

BLINKINSOP VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 9, 2007

The meeting took place at Cordova Bay Elementary School at 7:30 p.m.

Residents of the community were encouraged to sign in as they arrived and membership in the BVCA was offered.

Barry Loucks chaired the meeting and gave introductory remarks.

1. The Executive and Directors were introduced. Barry thanked Seven Oaks for their interest and their willingness to provide a room for the Directors' meetings.

2. Seven Oaks

- Cheryl Moir thanked the BVCA for the opportunity to speak. She mentioned that Seven Oaks wants to be part of the community and wishes to have open communication. Neighbours were encouraged to phone if they have any concerns. She explained that the residents at Seven Oaks are not violent but tend not to have the best manners.

3. Directors Report

- Darlene McCue reported that the boundaries used are part of the original Blenkinsop Valley Area Plan (The Corporation of the District of Saanich) and then read the vision statement for the Plan:

"A Rural Space in an Urban Place"

"The Blenkinsop Valley is a cherished rural and natural community in the Municipality of Saanich.

The residents' commitment to the Valley is evident in their continued use of the land for farming and for other rural activities, and in their desire to preserve the remaining natural environment.

The Municipality of Saanich actively supports the rural nature of the Valley. Saanich works in partnership with other jurisdictions and authorities to ensure that residents of Greater Victoria and visitors to the Region enjoy the benefits of a rural space in an urban place.

Visitors, and those who pass through, understand the unique character of the Valley. They accept their responsibility to behave in a manner that shows respect for farm activities, livestock, and the wild plants and animals that share the Valley's fields, trails, and roadways."

- Darlene reviewed the process toward incorporating the BVCA and read the purpose statement for the Blenkinsop Valley Community Association:

"The purpose of the Association is to provide input on all community matters in the Blenkinsop Valley including but not limited to agriculture, other land uses, transportation, environmental issues, safety, heritage and culture."

- Darlene referred to the BVCA's definition of membership:

"All members must reside or own property within the Blenkinsop Valley or within 500 meters of its border as defined by the Blenkinsop Valley Local Area Plan. Others may become members but without voting privileges".

Darlene also reported on the association's "immediate actions":

- At the first, informal meeting in November, the development proposal for 4560 Lochside was mentioned; by the time the directors met again in January to plan for the AGM, the proposal had advanced and action by the BVCA was considered to be desirable.

- Policy Statements were developed in light of the development proposal:

- The BVCA is strongly supportive of agriculture.

- The BVCA respects the Lochside Trail and will "protect trail values".

In February, a letter was forwarded from the BVCA to Council stating these policies and strongly objecting to the proposal for rezoning/subdivision of 4590 Lochside. Darlene reiterated that the BVCA supports a buffer zone for the valley and protection of agricultural land with the view that there will be

increased demand to produce food locally. The association values the Lochside trail and wishes to encourage its protection.

There was one question regarding the Directors report, about membership. In response, Darlene explained that "neighbours" of the valley are regarded as important allies and therefore are included as members of the Association.

4. Treasurers Report

- Roy Bennett read the report:

Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2007:

Assets: No assets.

Liability: Accounts payable: \$397.60.

5. Budget for 2007

- Roy Bennett read the proposed Budget. Darlene McCue made a motion to accept the budget as read. Members voted in favour. Passed.

6. Election of Officers

- Barry Loucks chaired the election. Positions filled by acclamation:

Nathalie Chambers - vice-president, Ken Babcock - secretary, Dawn Loucks - treasurer.

- Nathalie Chambers chaired the election of: Barry Loucks - president, by acclamation.

7. Election of Directors

- Barry Loucks reported that Darlene McCue, Ed and Suzie Polinsky have agreed to continue as Directors.

Nominated were: Mark Eraut, David Charlebois, Dale Leeuw, Annette Barclay, and Linda Cirella.

All of those nominated were elected by acclamation.

8. Nathalie Chambers - "The History of the Blenkinsop Valley - Part 1"

- Nathalie had a display board with many pictures of early days in the Blenkinsop Valley.

- Nathalie reported that life in the Blenkinsop Valley in the 1890's was idyllic. The area was formerly known as "Lost Lake". Nathalie gave a geographic history of Mount Douglas and the area and spoke of the activities of the First Nations people in early times and during the European settlement of Vancouver Island. Sir James Douglas and the Hudson's Bay Company had a significant part in the settlement of the area by middle-class land owners. Many names of early settlers were mentioned including James Todd (son of John), George Blenkinsop, Adam Glendenning, Borden, Simmons, Magee, Mercer (granddaughter, Phyllis, still lives in the valley), and Lawrence Chambers.

9. Other Business

- Barry Loucks opened the meeting to comments from the floor.

- Mr. Jadresko spoke of his concerns regarding land values and taxation on ARL properties compared to Gordon Head and Broadmead. He reported that he had had no notification of this meeting. Roy Bennett reported that he had delivered a notice to Mr. Jadresko's mailbox.

- Several comments of support and encouragement were heard.

- Clarification of membership area was made.

- Questions were asked regarding future communications. A website and a BVCA Email address were discussed.

- Issues of concern for residents were raised including traffic, land use and deer. A stronger police presence was encouraged to deal with excessive speed and careless driving on Blenkinsop Road.

- Ray Galey spoke of his concerns as a farmer in the Valley. He felt efforts needed to be made to help farmers survive. Vancouver Island currently produces only about 10% of its own food supply. Protection of the ARL and land banking will help to save land for farming. Support from the municipal level in the form of free water for agricultural use would help greatly. Geese are a major problem on farm fields.

- The 67 acre tree farm has new owners. Homes nearby have concerns.

- David Chambers, of Madrona Farm, reported that he is working with students from the UVic Sustainable Farming Department. He and Nathalie have appreciated the support from the community. They are working on a deal with the Land Conservancy to buy the farm to protect the farm long-term. The organic produce sold at the road stand is working well, better than supplying the wholesale market.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Home

BLENKINSOP VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

April 4, 2008

The meeting took place at Cordova Bay Elementary School and commenced at 7:30 PM

1. Frank MacDonald of the Saanich Emergency Preparedness Program gave a talk on Emergency Preparedness. He mentioned that over 50 potential types of events have been identified in BC which could require that individuals be able to fend for themselves for up to 7 days before outside help is available. He encouraged individual and family preparation and neighbourhood group preparation ideally consisting of approximately 25 homes. The Emergency Preparedness Program provides instruction for individuals, families and neighbourhood groups who are wanting to make preparations for such events.

2. Saanich Councillor Vic Derman spoke on "The Role of Community Associations in Saanich". He feels that areas with Community Associations are better served than those areas without. Saanich Council listens to the views of the community associations and appreciates their input. Community associations better reflect the views of area residents than Councillors can do if they don't live in that area. He pointed out that community associations can expect to deal with controversial issues at times and may not have the agreement of some residents. He described some of his experiences as a director of the North Quadra association and mentioned the success they have had with the Block Watch program which was promoted by the North Quadra association. He encouraged people to participate in community associations for the benefit of the community.

3. There was a motion passed to accept, as circulated, the minutes of the March 9, 2007 AGM.

Directors' report

4. Dave Charlebois gave a directors' report summarizing the issues addressed by the directors over this past year. This included two development proposals, meetings with municipal representatives, collaboration with other associations about a mutual concern regarding the Beckwith U-Farm proposal, traffic planning and safety, the fill deposit by-law, Outerbridge Park, a proposal to alter the Highlands Urban Containment Boundary, the Saanich Official Community Plan, meetings with neighbourhood groups, and information distribution about the American Bull Frog.

Treasurer's report

5. The treasurer's report was circulated and included a financial statement for 2007, a balance sheet for Dec. 31, 2007 and a budget for 2008. It was indicated that the postal box rental for \$127 was inadvertently missed from the budget and should be added.

6. There was a motion passed to accept the 2008 budget as presented.

Elections:

7. An election for association officers was held and the following officers were elected by acclamation: Dawn Loucks as Secretary-Treasurer, Nathalie Chambers as Vice President and Barry Loucks as President.

8. Information was provided that the present directors recommended that the number of directors not exceed 12 (including the officers). Nominations for directors were then accepted and included the following: Annette Barclay, Dave Charlebois, Gorde Galey, Valerie Galey, Charlotte Koettl, Ernie Koettl, John Lawler, Dale Leeuw, Anita Mayr, Ed Polinsky, Dean Purych, Rhys Smallwood, Shirley Smith, Dan Stewart, and Sharon Stewart.

A motion was made to limit the number of directors to 12. The count for the vote on this motion was close which prompted a recount of hands. The recount was a tie which prompted the chairman to exercise his vote. This resulted in the motion passing 13 in favour and 12 against.

Each candidate who was present said a few words to the meeting. A vote by ballot was then held. The following people were elected as directors: Annette Barclay, Dave Charlebois, Charlotte Koettl, John Lawler, Dale Leeuw, Anita Mayr, Dean Purych, Rhys Smallwood, and Sharon Stewart.

9. A motion to destroy the ballots was passed.

Other Business

10. Doug Mann provided comments about the proposed development for 4590 Lochside drive. The proposed changes to the road and installation of a sidewalk were described. Those present were encouraged to attend the Council meeting on April 8 when this issue will be reviewed.

11. Comments were made about a new fee being levied on properties which have septic fields. An inspection process and mandatory pumping of septic tanks is being planned.

12. Comments were made about a development proposal for Holland Ave where there is an application to rezone A-1 land to residential. It was pointed out that this proposed zoning change is similar to the zoning change being requested for 4590 Lochside.

13. In response to a question about installing a crosswalk at Pearce Crescent, Dave Charlebois outlined the municipalities' reasons for not wanting this to occur. The BVCA had written a letter to the municipality requesting that such a crosswalk installation be considered.

14. In response to a request, Rhys Smallwood commented on the Beckwith U-Farm proposal. It is now expected that this farm will become a blueberry farm. Concern was expressed that they may use noise producing cannons as a form of bird control.

15. There was a motion was passed to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

[Home](#)

BLINKINSOP VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 31, 2009

The meeting took place at Cordova Bay Elementary School and commenced at 7:00 PM

1. Stacie Loutitt gave a talk about the 2008 Beijing Paralympics and the training involved to prepare for the games. She also provided glimpses into Chinese culture. The boat she and her skipper used was built in Australia and was shipped to China from Victoria. Each day the boat was launched and later removed from the water. Stacie was responsible for rigging the boat each day. She and her skipper participated in eleven races and their placing in those races earned them a bronze medal. Stacie also showed pictures of the boats, Chinese cities and spectacular performances by Chinese artists.

Stacie was thanked for her presentation by Charlotte Koettl.

2. There was a motion passed to accept, as circulated, the minutes of the April 4, 2008 AGM.

Directors' report

3. John Lawler provided a report of the various issues which the directors have faced over the last year. Included were the proposed development at 4590 Lochside Dr., a proposal to stop expansion of the sewer enterprise boundary outside of the Urban Containment Boundary, the preservation of the Royal Oak Middle School gymnasium, requests to Saanich for the pruning of roadside vegetation, requests for the meter board to be used on Blenkinsop Rd., the use of night lights, fill deposit, American Bullfrog presence, a proposal from Glendale Gardens to maintain Outerbridge Park, presentations from Steve Mann and Ray Galey, co-hosting of an all-candidates meeting, heritage road status for Blenkinsop Rd., safety concerns where the Centennial Trail crosses Blenkinsop Rd at Mt. Doug X Rd., the closing of Churchil Dr until noon each day, the donation of exercise equipment to Seven Oaks and a proposal to assist Seven Oaks to create a therapeutic vegetable garden for its residents.

Treasurer's report

4. Dawn Loucks gave the treasurer's report. At the end of December 2008 the BVCA had \$1911.43 in a savings account, accounts receivable of \$500.00 for part of a grant and no liabilities.

The proposed budget for 2009 was reviewed with 3 changes made from the circulated copy. The changes include the additional expenses of \$131.25 for a postal box and \$25.00 to register the annual report. The cost for the website was reduced to \$497.70 which covers the costs for a total of 5 years. With the changes, the anticipated income is \$2300.00 and the anticipated expenses are \$2158.95 resulting in an operating surplus of \$141.05.

It was mentioned that the \$300.00 donation to Seven Oaks was intended to be taken from the 2008 budget but the cheque was written in 2009 so it will appear in this year's accounting.

A motion was passed to accept the budget as modified.

Correspondence

Annette Barclay read a letter which the BVCA received from Seven Oaks expressing gratitude for the donation of exercise equipment and also for providing the residents a sense of acceptance by the community.

Open Floor/questions:

Questions and comments were raised about the need for pruning of vegetation alongside Blenkinsop Rd, debris which needs cleared from the bicycle path and pedestrian safety on the Lochside trail.

Elections:

Dawn Loucks was elected by acclamation for the position of treasurer.

John Lawler was elected by acclamation for the position of vice president.

Barry Loucks was elected by acclamation for the position of president.

Margaret Marriott was elected by acclamation for the position of secretary.

The following people were nominated for the position of director: Annette Barclay, Nathalie Chambers, Charlotte Koettl, Dale Leeuw, Anita Mayr, Rhys Smallwood, Sharon Stewart, Dean Purych, Earl Hannan, Coyne McGhee, and Ray Harwood.

The election was held by ballot and the following people were elected as directors: Nathalie Chambers, Charlotte Koettl, Dale Leeuw, Rhys Smallwood, Sharon Stewart, Dean Purych, Earl Hannan and Ray Harwood.

Other Business

The problems resulting from geese on farmland was discussed and members who are concerned were encouraged to attend the Peninsula Agriculture Committee meeting on April 9.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Home

BLINKINSOP VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

info@bvcanews.com PO Box 30063, 3989 Quadra St., Victoria BC, V8X 5E1 www.bvcanews.com

250-477-8539

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 30, 2010

The meeting took place at Cordova Bay Elementary School and commenced at 7:10 PM.

1. Nathalie Chambers introduced a documentary video which she has prepared in which she interviews several long-time Blenkinsop Valley residents. Many memories of past years and neighbours were told. Some of those interviewed included Phyllis Roberts, John Lawler, Steve Mann, Annette Barclay, Ray Harwood, Thelma Simmonds, Doris Simmonds, Coyne McGhee and Phyllis Roberts. After the video, more stories and memories were related by those present.

2. Bill Turner who is the Executive Director of The Land Conservancy gave a presentation about heritage properties and the rewards that one can obtain by looking into the history of properties and the people who have lived on them. He showed examples of properties in the interior of BC as well as several on the Saanich Peninsula. He provided some interesting insights into the history of Elk and Beaver lakes and what is now public property adjoining the lakes. He also showed how some of the old railroad beds can still be identified on the peninsula and how development in the wrong places can interrupt potential public trail systems.

3. Three representatives from Saanich (Colin Doyle from the engineering department, Councilor Dean Murdock and Jane Evans from the planning department) were present to provide comments and field questions about the suggestion to designate Blenkinsop Road as a heritage road. A summary of the proposal was given which indicated that it has two main elements. One element is to promote the heritage of the Blenkinsop Valley and the other element is to develop guidelines to which the municipality can refer when alterations are being considered to the road. It was pointed out that the designation would not result in restrictions for private properties.

Several questions and comments came from the floor. Some expressed a concern that heritage designation could lead to unwanted restrictions in the future. Some people would like Blenkinsop Road to be developed similarly to Royal Oak Drive with street lights, medians and sidewalks. It was mentioned that open ditches can be a hazard to motorists

Others expressed a desire to retain the road as it is now and to avoid the more urban appearance which medians and sidewalks would bring. There was a suggestion to add a limitation on street lights to the suggested guidelines and there was support voiced for the development of paths which are separated from the road.

By a showing of hands, the opinions of those present were sought on some of the questions which are in the questionnaire which was sent out by newsletter. The majority did not feel that Blenkinsop Road should receive heritage designation; that pedestrian safety should be improved; that traffic calming ideas should be evaluated and that historical information should be promoted. The majority is not content with Blenkinsop Road as it is today.

There was a suggestion made to apply for transit service on Blenkinsop Rd.

4. A directors' report was given. The volunteers who have assisted the BVCA were thanked. These included the directors (Nathalie Chambers, Charlotte Koetl, Sharon Stewart, Dawn Loucks, John Lawler, Dale Leeuw, Ray Harwood, Rhys Smallwood, Dean Purych and Earl Hannan) and general members who provided help (Mark Tymchuk, Margaret Marriott, Suzie Polinski and David Chambers).

The various issues which the directors' have addressed over the last year were summarized.

A comment was made from the floor about the crop destruction which is being caused by geese.

5. A motion was proposed to pass the AGM minutes of March 31, 2009. This motion passed.

6. A treasurer's report was given by Dawn Loucks. The financial statements from 2009 and the proposed budget for 2010 were presented.

A motion was proposed to accept the financial statements of 2009 as circulated. This motion passed.

A motion was proposed to accept the 2010 budget as circulated. This motion passed.

7. An election of the directors was undertaken. All of the following positions were filled by acclamation:

President: Barry Loucks

Vice President: John Lawler

Treasurer: Earl Hannan

Secretary: Dawn Loucks

Members at large: Nathalie Chambers, Dale Leeuw

8. No new business was introduced.

9. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Home

BLINKINSOP VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

info@bvcanews.com PO Box 30063, 3989 Quadra St., Victoria BC, V8X 5E1 www.bvcanews.com

250-477-8539

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 31, 2011

The meeting took place at Cordova Bay Elementary School and commenced at 7:10 PM.

1. Bill Dancer of the Victoria Natural History Society gave a presentation entitled "The Importance of the Blenkinsop Valley to Birds".

The Blenkinsop Valley provides a wide diversity of habitat for birds which Bill described as "great habitat". This includes woodlands, fields, ponds, a lake, swamps, shrubs and barnyards. Over the years 135 species of birds have been identified in the valley.

Bill enthusiastically described some of the birds and their habits which he identified on a recent walk along the Lochside Trail. He described local birds which have plumage similar to tropical species, mating behaviours, nest building and nest protection.

Bill encouraged the preservation of present habitat within the Blenkinsop Valley.

Bill's style of presentation stimulated audience participation throughout his presentation.

2. Nathalie Chambers, who is a BVCA founding member, gave a presentation on pollinators. There has been a 90% loss of honey bee populations on Vancouver Island from Colony Collapse Disorder. Honey bees are an imported species but there are 400 native bee species in BC.

Native bees are as good as honey bees in pollinating but they do not produce honey. They also do not sting.

The role of pesticides in the honey bee decline was discussed. Nathalie mentioned a web site named XERCES which lists organic insecticides which are not lethal to bees.

Methods to help bee populations include setting aside areas for ground nesting, encourage flowering nectar by methods such as planting flowering cover crops and stagger planting.

Nathalie mentioned that 35% of food production and 70% of seed production is dependent upon pollination.

Nathalie's passion for her subject was evident. This helped to bring out several questions from and participation by the audience.

3. A directors' report was given. The BVCA volunteers were thanked. A summary of the various topics covered by the BVCA this past year were presented including meetings with the Saanich Planning department about recognizing the special nature of Blenkinsop Road, meetings with Saanich Police about police services, the fire department about rural wildfires, several groups about predation control and the use of propane cannons, Ed Polinsky about his volunteer work in Africa, and Saanich Parks about their plans for a new park entrance and Mt Doug Park addition just North of Lobrunner Rd.

4. Earl Hannan gave a treasurer's report. A motion was passed to accept the 2010 Financial Statement as circulated. A motion was also passed to accept the proposed 2011 budget as circulated.

5. An election of the directors was undertaken. Thanks was extended to Nathalie Chambers and Annette Barclay for the service they have provided to the BVCA members over several years. They are not seeking re-election this year.

All of the following positions were filled by acclamation:

President: Barry Loucks

Vice President: John Lawler

Treasurer: Earl Hannan

Secretary: Dawn Loucks

Members at large: David Chambers, Duncan Chiu, John Emes, Alex Hoole, and Dale Leeuw

New Business

6. Ray Galey outlined the need for on-farm accommodation for workers. He is proposing an on-site attractive single bungalow which would be on skids and considered temporary in order to house up to 6 workers. Waste water would be stored and removed by truck. The bungalow would not be visible from the road. He has spoken with neighbours who do not object. Permission from Saanich would be required. By comments and by a show of hands, there was general support for this proposal. This will be taken to the next directors' meeting.

7. Nabhraj Spogliarich spoke about his concern over the proposed installation of "smart meters" by BC Hydro. These are wireless devices which communicate with a central neighbourhood transmitter and in-house appliances by using microwave energy. These are to be installed on all homes without the need for homeowner permission at a cost of one billion dollars. Nabhraj is concerned about the potential for health risks to people (particularly children) and animals. He provided a handout so people could obtain more information.

The meeting adjourned at 9PM.

Home

BLENKINSOP VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

info@bvcanews.com PO Box 30063, 3989 Quadra St., Victoria BC, V8X 5E1 www.bvcanews.com

250-477-8539

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 29, 2012

The meeting took place at Lochside School and commenced at 7:05 PM.

1. A talk entitled "Understanding the ALR Regulations and The Right to Farm legislation" was presented by Jennifer Dyson and Roger Cheetham of the Agriculture Land Commission, MLA Lana Popham and Saanich Councilor Dean Murdock.

Jennifer provided introductory comments and Roger gave a power point presentation. The purpose of the ALC is to preserve agricultural land and to promote farming. Eighty percent of the ALC time is spent dealing with subdivision requests for non-farm land use. He outlined permitted uses of farm land and also outlined farm uses which municipal governments may prohibit (e.g. temporary sawmill, pet kennels etc.)

The purpose of the Farm Practices Protection Act (Right to Farm) is to protect farmers, provide an alternative dispute resolution process through the BC Farm Industry Review Board, to find a balance between the needs of farmers and neighbours and empowers the FIRB to study, report on and make recommendations (e.g. propane cannons). Normal farm practices conducted as part of a farm business are protected against nuisance actions (odours, noise, dust and other disturbances). A summary of the complaint process through the FIRB was outlined.

Fill or deposit is permitted in the ALR if it is related to construction, maintenance & operation of farm buildings provided it does not cause danger on or to adjacent land, structures or rights of way, or foul, obstruct or impede the flow of any waterway. If fill is to be applied to more than 2% of the farm area then permission is required. Permission is generally given for certain operations such as greenhouses, composting, etc.

Agritourism is permitted when land is classified as farm under the Assessment Act, use is temporary and seasonal, and the agritourism promotes or markets products grown, raised or processed on the farm. Agritourism guidelines are being developed.

A Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment has provided a guide for building setbacks from riparian areas on agricultural land. It suggests a range of setbacks generally between 15-30 meters depending upon the type of agricultural activity. For some agricultural activities it can come down to 5 metres for constructed channels and ditches.

Lana Popham spoke next. She has encouraged more funding for the ALC so that the ALC can fulfill its mandate to promote farming. Because of insufficient funding this ALC purpose has not received proper attention.

Lana feels farming support is strong amongst our population. Local food production is supported as well. She lamented some of the fill deposit which has taken place in our region.

The issue with propane cannons in the Blenkinsop Valley is an interface problem. She recommends early dialogue when a problem is arising in an attempt to find common ground. She cited interface problems in other regions such as Langley.

Dean Murdock spoke next. He pointed out that Saanich has protected farm land by strictly adhering to the Urban Containment Boundary. Saanich provides water to farms at its cost to Saanich. Saanich has one of the lowest farm tax rates in the province. Saanich has a buy local policy at its facilities. Saanich has also approved the possession of hens on residential properties.

Dean supports the development of back yard gardens and community allotment gardens. He also supports the development of green roofs.

Dean feels that Saanich is probably unable to regulate the dumping of fill on ALR land. Contractors and their employees are subject to Saanich bylaws (e.g. tree removal, dumping).

The four speakers then gathered at the front and many questions were forthcoming from the floor. Some of the issues included:

Q: Smaller farms, on average, are more productive than larger farms, so why not allow very large farm land to be sectioned off into smaller farms?

Panel Response: Roger Cheetham and Jennifer Dyson disagreed with the statement and indicated that smaller farms, on average, are less productive than larger farms. One reason they cited for this is that historically owners of small farmland parcels tend not to farm it.

Q. There were several questions about the use of propane cannons for farm bird control.

Panel Responses:

- o Mayor Leonard has recently written a letter to the Minister of Agriculture regarding the use of propane cannons
- o A municipal Farm Bylaw likely would not provide neighbours with relief from propane cannons.

Audience Input:

- o Beckwith Farm representative: Beckwith Farm plans to use propane cannons only as a last resort. Several other predation control measures were outlined. The use of dogs has been very successful to control the geese. Saanich Police did not permit the use of firearms for predation control.
- o Audience member observation: A conflict between farmers and bird habitat protection in Nebraska was described where dialogue led to resolution of the conflict. Encouragement was given for a similar process to take place in the Blenkinsop Valley.

Q. When does Saanich intend to start realizing production from the acquired Panama Flats land?

Panel Response: Saanich does intend to put Panama Flats back into production, but not before public input.

Q. What does Saanich intend to do about the large deer population?

Panel Responses:

- o The CRD is in the process of putting together of Citizens Advisory Group to develop a Deer Management Plan.
- o A deer cull in another municipality was not very successful.

Audience Input:

- o Ray Galey, Farmer: As Vancouver Island now produces just 4% of its food; support for Island Farmers is sorely needed. Deer and geese prevention measures and crop damages costs his farm \$50,000 in one year, and he doesn't know how he can continue.

The speakers were thanked and the guests departed at about 9:00 PM.

The minutes of the March 29, 2011 AGM were approved as circulated.

Directors' Report

The BVCA volunteers and directors were thanked. Thanks was given to Dale Leeuw and Alex Hoole who both served as directors this past year but will not be living in this area this coming year. Sharon Stewart was thanked for her help with the all-candidates meeting.

Some of the topics which the directors have dealt with during the past year were outlined. These included the Pearce Crescent Playarea, garden expansion at Seven Oaks, proposed business alterations, BVCA policy re farm practices including propane cannons, the all-candidates meeting, an application to remove property from the ALR for a residential subdivision and a new entrance to Mt Doug Park trails off Blenkinsop.

Treasurer's Report

Earl Hannan reviewed the 2011 Financial Statement, the Dec. 31, 2011 Balance Sheet and the 2012 Budget.

A resolution to approve the 2011 financial statements was proposed and passed.

A resolution to accept the 2012 Budget was proposed and passed.

The Officers and directors of the BVCA were elected by acclamation as follows:

President – Barry Loucks

Vice President – John Emes

Treasurer – Earl Hannan

Secretary – Dawn Loucks

Director – Matt Belanger

Director – Duncan Chiu

Director - Devon Girard

Director – Charlotte Koettl

Director – John Lawler

Director – Sharon Stewart

New Business

There was a question about having two residences on a single property.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

BLINKINSOP VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

info@bvcanews.com PO Box 30063, 3989 Quadra St., Victoria BC, V8X 5E1 www.bvcanews.com

250-477-8539

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 26, 2013

The meeting took place at Cordova Bay Elementary School and commenced at 7:10 PM.

1. Introductory comments were made to welcome people and to outline the agenda. Our speakers have been asked to provide their vision on "The Future of the Blenkinsop Valley". It was noted that questions will follow and then a business meeting.

2. Matt Balanger introduced our first speaker, Illarion Gallant.

Illarion began his talk by speaking and showing pictures of pieces of Public Art which he has created. These included the "Bouquet of Memories" at the Victoria international airport, the canoe at Bastion Square and "Rye Humour" in Calgary. He also works on garden landscapes across Canada.

Illarion described an art center at Emma Lake in Saskatchewan. Artists from around the world come to this location for companionship, painting and learning. Illarion feels that something similar could be created in the Blenkinsop Valley. He feels there are several picturesque areas in the valley which would be of interest to artists and there are also suitable sites for artists to view these vistas. He showed examples of some picturesque views in the valley. Illarion feels that his definition of art is broad and includes other trades people such as chefs, another form of art which could be encouraged in the Blenkinsop Valley.

Illarion feels local and outside artists could be invited to work in the area for a two week interval. He suggested an art show could be held in the fall. Illarion feels there is a natural connection between art and agriculture. One idea would be the temporary installation of art pieces which could be seen as the public travelled through the valley.

Illarion was thanked for his talk. He then responded to several questions from the audience.

2. Members of other community associations and groups were introduced to the meeting.
3. Coyne McGhee was given recognition for being a 5th generation Blenkinsop Valley resident.
4. Earl Hannan introduced our second speaker, Mayor Frank Leonard.

Mayor Leonard described how important the Urban Containment Boundary is to planning in Saanich and feels this will prevent large changes in the Blenkinsop Valley. He pointed out that land use is a major responsibility for the municipality and he feels it would be more difficult to manage land use if there was amalgamation of several municipalities into one large regional municipality. He feels that the municipality is unlikely to alter the Urban Containment Boundary in the foreseeable future. He feels there may be some growth within the valley because there are vacant lots available. He felt there might be some pressure to expand the sewer enterprise boundary to accommodate expansion of a public facility. In general, Mayor Leonard sees only minor growth on existing available lots and does not expect major changes in the future for the Blenkinsop Valley.

Mayor Leonard then answered several questions from the audience including topics on prolonged blasting, wildlife control, regional waste water management, and the ability of the municipality to change covenants which it holds on properties.

- He indicated that under provincial legislation, farmers have the right to protect their crops from predation.
- the owner of the development involved in prolonged blasting is not doing anything illegal.
- There is no way to limit the duration of construction on a house.
- He does not know what the municipality will do to control the deer population
- He feels that politicians should have an open mind regarding the recent regional purchase of land for sludge treatment.
- A referendum is required before the Urban Containment Boundary can be changed.

Mayor Leonard was thanked by John Lawler and at this point several guests left the meeting.

4. A directors' report was given which summarized the activities of the association over the past year. The topics included guest speakers attending the directors' meetings, fill bylaw interim changes, Pearce Crescent play area, propane cannons, prolonged blasting, Stacy Louttit's participation in the Paralympics, the seven Oaks therapeutic garden, a new Mt. Douglas Park access, reports from the Saanich Community Association Network, and an announcement about a pending all candidates meeting on April 29.

The 2012 directors were thanked for their work on the board. Volunteers Suzie Polinsky and Mary Bennett were thanked for their help.

5. Earl Hannan gave a treasurer's report outlining the BVCA Financial Statement for 2012. The motion was passed to accept this financial statement. Earl also outlined the Financial Balance as of December 31, 2012 and then reviewed the proposed budget for 2013. There was a motion to accept the budget as proposed and this motion passed.

6. An election for the board membership was undertaken. All nominated candidates were elected by acclamation and this included: President, Barry Loucks, Vice President, Matt Belanger, Treasurer Earl Hannan, Secretary, Dawn Loucks, and the directors at large are: Alex Ball, Duncan Chiu, John Lawler, Joanna Linger, Phil Mesner, Illarion Gallant, and Adam Orser.

7. No new business was introduced.

8. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

BLINKINSOP VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

info@bvcanews.com PO Box 30063, 3989 Quadra St., Victoria BC, V8X
5E1 www.bvcanews.com
250-477-8539

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

February 19, 2014

The meeting took place at Cordova Bay Elementary School and commenced at 7:10 PM.

1. Illarion Gallant introduced our guest speaker, Elizabeth May.
2. Elizabeth outlined the importance of local food production. She indicated its benefits to fight global warming and to provide food security. She commented on how Vancouver Island has only a few days of food on hand. She gave an example where grain for Vancouver Island cattle was recently down to three days supply because trains were occupied carrying bitumen instead of prairie grain. She pointed out that our area has a long growing season and we should be able to produce more of our own food. She reviewed some high-intensity growing procedures and gave the example of Cuba which suddenly had to produce 90% of its food because of embargoes and the collapse of the Soviet Union. She also mentioned the World War II "Victory Gardens" and the wartime use of London's Hyde Park for food production.

Elizabeth mentioned that a community garden contributes to a healthy community. Healthy communities have social cohesion and show resilience in times of crisis. For example, residents of an older neighbourhood did better than those in a newer neighbourhood during a prolonged heat wave because the residents in the older neighbourhood knew each other better and looked out for one another.

She spoke in support of a recent proposal by Dean Murdock to create a farmland trust. She saw this as an opportunity for young farmers to access farmland. She made reference to the recent possible threats to the Agricultural Land Reserve and she pointed out that nowhere else in Canada is there such a land reserve as we have in BC.

After her talk Elizabeth answered several questions on a variety of topics. Someone pointed out that in some communities there are covenants on the property which prevent people from creating vegetable gardens and from having outdoor clotheslines.

She commented on the concerns of some farmers of being prevented from saving their own seed because of patents on genetically modified seeds. She also referred to the loss of diversity in various farm animal breeds. She felt that the organic food label provided consumers with the only certainty that the food they were purchasing was free of additives or genetic modification.

Ray Galey pointed out that there are no genetically modified potatoes grown in British Columbia.

Elizabeth pointed out that there are no added hormones administered to Canadian milk cows, however, if trade regulations are altered the dairy farmers will likely feel a need to add hormones in order to remain competitive.

She discussed hazardous train cargoes and expressed an opinion that train tracks should be owned by Canada. Canadian ownership has been lost from some tracks.

In Saanich and the Gulf Islands there was a 75% voter turnout in the last federal election.

Ray Galey outlined some of the challenges which farmers are facing including the difficulty to earn a profit because of trade regulations which let foreign food products into our country which out compete local growers.

Elizabeth also outlined some of the current issues in Parliament. She had comments about the recent budget and provided some insight into the lack of numbers presented in the budget which makes it difficult to understand the financial implications. She pointed out that corporations are holding \$600 billion in investment accounts. She feels that this money is not contributing to the Canadian economy.

Elizabeth is introducing a private members bill proposing the development of a national Lyme disease policy.

Matt Belanger thanked Elizabeth for her presentation.

Elizabeth and other members of the audience who are not BVCA members departed at about 8:30 PM.

The business part of the AGM commenced about 8:35.

3. It was reported that Mrs. Joan Outerbridge passed away on February 2. She developed the property which is now called Outerbridge Park.

4. The minutes of the March 26, 2013 AGM were approved as circulated.

5. Joanna Linger provided a Directors' Report which outlined the activities in which the directors had participated over the last year.

She outlined the role played by the BVCA in the development of the Pearce Crescent Rotary Play Area and the BVCA's involvement in the Valley Painters project. The directors wrote a letter to Premier Clark in support of the Agricultural Land Reserve and the Agricultural Land Commission in view of media reports suggesting there are plans to make significant changes to both. The BVCA participated with the Broadmead Area Residents' Association to host an all candidates meeting prior to the last provincial election. The BVCA unanimously supported the proposed amendment to the farm market by law which would permit markets to sell red meat. Representatives of the BVCA met with Saanich councilor Vic Derman to discuss pedestrian and cyclist safety on Blenkinsop Road.

At directors' meetings we had presentations from Max Gallant regarding his sailing program and from Ed Polinsky regarding the rebuilding of a school in Nicaragua.

Treasurer's Report

6. Earl Hannan gave the treasurer's report. He indicated that the bank balance as of December 31, 2013 is \$5292.84. Our liabilities are \$1335.20 representing money we are holding in trust for the Pearce Crescent Rotary Play Area. Our 2013 financial statement was presented as was the 2014 budget.

There was a motion to accept the 2013 financial statements as presented which was passed with no opposing votes.

There was a motion to accept the 2014 budget as presented and this was passed with no opposing votes.

7. Cyclist safety on Blenkinsop Road was reviewed. Three directors met with councilor Vic Derman and the comments from that meeting were presented. Concerns expressed by the Saanich engineering department were also presented. The three proposals presented by the board were reviewed and

included the installation of Sharrows (a painted outline of a bicycle with two arrows) , "Share the Road" signs, and bicycle pullouts. The pullouts were described as a long-term goal. The board was wanting to assess the degree of support within the membership for the Sharrows and the signs.

Several comments came from the membership regarding road safety issues. Concern was expressed about a curve near Miramar and Blenkinsop Road which is felt to be dangerous when a bicycle and two cars are passing on the curve. Concern was expressed about pedestrians no longer walking on the left side of the road facing traffic. There was also a recommendation for further education of cyclists and motorists.

By show of hands there was support and no opposition for the Board to proceed to approach Saanich about the installation of Sharrow's and signs.

8. Elections were held for the Board of Directors' positions. All were elected by acclamation as follows:

Members at large: Alex Ball, Duncan Chiu, Mark Collins, Illarion Gallant, John Lawler, and Joanna Linger

Secretary: Dawn Loucks

Treasurer: Earl Hannan

Vice President: Matt Belanger

President: Barry Loucks

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.