

AGENDA
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
Thursday, January 25, 2018, from 7:00PM

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** (attachment)
 - November 30, 2017
2. **CHAIR'S REMARKS**
3. **INFORMATION ITEM: ROYAL OAK GOLF CLUB** (attachment)
 - Staff memo
4. **SCHEDULE OF REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS** (attachment)
 - Discussion as per Section 85(a) of Council Procedure Bylaw 2015, No. 9321
5. **PETITION TO RENAME GORDON HEAD EAST PARK** (attachment)
 - Presentation from community
 - Staff Report – Gordon Head East Park Renaming
6. **2017 COUNCIL RELATED ACTIVITIES IN REVIEW**
 - Presentation from staff
7. **CAPITAL PROJECTS REVIEW**
 - Presentation from staff
8. **DIVISION UPDATE, RECREATION** (attachment)
 - Presentation from Senior Manager of Recreation
9. **DIVISION UPDATE, PARKS** (attachment)
 - Presentation from Senior Manager of Parks
10. **ITEM**
 - Discussion

*** Adjournment ***

Next Meeting: TBD

**In order to ensure a quorum, please call Jeff Keays at 475-5494 ext. 3430 or
jeff.keays@saanich.ca if you are unable to attend.**

Go Green!

Members are encouraged to bring their own mug to the meeting.

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Cedar Hill Recreation Centre
November 30, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Chair: Dean Murdock

Members: Pamela Carroll; Chris Spicer, Stefanie Yao, Dex Owen (Student Liaison), Dave Marecek, Tom Hatcher, Daryl Dagneault

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Eva Riccius, Manager Parks; Julie Lommerse, Park Planner Designer; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Anne Whiteaker, SD 61 Trustee

MINUTES

MOVED by D. Dagneault and Seconded by D. Marecek "That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting October 26, 2017 be adopted."

CARRIED

FEES AND CHARGES

The Senior Manager Recreation updated the Committee on Fees and Charges, and the following comments were noted:

- Maintaining affordable fees is a continuing challenge.
- L.I.F.E. Program continues to be very popular.
- Past sales and drop-in revenue relatively static which supports the notion that the pricing is acceptable to the public.
- Cost recovery should be included in future Fees and Charges Reports.
- Saanich is very competitively priced with respect to surrounding municipalities.
- Cedar Hill Golf Course pricing is very reasonable.

MOTION: Moved by T. Hatcher and Seconded by P. Carrol: "That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommend that the proposed 2018-2019 Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges be forwarded to Council for approval as part of the 2018 budget process."

CARRIED

CEDAR HILL PARK PLAN SCOPING

The Park Planner Designer updated the Committee with the scoping work done for Cedar Hill Park Plan. Highlights of the discussion are noted:

- Public participation in the engagement sessions saw over 850 individuals participating to date.
- The stakeholder working group has had four meetings.
- A virtual open house and online survey are available for further public input.
- Several emerging themes:
 - Preserve and restore natural ecosystems/environment and riparian areas.
 - Connectivity and mobility within the park.
 - More amenities for all ages.
 - Park Management-interdepartmental communication and defined roles.
- Golf course operations and the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre are out of the scope of the Park Plan.

RECREATIONAL SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

The Senior Manager Recreation Services updated the Committee on the Recreational System Replacement Project, and the following comments were noted:

- The current recreational system software will no longer be supported.
- New system is ActiveNet.
- ActiveNet features:
 - Improved communication tools and real time updates.
 - Improved privacy and security features
 - Improved customer interface
- ActiveNet will go live in February 2018.

GREATER VICTORIA ACTIVE COMMUNITIES UPDATE

The Senior Manager of Recreation updated the Committee on the Greater Victoria Active Communities Group, and the following comments were noted:

- The Greater Victoria Active Communities Group was originally formed in early 2000 and was tied to the upcoming Olympic Games.
- Primary members are Esquimalt, Oak Bay, Panorama, Saanich, SeaParc, Westshore and Victoria.
- Associate partners are The Y and P.I.S.E.
- The Greater Victoria Active Communities Group works together to provide or enhance regional initiatives.
- Current items being considered include:
 - A Pickle Ball Strategy
 - Finding new partner/sponsor for regional L.I.F.E. free skate and swims
 - Risk management training for facility and programming staff
 - Regional professional development day
- Work Plans and budgets for the Greater Victoria Active Communities Group are approved by the regional directors

DIVISION UPDATE, PARKS

The Senior Manager of Parks, provided a Division update to the Committee.

DIVISION UPDATE, RECREATION

The Senior Manager, Recreation Services, provided the Committee with the Recreation update.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for January, 2018.

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

DRAFT

Memo

To: Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee
From: Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk
Date: January 25, 2018
Subject: Information Item: Royal Oak Golf Club

The Chair has requested that the attached items be circulated for your information.

This item will proceed directly to Council.

Regards,

Jeff Keays
Committee Clerk

Attachment 1: Resident Correspondence
Attachment 2: Resident Correspondence

Dec. 31, 2018

Neil Findlow, MCIP RPP
Senior Planner
Planning Department
District of Saanich
770 Vernon Avenue
Victoria, BC V8X 2W7

Re: Notice of Exclusion Application
Regarding Land in the Agricultural Land Reserve
Lot 5, Section 108, Lake District Plan VIP 53222 (PID: 017-533-481)
540 Marsett Place, Saanich, BC (aka the Royal Oak Golf Club)

Dear Mr. Findlow:

I'm unsure if you have been given a copy of my on-line petition stating my opposition of this application for exclusion from the ALR, I am therefore attaching a copy along with some comments from the petition and my original letter to Saanich Council, Lana Popham and various other community and Provincial organizations. From the on-line petition I have removed any signatures from people out of country, but please do not disregard the ones I have left, from across Canada and a few in the USA. From these, are some names that I recognize as being familiar with residents in the neighbourhood and have been told that many are relatives of said residents that have visited and enjoyed the ambience of the area. Along with these attachments I would like to add my further thoughts.

As Mr. David Suzuki so succulently put it in a documentary, 'This is not a piece of real estate, this is my home'. That is how I perceive the 'view' out my kitchen window, as I'm sure do most residents within the surrounding area of this property. For the past 24 years my family has been blessed with this 'view'. My husband and I have now reached our 'Golden Years' and have been anticipating a quiet and tranquil retirement here in our home, still enjoying the harmonious interaction with our surroundings. We can not begin to emphasize the apprehension and anxiety we are already dealing with, as thoughts of the disruption, noise and chaos of having this land subdivided and built upon swirl through our minds. This complex has always been considered an 'adult orientated' community, meaning, of course, that most of us here are of 'slightly' advanced age. The uncertainty of the outcome of this application, along with the noise and disruption that any amount of building activity will bring to the area, will likely be, and is already, detrimental to the health and well being of ourselves and neighbours, and may well cause an increased amount of stress related illnesses. Please keep this in mind while considering the application to remove this land from its present zoning, because as we know, this is only the first step in the process of developing this land into a large multifaceted housing development.

As a community, most residents here agree that they would like this parcel of land to become a Saanich Park. There have been comments made by individuals that having the Beaver/Elk Lake Park at the doorstep Saanich residents, another park is not needed. Few of these comments take into consideration that the trails surrounding Beaver and Elk Lakes are not 'friendly' to walkers of a certain age, the paths being overgrown, muddy/marshy, congested with tripping hazards from tree roots and (to myself particularly) feel ominous

and intimidating; neither are they handicap friendly. The 'golf course', however, has open fields (reverting back to natural state) where I envision children running with butterfly nets, or as seen this past month, using the small hills for Tobogganing, meandering, fairly level paths conducive to an enjoyable stroll, (especially to a single woman) with a feeling of safety. Yes, there are numerous other small 'parks' located within the Royal Oak area, most of these being structured playground areas, sport fields etc., not having the open, carefree feel of this particular piece of property.

Keep in mind Saanich's own

'Sustainable Saanich Official Community Plan'

Open spaces enhance the community's liveability, health, and environmental sustainability by providing respite in built-up areas, neighbourhood character, landmarks, gathering places, areas of beauty, historic and cultural landscapes, **safe active and passive outdoor recreation**, alternative routes for recreation, transportation, exploration, connection to neighbourhoods, **animal and plant habitat**, biodiversity, and cleaner air and water.

Saanich's more than 150 municipal, community, and neighbourhood parks and kilometres of trails serve current needs well. However, **the need to preserve unique natural areas and enhance environmental sustainability, combined with population and density increase, mean that further acquisitions will be necessary.**

- 4.1.2 Sustainable Ecosystems

Ongoing and effective stewardship of the environment in the future calls for a renewed and enhanced commitment to habitat creation and protection, preservation of biodiversity, water and energy conservation, and measures to improve efficient land use and air quality.

Sustainability practices also need to be entrenched into the management of growth and development, and as part of all corporate and community decision-making.

- 4.2.8 Parks, Trails, Open Spaces & Vistas

Acquire parkland through dedication at the time of rezoning or subdivision where:

land is indicated for park use in a local area plan; or

land is adjacent to an existing park and will improve the configuration or

function of the park; or the Park Priority Study indicates a high priority for acquisition of parkland within the local area.

We also ask you to keep in mind the need for wildlife corridors. Migratory birds were spotted this year feasting on the 'new' wild grasses growing along pathways and within the 'new' fields. Other, more local, birds have been returning to the area in larger numbers, Racoons and their young, the many deer that pass through, along with the Owls and Eagles that live nearby. These very probably will vacate the area if development occurs.

Of added concern is the potential traffic congestion on existing roads, the ingress and egress of this (potential development) land. With the developments already in progress and/or awaiting approval with Saanich, of other high volume projects, plus the surrounding areas, such as Cordova Bay adding up to 500 new households, there are very real concerns over traffic density within the Broadmead, Royal Oak Exchange, Royal Oak Shopping Plaza, and surrounding roads. Traffic has already reached capacity on most minor routes and is fast becoming problematic on major routes, in our opinion. Sewage and power for the property is another area concerning residents surrounding the proposed development area.

If park designation is not viable we would prefer an agricultural alternative to the development of housing and disagree with the applicants statement that this area can no longer sustain agricultural use because of the highly disturbed soils. To the knowledge of many residents, a few

truck loads of soil, not fill, was brought in during the development of the golf course. Within living memory, this area was a dairy farm operated by the Slater family and the land has not been disturbed enough, I would think, to still be viable as agricultural property.

We thank you for taking the time to read and understand our concerns.

Sincerely,

Donna Cino, Thomas Cino, Justin Cino, Angela Barkanyi

████████████████████
Victoria, B.C.
████████

cc: Lana Popham, MLA
Saanich South and Minister of Agriculture
Via Email: Lana.Popham.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Kimberly Copeland, Constituency Assistant
Via Email: kimberly.copeland@leg.bc.ca

Royal Oak Community Association
Via Email: (c/o A/President, Barb Sharpe) barb.sharpe@telus.net

A HEARTFELT MESSAGE

As a life long resident of Saanich, specifically Royal Oak/Beaver Lake, I am saddened and shocked to hear that a group of Developers have purchased the 27 acre Royal Oak Golf Course, with plans to develop the area into a multi faceted housing development of townhomes, condos and single family homes. I'm confident these Developers did not purchase this land without some assurances in place that they would be able to remove it from its present zoning of ALR and P4, with a small area having run-off into Colquitz Creek a Salmon spawning ground.

The impact of this, on our once rural area will be devastating. The area is developing at an unbelievable rate. I understand the need for housing is great, our 40 yr. old son and 20 yr. old grand daughter (the 4th generation to attend school at Royal Oak) still live with us, due to housing shortages. But, even they are vehemently opposed to this would be development. There is already enough development going on in the area, more homes, more subdivisions. Old Pipeline Road; where we meandered along the water pipeline itself as school children heading to Beaver Lake for our annual end of year school picnic, is at present being developed with more homes and what looks to be a subdivision. All this surrounding what could be, a human and wildlife sanctuary. This 27 acre green space should be left undeveloped, cherished for the use of this and future generations to enjoy.

Animals and birdlife also reproduce and as such the next generations need to spread and have territory, just as much as humans. Since the close of the Golf Course many species have been returning to this parcel of land (Deer, Racoons, Bald Eagles, Great Horned Owls, Peregrine Falcons, Great Blue Herons, Pileated & Downy Woodpeckers, Red & Yellow breasted Sapsuckers) there are multiple families of quail using the hedgerows of blackberries as safe havens to raise their young. and many, many other species of birds and waterfowl) to the enjoyment of many. There are some stands of Garry Oak on the property with Camas and Fawn Lilies being spotted. If this area is saved from development perhaps these stands could be recovered and enhanced, adding to the beauty and value of the land and benefit the many plants and animals that rely on Garry Oak habitat (*In British Columbia, Garry oak surrounded by highly developed areas contain fewer species of birds than patches in less developed areas. Breeding populations of birds associated with oak and grassland habitats have declined in the urban Victoria area since the 1970's. Also see link - http://www.goert.ca/about/what_remains.php) I understand there is even a group of endangered turtles located in one of the ponds located on the property. Walkers, families with small children (using a child's imagination to explore the safe flora and fauna of this open area) along with dog walkers and many more, have already started to think of this wonderful parcel of land as park; a safe and inviting area.

My Great Grandfather opened his Blacksmith shop at Royal Oak corners shortly after 1911, when he, his wife, daughter and son-in-law (the Head Gardener for our Parliament Buildings until 1950) emigrated from England. The G.Grandparents lived on Cherry Tree Bend, the house is no longer there. My father was born on a farm on Haliburton Rd., this is now a subdivision. I grew up on Claremont Ave. (the grandparents

and my Dad's brother lived on Santa Clara Ave.) Both brothers worked for Sannich in the Waterworks Department until their retirement. The poultry farm at which I worked as a teenager is also now a subdivision. Pheasants' (although an introduced species) once roamed and raised their young among some of the open fields of the area, they are now extinct. Did you know we had black Swans as well as White Swans in Elk Lake when I was a child? As children we often explored the area at the end of Wesley Rd., where the water tower, then reservoir were located. A large forested area with lovely rock outcroppings covered in Lilies, Trillium and Shooting Stars, Lady Slippers, now subdivision. As teenagers we skated on Rithet's Bog (thankfully saved) in winter, surrounded by acres of farm land, now all subdivisions, along with a Shopping Centre. We explored the forests along Del Monte Ave., peeking looks over the edges of tall stumps, covered with moss and lichen, imagining, surely this must be what the islands of the South Pacific looked like surrounded by water, not the forest; that is now gone to homes. We played within the forest surrounding this once farm, cum golf course area. I barely recognize any of these areas anymore. Do we want the Royal Oak area to become like Stu Young's Langford? More people and cars than the infrastructure can possibly handle, devoid of all character and wildlife? Please, enough is enough and I implore powers that be to NOT ALLOW this last large parcel of land to be removed from it's present zoning, to be held in perpetuity as an area of enjoyment by humans and animals alike.

Without the public's support, this area will surely be built into a large scale housing development. We will all be so much the poorer for it. I ask you to speak up, speak out, to Saanich Council, the Captial Regional District, your MLA, whomever, to save this area.



Blacksmith shop, service station and cottage. Post 1929

GGrandfathers Blacksmith shop



1915. "First School Bus-Royal Oak." (Driven by H.H.Reed).

Grandfather Herb Reed first school bus driver

Donna Cino

* Towards a Recovery Strategy
for Garry Oak and Associated Ecosystems
in Canada:
Ecological Assessment and Literature Review
Marilyn A. Fuchs, R.P. Bio.
Foxtree Ecological Consulting
2001

Memo

To: Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee
From: Suzanne Samborski, Director, Parks and Recreation
Date: January 25, 2018
Subject: Proposed 2018 Meeting Dates and Agenda Items

While the Department will be undertaking numerous projects and initiatives over the coming year; the Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee can expect to see the following high-level agenda items. These items flow from Council's Strategic Plan, Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan, the Departmental work plan, and other strategy documents.

These items are in addition to the regular Parks and Recreation reports; the timing is approximate and the items may change or be added to. The dates listed are based on previous history with meetings taking place on the fourth Thursday of the month, excluding July, August and December.

January 26:

Proposed Meeting Dates, Agenda Items and Locations; Petition to Rename Gordon Head East Park; Capital Projects Review

February 22:

Market Analysis Overview; Phyllis Park and Lockehaven Trail

March 22:

Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2020; Haro Woods Plan

April 26:

Cedar Hill Park Plan; Community Services Overview

May 24:

Future Park Needs and Trends; Health in Nature

June 28:

Park Management Plan update; The Future of Recreation (What's NEW in Recreation)

September 27:

Summer Programs; LIFE program review and regional update

October 25:

Urban Forest Initiatives Update;

November 22:

Fees and Charges; OAS and YDS update



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee
From: Gary Darrah, Manager of Park Planning and Development
Date: 1/25/2018
Subject: Gordon Head East Park Renaming

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks, Trails and Recreation (PTR) Advisory Committee support the renaming of the park based on the information contained within the neighbourhood petition.

PURPOSE

This report is provided in conjunction with a representative(s) from the local community that would like to rename Gordon Head East Park in honour of the Rowe family who resided in the immediate area of the park since the early 1920's. This request can be accommodated within the Park Naming Policy.

DISCUSSION

Background

The residents of 4305 Gordon Head Road have gathered a petition signed by several individuals and families residing in close proximity to the existing park. The petition which includes requests for three items is attached for reference. The first and third items request closing an old disused driveway access across the park and undertaking some restoration plantings and fencing respectively. These items can be addressed at the operational level by staff. The second item involves the request to rename the park.

According to the council policy on Park Naming,

Procedurally, all names for new parks or requests to change names of existing parks are to be considered by the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee with a subsequent recommendation to Council which has the final authority to name or rename parks.

The attached petition contains background information supporting the renaming request. The Rowe family who lived at 4323 Gordon Head Road which is immediately adjacent to the park had a very long history in the area. Saanich records reveal the park was created in 1960

through the subdivision of a larger land parcel owned by Mr. Rowe. The park itself is a very small natural area on the ocean but has no developed public amenities. Public access is quite limited.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That PTR supports the recommendation as outlined in the staff report.
2. That PTR does not support the recommendation as outlined in the staff report.

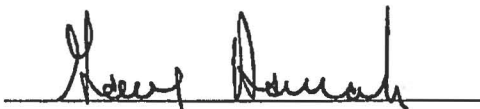
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to Saanich renaming this small park. The request to close and vegetate the disused driveway and undertake restoration plantings in select area of the park can be undertaken with funds from the annual capital budget. Another possibility is to involve local volunteers in the vegetation management should there be sufficient interest level. With regard to fencing the property, staff have not explored this suggestion but the implications are that there could be impacts to trees and other vegetation which would not be desirable. Generally, Saanich Parks does not fence parkland. The re-vegetation and fencing costs are unknown at this time.

CONCLUSIONS

Staff support the petition request (item 2) to rename the park. Further investigation is needed to determine feasibility and costs associated with the driveway closure and re-vegetation (items 1 and 3)

Prepared by



Gary Darrah
Manager of Park Planning and
Development

Approved by



Suzanne Samborski
Director of Parks and Recreation

GD

Attachment 1: Resident Petition

Attachment 2: Park Map Context

G:\Parks\Administration\PTR Reports\2018 staff reports to PTR\Gordon Head East Park Renaming.docx

DRAFT

Saanich Parks Department

PETITION FOR RENAMING GORDON HEAD EAST PARK TO: ROWE PARK

To Whom it May Concern:

We, Patrick and Suzanne Bulmer, have lived at 4305 Gordon Head Road (the original Rowe Residence) since 1991. "Tigara" is registered as a designated historical building by the District of Saanich. Jack Rowe grew up in our home and shared endless interesting stories about the history of Tigara (named by his father Bishop PT Rowe, the first Episcopal Bishop to Alaska) as well as the history of his family who had lived in our home since 1925.

Jack and Prudence Rowe moved to 4323 Gordon Head Road in the early 50's and built a modest bungalow on property purchased from Jack's mother, where they raised their family and lived until moving to long term care 3 years ago. This is the home that has since been demolished. The Rowe's were great custodians the natural landscape of their little home adjacent to Gordon Head East Park. Jack and Prudence always invited our family and the neighbourhood to enjoy a wander down through the forested paths of their property which led to the rocky promontory and the secret little beach bordered by the Park. That is why that park is there....is it not?

We are concerned because recently, a protected Garry Oak on the property has been destroyed by the developer. We have also noticed that protective fencing along the boundary of the park is slowly being incrementally moved to suit the developer's excavation of the property, putting remaining trees at risk. Building debris has also been dumped in the park.

Item 1 of the attached petition seems to be resolved but we wish to follow through with Items 2 and 3 of the petition (See attached).

Please let us know what steps that need to be taken to save this little park and rename it in honour the Rowe Family.

Patrick and Suzanne Bulmer
[REDACTED]

JACK ROWE - OBITUARY

Jack Fullerton Rowe, son of Bishop PT Rowe passed peacefully on October 3rd, 2017. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Prudence Agnes Rowe. He leaves behind his 4 children Susan, Paul, John, and Heather. As well as 8 grandchildren, Patrick, Katie, Blair, Selena, Niall, Sydney, Maggie, and Nehemiah. He raised his family in Gordon Head where he began his amazing life at 1 year old. A truly selfless man, always giving and helping anyone who needed help. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Children's Hospital Foundation

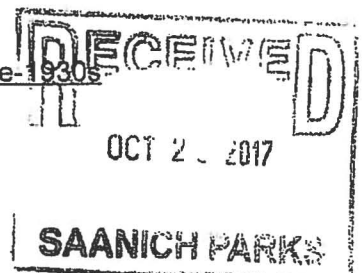
Jack will sorely missed by everyone.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, October 12 at 1:00 pm at St. Dunstan's Church, 1806 San Juan Ave.

Published in Victoria Times Colonist from Oct. 6 to Oct. 7, 2017

Please also read this amazing on-line account of Jack Rowe's written/oral history of life in Gordon Head:

<https://jackrowememoir.wordpress.com/growing-up-gordon-head-in-the-1930s>



GORDON HEAD EAST PARK

Jack and Prudence Rowe's property at 4323 Gordon Head Road has been cleared and is under a large scale residential development. Sadly, the fir trees are gone, which for years provided habitat and refuge to bald eagles, woodpeckers, blue herons, quail and all manner of flora and fauna. All that remains, is a little strip of parkland known as Gordon Head East Park(see attached map).

As neighbours of this park we propose the following petition:

1) We hereby propose that Saanich close the Rowe's old driveway at 4323 Gordon Head Road, which crosses over the **Gordon Head East Park** boundary.

The new owners of 4323 Gordon Head Road are preparing to pave what is their actual legal driveway (which runs parallel to the driveway to 4325 Gordon Head Road) for use as the new access to their property, therefore we believe there is no need to use the old lane access which actually runs across the the park boundary.

2) We would furthermore like to propose that Saanich rename Gordon Head East Park, "**Rowe Park**" in honour of the Rowe family who had resided on the property at 4323 Gordon Head Road and previously at 4305 Gordon Head Road since at least 1925.

3) We would also propose that once the driveway access is closed, that Gordon Head East Park be fenced on the bordering properties and that native plantings be restored to help keep this small park in our community, accessible to its residents and most importantly, a habitat for wildlife.

Name

Address

Phone

Prudence Rowe

Esther S. Rowe

7 Seville Hill

Allen Portman

Chauvin

S. Sumner

Susan Miller

MA Backstrom

Clare MacGregor

Suzanne Bulmer

Sarah Stewart

Gerald Walter

Elaine Willis

Walter Slobodan

Carolyn Chorney

Brian Chorney

Diana White

Harick White

Patrick Bulmer

District of Saanich Map



1:1,500

Date Produced

1/10/2018 3 23 30 PM

This map is for general information purposes and should not be considered authoritative for any purpose. Accuracy, currency and precision are not guaranteed.



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee
Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee

From: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager - Recreation

Date: 1/15/2018

Subject: January 2018 Monthly Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks, Trails and Recreation and Healthy Saanich Advisory Committees receive this report as information.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committees with an overview of the previous month's Recreation Division activities.

DISCUSSION

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre

Potters from the Cedar Hill Arts Centre supported two schools in their philanthropic efforts at Christmas. They provided finished ceramic works (bowls, mugs, objet d'arts, etc) to the Key Club at Claremont Secondary, who were raising funds for No Cat Left Behind (an organization that spays and neuters cats in Sri Lanka) and the 'Christmas Free Store' at SJ Willis where staff and community donate or purchase small items for students who are not in a position to purchase gifts and give to their families and friends. The potters were thrilled to be able to support both schools.

Community Services

Multiple classes from Colquitz Middle School held their year-end parties at The Flipside Youth Activity Centre. We have reinstated Thursday after-school drop-in as it was highly requested by the local youth with numbers already between 12-20 participants.

All funds from the 2017 Inter-municipal Wolf's Den Grant Program have been distributed with youth groups working on projects ranging from Games Groups to Aboriginal Dinners to Garry Oak Restoration Projects to rain barrel installation for water catchment.

January marks the kick off to another year of the LIFE (Leisure Involvement For Everyone) program to assist Saanich citizens who otherwise would not be able to financially afford recreation. Renewals and new registrations for LIFE are coming in daily. Jumpstart grant funding opportunities will re-open

January 15. 2017 exceeded any previous year in Jumpstart grant funding support with almost \$80,000 being allocated to assist individuals to participate in Greater Victoria sport organizations and within Saanich Recreation. We are looking forward to once again, seeing this number grow and ultimately enriching the lives of children!

Good news! Community Services successfully received two grants over the winter holidays.

1. The 2018 Age-friendly Communities Stream 2 Grant through UBCM for \$14,992 for the new *Cedar Hill Social Club*. This new club for older adults is combination of the recently 'retired' Cedar Hill New Horizons Club and the Saanich Recreation Bridge program. Now with a new membership fee and club, Saanich will be able to help grow the program with significant support. The Club "officially" started on Monday, Jan. 8th with an initial smooth transition. More activities and tweaks to the program will be made as membership grows.

2. Community Services has received a \$4,000 grant from Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity (CAAWS) and will partner with the Mosjid al-Iman (local mosque) for the next two years and offer activities for Muslim girls and women.

Community Services and Cedar Hill Recreation Centre worked with the Bangladesh Canada Cultural Association of Victoria to host a Rohingya Refugee Fundraiser on Saturday, November 25th. They were able to raise over \$40, 349.00 that went directly to Oxfam Canada to aid the Rohingya relief effort.

January 13th from 12-4pm was our first Disc Golf Day at Hyacinth Park. Working with the South Island Disc Golf Society to set up a temporary 9 hole course, 70+ disc golfers of all ages came out and had a great time. Loaner discs were available for the public to come out and try this great outdoor activity. Next one is February 18.

Youth participants from our active recreation boys and girls groups at Royal Oak Middle School, facilitated by the staff at Upside Teen Centre, were treated to a special skating out trip to G.R. Parkes Recreation Centre in December. Many students were trying out skating for the first time! It was great to see the youth helping one another on the ice, reminding staff about the importance of play and silliness when working with youth. We are never too old or too cool to try something new!

Youth from Upside Teen Centre hosted a successful Punk Rock Show in December 2017 after applying for a Saanich Youth Start Up Fund, an initiative out of the new Youth Development Strategy. The planning group did an amazing job of planning the special event, from booking youth bands from the community, arranging for audio equipment, creating their own marketing materials, and promotions. The show was attended by 80 folks from the community, including some families who braved the incredibly loud heavy metal music just to show support for their youth! We are so proud of the youth's efforts!

Gordon Head Recreation Centre

January brings renewed interest in Fitness, Health and Wellness programs and Gordon Head has been particularly busy in the early mornings and early evening time periods in the weight room and in our fitness classes. Popular classes include "DanceFix," Kick Box Fit, Maximum "Hiitness," Tabata and Stretch and Strength type classes.

Holiday season day camps held at Gordon Head through the Middle School and the Recreation Centre were full this year. Participants enjoyed crafting, swimming, cooking and a variety of active play games and sports in the gym.

Gordon Head hosted its annual staff and patron "Tree Decorating Contest," in the Lobby of the centre whereby teams of staff members and a team of "AquaFit" participants decorate trees while the public votes on their favorites. Trees this year included a snowperson theme, a hockey stick tree, a Harry Potter themed tree and the winning tree done by the Aquatics staff which was themed and looked like Sesame Street's Cookie Monster. Patrons, young and old, very much enjoy the trees and this provides a great opportunity for staff to engage in conversations and build relationships with our patrons.

G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre

In November, Pearkes launched a fitness challenge to celebrate our 50th year of operations. Early in January, 2018 the first client completed the challenge with 50 hours of physical activity and won himself 5 great prizes!

The annual Day with Santa on, Dec 10th was another big success. Free movie at Silver City (Polar Express) followed by free Kindergym and Skating at Pearkes, and then over to Tillicum Centre to make a Xmas craft. Well over 200 kids enjoyed the event.

Saanich Commonwealth Place

The first adult day respite program was full at 8 participants and a second session has been scheduled for 2018. Caregivers can bring the people they are caring for to the centre where they are looked after by qualified staff while the caregiver goes for a swim, works out in the weight room or attends a class.

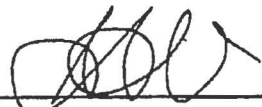
A \$5000 donation towards the Take Heart program was received. This donation is to be used to subsidize clients who need the program, but can't afford the full cost.

The annual Xmas Cracker swim meet ran again this year from Dec 8-10. The building was filled to capacity with 683 swimmers participating.

Breakfast with Santa was a success with the program filled to capacity. A review of the program is under way to determine if there is another model to make it more efficient.

The January 1st Free Swim was attended by 212 residents.

Prepared by: 
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THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF SAANICH

REPORT TO: Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee

DATE: January 25, 2018

FROM: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks

SUBJECT: Parks Division Update – January, 2018

The following update is provided for the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee:

Maintenance – EI-2 Soccer is starting up again after a winter lay off period. We will be busy inspecting the fields and doing any repairs needed to keep our fields in safe playing condition. Fields are being lined for the upcoming season restart.

Baseball ball clubs are starting to wake up and are submitting requests for work to be done by both us and themselves. Permits for the clubs to do work are being implemented in draft in order to ensure all work is completed safely and with proper permits.

The Parks mechanics shop continues to be busy supporting all Parks sections and getting the mowers and equipment ready for next year.

Parks continues to support Saanich Police and the community in cleaning up and helping to remove abandoned homeless camp sites and refuse as quickly as possible.

Construction – EI-3-3 – The Construction Section was working on the following major projects:

1. **McMinn Park** – The park renovation project is at 95% completion. The items still requiring work are:
 - final grading of some areas and top soil installation to be completed as soon as the weather allows possibly end of January or beginning of February.
 - irrigation – 95 % of sprinkler heads are installed with exception of the area mentioned above.
 - temporary lines on pickle ball courts were painted and nets installed to allow for winter and early spring play. New acrylic surfacing will be completed later in the spring when temperatures allow it.
 - playground including the zip line is now open for public.
 - new trees will be planted once final grading of the middle field is completed.

Certain sections of the park will remain fenced off until spring 2018 when grass is fully established.

For updates please check: <http://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-culture/parks/projects-in-saanich-parks/active-projects/mcminn-park-improvements.html>

2. **Hampton Park** tennis courts renovation – The courts are now open for tennis play with temporary lines painted directly on asphalt. Temporary pickle ball lines

were painted to allow for the use during winter and early spring. New acrylic surfacing will be installed next spring.

- 3 **Glanford Park Trail** – The two new gravel trails connecting areas of the park are complete and open for use. Tree planting is substantially completed with few remaining trees to be planted within the next two weeks. New benches were delivered and installed last week.
- 4 **Trail resurfacing work in Quadrant 2** - started in December and is continuing in January with Knockan Hill Park completed as a first project. Hyacinth Park was also done most recently and resurfacing work is continuing on trail along Colquitz River and Interurban Road.

Horticulture – EI-2 – Horticulture staff are working on pruning and mulching of neighbourhood traffic circles and plan to complete work on over 200 of these sites before spring arrives. Winter maintenance activities are also being undertaken in Parks and at our Facilities buildings. Irrigation staff are completing inspections of backflow preventers and doing valve replacements on some of our older systems.

Urban Forestry – EI-1-3 – The Requests for Service volume has dropped significantly over the last few weeks, allowing for the Arborists to engage in proactive boulevard tree pruning, was initiated with a primary focus on over-grown collector roads and main arteries. Stump grinding requests are being completed intermittently, with staff for the most part being utilized for tree planting projects and requests. Certified Utility Arborist contractors are actively working on several Requests for Services which involve trees that are within limits of approach to BC Hydro wires.

Natural Areas – EI-1-5 –

The boulevard tree planting program is continuing with well over half of the scheduled 400+ trees already planted. Glanford and McMinn are the last two Parks to be planted; we just need to wait for ideal conditions.

The Southridge trail upgrades in Mt Doug are complete with new rock & wood stairs and several water bars installed to help control water erosion issues. We are starting up a trail assessment program to check out the condition of all of the bare earth trails in Mt Doug; we will move on to other parks as time permits.

The Small Tree Maintenance program (STM) continues with mulching, pruning, and general care for the 1200+ active trees being managed in parks & boulevards. We've posted 12-15 parks for Holly/Hawthorn treatment in the month of January; the crew had a great start in Konukson Park, treating over 70 Holly trees.

The active school groups continue to help remove invasives in many parks, including Rogers Elementary at Vic Derman Park and Arbutus Middle at Hollydene Park. We continue to support weekly/monthly Pulling Together Volunteers at many of our parks with pile pick-ups, mulching and invasive removal. Over the next 6 weeks we hope to meet up with many of the PT Lead Stewards for our first annual winter field meet to go over expectations/scheduling for the year. Jenny Eastman, the PT COV is helping organize this.

Projects, Planning and Design

McMinn Park – Phase 2 will be completed this year, Staff are preparing RFPs for a public washroom building and small beginners' bike skills area, with the intention of having both in place this summer.

McKenzie Interchange – Staff are continuing to meet with Ministry staff every couple of months to review and coordinate design details particularly with the new berm which will separate Cuthbert Holmes Park from the highway. Actual construction of the berm itself will not begin until late this year and well into 2019 but some on site geotechnical work is currently underway to ensure the long term stability of the berm.

Haro Woods Management Plan – Staff will meet with the Advisory Group in the next month to discuss how to proceed following November 2017's public Open House and survey. A final opportunity for the public to review the plan will be conducted before it is finalized and brought to Council in 2018. Prior to taking the plan to council staff will check in with the committee for final comments. Find out more at:
<http://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-culture/parks/projects-in-saanich-parks/active-projects/haro-woods.html>

Cedar Hill Park Visioning and Planning Project – The Stakeholder Working Group (staff and community members) continue to meet and work on a draft Vision for the park and to scope out the most appropriate plan for the park.

Gorge Waterway Park – Parking Lot Upgrades – in order to to replace some damaged asphalt, the four-stall parking lot between Dysart Rd and Austin Ave will be re-paved within the next month. As part of this project, the traffic island surrounding a Sequoia tree will be expanded, thereby reducing the amount of paving in this area. The the grass turf that currently surrounds the tree will be replaced with mulch and native plantings.

Mt. Douglas Park Entrance

1. Additional disability-parking stall near the Welcome Kiosk sign is complete.
2. A new custom gate on Churchill Drive just beyond the Charter Rock will be installed in the coming weeks.
3. Rumble strips in the asphalt at various locations leading up to the new gate to encourage drivers to go slow through the park are planned for this spring.

Bow Park Interpretive Sign – A new sign developed in partnership with the Friends of Bow and Brodick Parks and illustrated by local artist Kristi Bridgeman will be installed in the coming weeks. This sign is another example of how the Parks Division works in collaboration with local residents to create positive outcomes in our community.

Copley Park Football Field Renovation – Work is scheduled to begin on renovating the football field at Copley Park West as early as mid-February, weather permitting. We anticipate the work to be complete in late June with the field ready for play for the fall football season.

Rainbow Park Playground Replacement – A playground equipment concept will be posted on signs in the park and on the website late January for public feedback. Comments will be received until the middle of February on the proposed layout for the

playground and sport court upgrade. Working drawings and cost estimates are underway with construction anticipated to start April 2018.

2018 Capital Budget – Staff have submitted the proposed 2018 capital budget as well as the 5 year multi-year capital budget to Finance. Typically, the budget receives final Council approval in early May; however, there is a process in place where early approval for some key projects takes place in order to allow them to proceed earlier in the year. Early approval requests have been recently submitted so that staff can begin implementing key projects soon.

Community Development update:

The Park Partners webpage is live at <http://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-culture/parks/parks-partners.html>. You can find information about our various partners (please let us know if we have missed someone) and the new park project application forms and guidelines.

We are working towards updating and renewing agreements with various partners and user groups. As part of that we have learned that to comply with the Community Charter we need to notify the public about our intent to dispose of (lease) park land. You will see the first example of this in an upcoming Saanich News issue for a lease renewal for the Braefoot Community Centre.