life. My occupation in global financial services for the past 25 years has allowed me to travel extensively, which helps me appreciate even more the decision to call Victoria home. I have a keen interest in history and am looking forward to actively protecting Rockland's heritage from overdevelopment and enhancing the uniqueness of new neighbourhood. My goal is to also support Victorians in their efforts to ensure our city grows sustainably and is enjoyed by all residents and visitors.

Chantal Meagher



Chantal Meagher hails from Regina, but fell in love with Victoria in 1982 when she came here to study. An early graduate of UVIC Law, Chantal's career with the Foreign Service (and peripatetic nature) took her to Hong Kong, Warsaw, Beijing, and Bangkok before finding her way back to Victoria. Thrilled to be back, and to be part of this wonderful community, Chantal spends her time exploring BC, learning to garden, and planning her next travels.

THE WOODLAND GARDEN



This is the Pacific rhodo bed. Louise Watt has done a wonderful job of transplanting Wood Sorrel so it will eventually become a good ground cover.



The Flowering red currant at the corner in full bloom.



Fawn lilies down by the Rockland Woodland Garden sign are doing much better—and actually blooming!



Deer fencing around an Indian plum bush.



Our large, beautiful Oregon grape bushes.



Do you know someone
who makes our community
a better place?

Nominate them for a City of Victoria

Honorary Citizen AWARD



For more information and
nomination criteria, please visit:
victoria.ca/honorarycitizen

Nomination deadline:
May 25, 2018



SANGHA OF OAKS

One hundred years ago, a crowd of oaks.
Now, ghost oaks, shadow oaks, angel oaks
in this last scrap of wildness: and no
erythronium camas shooting stars chocolate lilies

One oak beside a shoulder of Colquitz gneiss,
another
behind the lilacs, one to the right
in someone else's yard, four to the left.
Early morning, the croak of crows.
Season shifts. They, too, move on.

The city thinks this oak is mine.
It stands on land beside my house
but an oak cannot be bought or sold.
If I slip, claim ownership,
forgive me my trespass

North light reads the oak from right to left
slim enunciation of sunrise
turning tree from cipher to silverpoint
silverpoint to sculpture
limbed being: breath.

A collaboration: sunlight on oak skin
its slow arc inscribing tree
in shadow's ink, gnostic text,
hour by hour, writing, rewriting.

Ear to oak, I listen for sap
running the cambium between bark
and pith, watering the tree.

The lord be my shepherd, the lord be
my raven, the lord my oak.

In oak roots, I bury heart's placenta,
my grand-daughter's first tooth,
dig in seedlings for crows to come.

Do you take this oak
to be your life?

I do.

by Victoria poet Dorothy Field (from
her book *The Blackbird Must Be*)

"Sangha" means association or
community.



BLOCK WATCH

There are several Block Watch groups operating in Rockland.

Below you will see information on how Block Watch operates as well as a contact for anyone interested in forming a new group:

Safe Neighbourhoods Start With You

The Victoria Police Department (VicPD) Block Watch program is a community-based approach to safe neighbourhoods. Resident's partner with VicPD and their neighbours to form a communication and information sharing network to discuss what's going on the neighbourhood and how to become better connected.

Participation is voluntary; all you need is someone to take on the leadership role within your neighbourhood. That person accepts the duties of being a Block Watch Captain which includes enlisting neighbours to sign up. Participants share information and work together with VicPD to maintain a positive approach to crime prevention initiatives.

VicPD looks forward to working with all residents in Victoria and Esquimalt in an effort to maintain safe and healthy communities in the neighbourhoods where you live, work and play.

To learn more about Block Watch, and how to build a connected neighbourhood, please visit our website www.vicpd.ca/block-watch

Kimberly Kelley, BBA

Community Programs Coordinator

Victoria Police Department

Kimberly.kelley@vicpd.ca

250-995-7409

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO SENIORS IN NEED IN VICTORIA

1) New Horizons James Bay - a non profit organization :

Senior Reassurance Program:

A volunteer calls the senior each day with a follow up if there is no response- both short term and long term possibilities.

234 Menzies 250-386-3035

2) James Bay community Project - a non profit community organization (Capital city Volunteers) :

Direct Services Program:

A volunteer visits the senior once a week to socialize. They also provide volunteers for one on one services such as gardening , dog walking, yard work .

Means tested to below \$30,000 income.

Better at Home: provides services for seniors (similar to the above) with a sliding pay scale.

547 Michigan 250-3887844

3) Seniors serving seniors - a nonprofit charity:

Peer counselors visit seniors weekly. (trained in 40 hour accredited counseling course)

Suite 109-1022 Pandora 250-3824331

4) Silver Threads

They have a drop in activity centre for seniors which provides programs in fitness, crafts, art therapy etc. They also have services such as income tax help for low income seniors and help with computers and a lawyer for short sessions for any seniors. There are charges for all of the above, but they are very reasonable.

2340 Richmond 250-388-4268

ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF SPRING



RNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2018-2019

President: Marc Hunter
Vice President: Art Hamilton
Past-president: Janet Simpson
Secretary: Chantal Meagher
Treasurer: Anthony Danda
Directors: Lawrence Bortoluzzi
David Clark
Bob June
Lisa McIntosh
David McWalter
Stephen Roughley
Susan Wynne-Hughes

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. Please send photographs separate from the text. **Deadline for the next newsletter is July 15, 2018.** All submissions should be sent to Newsletter Editor Helen Edwards at heritagelady@gmail.com

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.



CAN WE HELP YOU?

Is there a building or landmark 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 and I will see what I can find.

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.