



NORTH OAK BAY

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

PLANT SALE - POT LUCK - SPEAKERS

SATURDAY APRIL 28 - starts at 10:30 am

Please join us for our annual PLANT sale starting at 10:30 am, in the foyer of Emmanuel Church. Plants will sell for either \$1 or \$2 or \$5, depending on size. So join us again in potting up your extra plants and labeling them. Also bring old pots in good condition and other garden items that you are willing to part with. All proceeds will go to NOBCA

Following the plant sale there will be a pot luck luncheon with guest speakers.

Come to our April 28th pot luck luncheon and hear the presentations by our Oak Bay Chief of Police (Andy Brinton) and Deputy Fire Chief (Darren Hughes) and to ask any questions you or your children may have.

HONOURING OUR OWN

Recently we had the pleasure of talking to Mr. Noel Parker-Jervis, know to many as PJ, one of the original members of the former NHRA (North Henderson Residents Association). PJ moved here in 1985 after retiring from a life in academics at University of Alberta. Being a spry 65 years old, he was not ready to enjoy the sedentary life, so PJ got involved in community activities, both with the NHRA and the University of Victoria.

The NHRA really got their jump-start in the mid 80s when our local Baptist church wanted to expand their church footprint. The local community, concerned with increased traffic for the church, lobbied Oak Bay council not to allow this expansion. They succeeded in their mandate, and we still have that empty parking lot on the corner of Henderson and Cedar Hill X road.

Another issue of concern was the speed of the traffic along Henderson Road. PJ tells us that the provincial government gave a grant to Oak Bay to build islands at the crosswalks, thus slowing the traffic. Even today we still hear from people on Henderson who have concerns with traffic speeds in their community. PJ also brought up those other familiar issues we face in north Oak Bay – Uvic students parking in residential streets and the building of secondary suites. Interesting that the NHRA agreed with the proposal for secondary suites: if they were constructed according to fire and safety bylaws,

if there was off street parking, and if the landlords lived in the house.

PJ said as a community they felt isolated from Oak Bay and the council members, and that the council did not seem to care or understand the north Oak Bay issues. NHRA also participated on a council with UVic, but PJ got the feeling that challenges and concerns of north Oak Bay died within the council and were not taken forward to the decision making body at UVic.

As you can see from the above discussion, the challenges of the mid 80s are still around 30 years later. Thank you PJ for all you have done for our community. Perhaps it is time for us to get involved and concerned again as citizens from north Oak Bay and see what the candidates say about our community in this upcoming municipal election.



Noel Parker-Jervis

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Pieter de Groot

The upcoming municipal elections in October will have significant implications for our North Oak Bay community, especially because of the issue of secondary suites, an issue of high priority for the Oak Bay Council. I would urge all North Oak Bay residents to become familiar with the various aspects of legalizing secondary suites. For a secondary suite to be legal in Oak Bay, Council must first pass a by-law approving secondary suites and whether they will be allowed throughout Oak Bay or only in specific areas. To be legal, they must be also meet the requirements of the BC Building Code.

If you google the words: “secondary suite standards of the BC Building Code” you will find detailed information, not only about the BCBC standards, but also about the policy reasons for allowing secondary suites, the process for obtaining approval, and inspections required. The websites of Victoria, Abbotsford, Nelson, and other cities provide secondary suites information pertaining to these cities. None of these websites, however, provides information about the impact of secondary suites on the character of an existing single family neighbourhood.

When walking the coast of Monterey Bay in California recently, I was impressed to see a public notice in one community asking people to volunteer

three hours per month to help community members in need of various house or garden maintenance, transportation, companionship or other needs. The same notice invited anyone desiring such help to phone the number listed. Clearly, this reflected a sense of “a caring community”. A separate write-up in this Newsletter about the Emmanuel Baptist Church’ weekly Tuesday evening free dinner for over 400 students reminds us that often we do not know about local “people helping people” actions (several North Oak Bay residents volunteer at these student dinners).

The “Honoring Our Own” article about Mr. Noel Parker Jones also illustrates that there is a long history of community members devoting time and energy to making North Oak Bay a desirable community to live in. I would like to encourage you, and especially families with children, to come to our April 28th pot luck luncheon and hear the presentations by our Oak Bay Chief of Police and Asst Fire Chief and to ask any questions you or your children may have. It is not often that children/teenagers have the opportunity to personally meet a police officer or firefighter (a fire engine may also be there). Your participation in the plant sale by offering or purchasing (a) plant(s) is of course also much appreciated. Lastly, please let any new neighbors know about NOBCA and share our contact information with them.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO EMMANUEL CHURCH.

As you know, Emmanuel Church has provided NOBCA members with the opportunity to meet there four times a year and it has generously hosted us with delicious homemade soup and other goodies. This kindness has permitted NOBCA to arrange a series of presentations and potluck lunches over the year, that have enabled neighbours to get to know one another and to share issues that affect our community. However, something many of us might not know is that Emmanuel Church is also the place to be on Tuesday nights during University term time, as a splendid and tasty NO STRINGS ATTACHED SUPPER is made available to students, at no cost to them. A dedicated number of volunteers (about 40 people) prep

the meal, cook it and then distribute it to upward of 400 hungry young people. The food is plentiful, healthy and varied, consisting of vegetarian, vegan and regular dishes and delicious homemade desserts finish off the happy occasion. Pastor David Dawson is instrumental in assisting with these suppers and it is to him, that we, at NOBCA also owe a special thank you.

NOBCA Executive

Pieter de Groot	President
Tara Douglas	Vice President
Pete Rose	Treasurer
Roger Kitson	Newsletter
Jason Khehra	Website https://northoakbay.ca
Email	northobca@gmail.com
Letter to Editor	editor@northoakbay.ca