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RNA - September 2023 Newsletter

As you might imagine, all sorts of ideas percolate through my brain as I test various introductions for each newsletter. I was going to joke about the horrors of summer travel, but I think we get enough horrors from other news sources. Instead, I'll marvel at the resilience of the rhododendrons my husband planted, constantly forgiving me when I'm unable to water them as they need. I laugh at Poppy's insistence on chasing down the lawn after her rubber rings, despite heat and humidity. We have no right to ignore the tragedies of the greater world (or here) but it's upon the scaffold of small joys that we build our own resilience. And that reminds me: thank you, Government House, for the 'forest bathing' that keeps so many of us sane!

Like the acorns falling on my head, there's a bumper crop of news this month, so read on for advice on petty crime, getting rid of at least some of your acorns in a good cause, and how to express your opinions on the changes taking place to the roads in Victoria. And please forgive the oddities in formatting. Sometimes technology just refuses to 'play ball', and this is one of those instances. I've chosen to fight and run away in the hopes that I fare better in next month's battle.

Now, without further ado, the neighbourhood news.....

Synopsis of the September RNA Board Meeting:

Councillor's Report (Mary Gardiner)

- Hundreds of emails have arrived complaining about the changes in traffic along Richardson and Fort Street
 - Noise complaints are up in the city
- <https://www.marggardiner.ca/>

Please note the above website. Marg has written a very insightful and concerning essay on the current council and its agendas. Please check out her blog so that you're aware of what's going on with the council so few of the city's populace actually elected. (Turnout was a mere 37.98% of eligible voters.)

Land Use

- Marg commented that there is a strong movement away from heritage preservation on the current council. If you feel strongly about the conservation of heritage in the neighbourhood, now is the time to make your feelings known!
- 1737 Rockland Ave: an effort is being made to get the property heritage designation before the developers move in.

Remember: you can always stay up to date with present and future developments through [this link](#).

Environment

- See below for the first Rockland Community Acorn Collection Event!

Traffic

<http://rockland.bc.ca/wp/2023/09/09/have-your-say-planning-for-2024-25-street-upgrades-is-underway/>

Planning for 2024-25 Street Upgrades is Underway
Until Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023, the city is collecting feedback on your experiences on six streets in Victoria. Through surveys, the Q&A section and an interactive mapping tool, tell them about where you feel there are opportunities for improvement or where you have challenges walking, rolling, riding, taking transit or driving. Your input will help inform designs for street upgrades planned for 2024-25.

These upgrades aim to help move people, goods and services around the City safely and conveniently. They will combine essential infrastructure renewal – like traffic signal upgrades, underground work and road paving – with road safety upgrades for everyone. The sequence and timing of projects has not been determined but all are planned for 2024-25.

While we are looking for feedback on these specific corridors, we will also continue to deliver improvements across the City including road paving, crosswalk upgrades, EV charging stations, traffic calming and more. For more information on large City-led roadwork projects visit [this link](#).

Check out the project info sheets, video and additional resources and provide input using the maps and/or surveys.

<https://engage.victoria.ca/register>

Social

The Rockland Community Acorn Collection Event
Saturday October 14th, 2023
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the entrance to the Woodland Gardens at Government House
Presentation by Ryan Senechal, President of the Garry Oak Preservation Society (GOMPS)
At 10:15 to 10:45

I'll send out more details closer to the event, but in the short term, gather up no more than one litre of brown acorns – no blemishes or caps. Pop each into a pot of water. If it floats, discard it! Only acorns that sink are viable! Stay tuned for more about the how and why, arriving in your inbox early in October!

In the Neighbourhood

Langham Court Theatre

Maggie's Getting Married, September 20 – October 8
Written by Norm Foster and directed by Jacquelyne Keath
Tom, a dentist and a father, fears his own mortality. Cass, a religious mother, might have fallen out of love. Axel, a budding actor, is set to star in an X-rated Peter Pan. Wanda, a loving sister, doesn't know how to settle on a man. And Maggie, set to marry Russell, is unaware that her sister knows her fiancé a little too well. There's even a pastor in the other room. What could go wrong?
Tickets are available online at www.langhamtheatre.ca
Check out our other shows for our 2023/24 Season.

October 11 – 15 Langham Court Theatre is hosting and sponsoring The Victoria Festival of Authors, Vancouver Island's largest, and liveliest, celebration of books and booklovers (victoriafestivalofauthors.ca)

Craigdarroch Castle

The castle is open for tours from Wednesday through Sunday.

October 19th-21st & October 26th-28th Frankenstein Show with Jason Stevens.

A one-man version of Frankenstein set to haunt Craigdarroch Castle. Actor Jason Stevens, known for his popular one-man production of Charles Dickens' 1843 classic, "A Christmas Carol", is set to bring back Mary Shelley's horror story in the Castle's dance hall, located on the fourth floor.

Jason Stevens is a classically trained actor from the prestigious Drama Centre London. Jason worked as an actor in London and New York for many years, and in Canada he has appeared in a number of film and television roles as well as performing with various theatre companies in Victoria and Vancouver.

November 8th-11th & November 15th- 18th - A Murder Mystery Event with Paper Street Productions. Look for more information in our October newsletter!

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria

Continuing: "White Black", to October 22nd, and "Symbiosis" to October 29th.

Upcoming exhibitions:

- Unexpected: 'The Life and Art of Sophie Pemberton, Canadian Artist, September 23 to January 21, 2024
- Tender Touch – "dives into Victoria's unique and proliferating tattoo community." November 25 – May 5, 2024.

Government House

Summertime recap at Government House:
It was a beautiful summer at Government House! The ceremonial home of all British Columbians welcomed visitors from near and far for a myriad of events, celebrations, and even delicious treats. For a full recap of events and celebrations please visit the [LGA Blog](#).

Rudi's Tearoom and the Costume Museums are now closed.
This season was a great success. Thank you to everyone who visited the Mews this season.

While the main events of summer at Government House may have passed, there are still plenty of ways to enjoy this special space. Come by on a Saturday guided tour of Government House to learn more about the history of BC's Vice Regal residence and the ceremonial home of all British Columbians.

2023 Fall and Winter Saturday Tour Dates:

- September 16
- October 14, October 28
- November 11, November 25
- December 9, December 16

Pre-registration is required – register and select a date and time here, up to two weeks ahead: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/government-house-49152051653>

LSA's (Long Service Awards) begin September 21st and will run weekly until Oct 23th. There will be heavier than usual traffic (cars, buses, and taxi's) on the grounds during the evenings of these weeks.

Flags at half-mast: September 24th, from sunrise until sunset on Sunday, in observance of the Police and Peace Officers' National Memorial Day

REPORTING CRIME IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

The recent attack on [two neighbours walking on Joan Crescent](#) is cause for significant concern. While we're grateful to hear that Sandy's health is slowly improving, the incident is a sad reminder that care must be taken in approaching anyone whose behaviour appears problematic. I loathe the foggy prose, but there are too many 'problematic' behaviours to describe here! If in doubt, please err on the side of your safety. Problems should be brought to the attention of the police.

- Emergency line is 911. Non-emergency is 250-995-7654.
- Did you know that you can go on the internet to report problems?
- VicPD online at: <https://sfpd.ca/services/report-a-crime-online/>
- City Bylaw Officers for bylaw enforcement: bylawenforcement@victoria.ca or 250-361-0578.

This is crucial! The online service is monitored constantly. If there's an upswing in criminal activity around a neighbourhood, more service will be allotted. If the police don't know, they can't help! You're not hothering anyone by reporting people who trespass on your property, or who appear to be loitering with no good reason. Just bookmark the site above and use it when you feel there's a threat to person or property that does not warrant a more immediate response.

The Community Programs Coordinator for the Victoria Police Department, Kimberly Kelley, BBA, sent the following:

- *Here are some tips for you to consider:
- I would also suggest looking at the [E-Comm website](#); they are the organization responsible for taking non-emergency and 9-1-1 calls and they have a wealth of information on their E-Comm website.
- Watch from a safe place and maintain visual continuity the best you can while ensuring your safety.
- Try not to alert the suspect you're watching or contacting police unless your or someone else's safety is at immediate risk.
- Safely and discreetly get their description. What is the suspect doing?
- Once you have called 9-1-1 or non-emergency, DO NOT hang up the phone. Stay on the line and speak with the call taker.*

In the Broader Community

From City Hall:

You can subscribe to the City Hall's Connect Newsletter by clicking on [this link](#). It contains information on National Tree Day (September 20), free bike registration and much more.

My Great Neighbourhood Update

See the latest version on our [website](#), but if you need some enticement: you'll find information about Fall Fairfield, the Vic West Corn Roast, and supporting residents to become community connectors in multi-unit housing.

The Capital Regional District Newsletter

Early last year, the Rethink Waste Community Grant program was launched in response to the Capital Regional District Solid Waste Management Plan. The Plan aims to reduce how much material is sent to Hartland Landfill and guide how the region's solid waste is managed in a safe, secure and sustainable way. The community grant offers funding for the creation and implementation of community-based projects that align with the SR pollution prevention hierarchy of moving waste materials out of landfills to their highest and best next use.

Close to 40 projects have been funded since the program started, bringing changes to the region, and encouraging members in the community to make a difference by thinking outside the box to reduce waste. The best part of the program is that every year there is \$50,000 worth of grant funding and anyone can participate. Applicants can be individuals, community groups, non-profit organizations, K-12 schools, post-secondary clubs, parent councils and anyone else that wants to make a difference.

Need some ideas for your project? How about creating a pop-up free store like a clothing swap every couple of months? This will help reduce the amount of textile that might end up in the landfill and the number of new items people may purchase otherwise. The idea is that all projects foster long term behavioural changes, increase awareness about reusing and recycling, and educate on the importance of materials' life cycle in a circular economy.

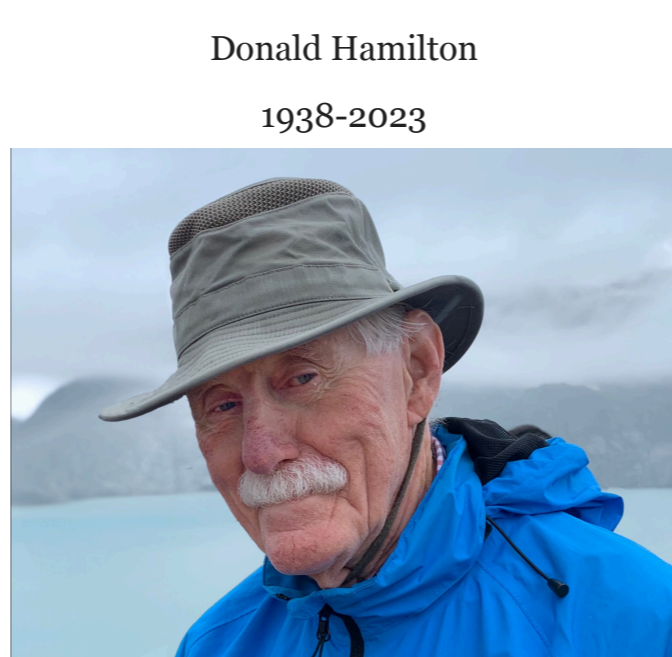
To inspire you, we want to share a couple examples of successful applicants:
ReWood: They collaborated with Central Saanich Community Garden Society (CSCGS) to transform public land into a 3200 square foot community garden. ReWood identified reusable lumber sources and built 21 garden beds and three compost containers, saving the CSCGS an estimated cost of \$15,000 on lumber.

Pender Island Recycling Depot: They created the Dish Loan Program. The neighbourhood and local non-profits on Pender Island often don't own or have access to sufficient dishware to host events. By accessing the dish loan items, they can avoid the need to buy disposable cups, plates, cutlery, and napkins. The depot's dinnerware has been used at weddings, potlucks, charity events, and even the Fall Fair where as many as 300 guests were served dinner without a single disposable dinnerware item being needed.

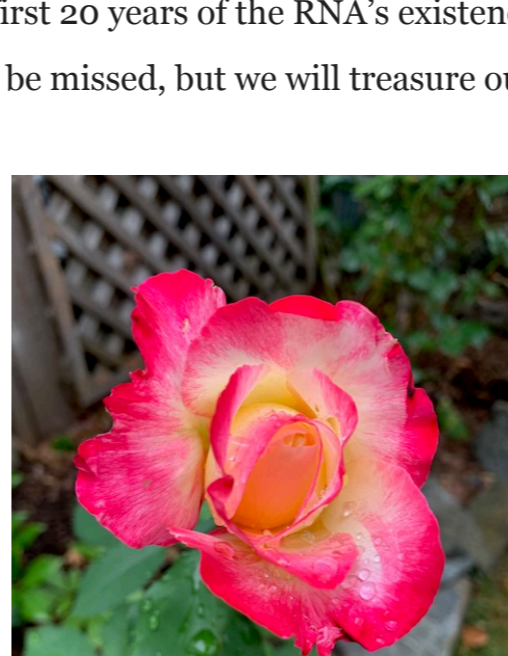
We encourage you to Rethink Waste in your community. By creating a project you're not only advocating for change, but you're actively crafting a greener and more resilient future. To learn more about the Rethink Waste Community Grant program, visit <https://www.crd.bc.ca/rethinkwaste>

And finally.....

In Memoriam
Donald Hamilton
1938-2023



We join with Sally and her family in mourning Donald's passing on August 19th. Sally and Don joined the RNA in 1991, and Don assumed the first of many roles, this one as secretary. He was one of five signatories when the association was incorporated under the Society's Act in 1995. Later that year, he became president of the association. In 1997, he spearheaded the rehabilitation of the vacant lot which is now the Rockland Woodland Garden. He oversaw the elections at the AGM for many years. Don retired from the board in 2000, but continued in his role as master of communications, pioneering electronic communications, the neighbours listserv, and our first web pages. As has been observed by long-serving members of the board: he was the go-to person for the first 20 years of the RNA's existence. His dry wit and ready smile, his gentleness and kindness will be missed, but we will treasure our memories.



Until next time: stay safe, practice patience, and maybe dig out that box of N95 masks you'd hoped never to have to use again.....

Patricia

