

# North Park Neighbourhood News



**Dave Brocklesby, Chair and Charlotte Brocklesby, Secretary of NPNA, flank Martin Batchelor artist of the Mural "Park Dreams" located on the fence at Royal Athletic Park. Ken Faulkes, who is missing from the picture, worked in collaboration with Martin on the mural.** Visit our new murals, compliments of the City of Victoria, on Vancouver Street at Royal Athletic Park.

## The Greening of Caledonia

By: Dave Brocklesby

The south side of Caledonia, one of our "Greenways" corridors, will soon be getting some much needed attention. From Blanchard east to Quadra, sidewalks will be moved away from traffic, new "canopy" trees will be planted and screening bushes will soften those parking lots.

## Central Park

By: Dave Brocklesby

"Stuffy" baseball is back and this year they and the City have teamed up to place a big net to snag foul balls, which used to bash up cars on Vancouver Street. Now it's safe to park again! These guys play good fast pitch baseball, but they could use more fan support. Try to get to a game, you may like it. Another change - the solid back panels on the stands have gone (except top row) and it sure improves the view into the park. Meanwhile, across the park, behind Crystal Pool, the old emergency trailer with its grey paints and graffiti has been transformed into a bright yellow fire truck (pictured). Much nicer than the trailer!



## Parking Changes in North Park

By: Matthew Lebrun

During large events at the Arena, parking around our neighbourhood is set to become scarce. Fortunately, the City has come up with a few potential strategies for dealing with this problem. They include a parking "hotline" (not active yet) that residents can call if they see cars without permits that only residents of North Park may receive, hourly parking restrictions and a residential permit parking system that would see residents of North Park pay a small fee once a year in order to receive a permit."

## ProWalk/Pro Bike Conference in Victoria

Mark your calendar for the 13th International Symposium on Walking and Bicycling, also known as Pro Walk/Pro Bike 2004. The biennial conference is being held at the Victoria Conference Centre from September 7 to Friday, September 10, 2004.

Creating Active Communities is the theme of this year's conference. Walkable and bicycle-friendly communities are active communities. Pro Walk/Pro Bike 2004 will bring together the best and the brightest to set the course for walking and bicycling for the 21st century. Don't miss this opportunity to share important ideas and information for making our communities more bicycle-friendly and walkable. Registration fees apply. For more information, email Gary MacFadden at: [gary@bikewalk.org](mailto:gary@bikewalk.org)

## Needle Pick-Up Program

The Victoria Police Department's Reserve Constable Program is comprised of 40 Special Constables. One of the services provided by this committed group of volunteers is picking up discarded needles (sharps) left behind by the City's IV drug users. A telephone hot-line has been set up to take messages about the location of sharps, and collections are carried out by Reserve Constables in uniform, every weekend. Members of the public are encouraged to call 995-7399 Voice Mail Box 8108 to alert the Reserve Constables to the location of discarded needles. Staff Sergeant Kevin Worth East Division, **Victoria Police Department** Tel: (250) 995-7383 Fax: (250) 384-6141 [worthk@police.victoria.bc.ca](mailto:worthk@police.victoria.bc.ca)  
*Editor's Note: At Central Park, on the south side of Crystal Pool, is a Sharp's Needle Depository.*



PANDORA AVENUE



Fall 2004

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If you have an issue to talk about, or an event your neighbours may be interested in hearing about in their community newsletter, please contact us.

This is the newsletter of your North Park Neighbourhood Association (NPNA), your voice at City Hall. The NPNA ensures representation of North Park's interests and your concerns.

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## My first year in the NPNA Chair: A time of change.

Shortly after our last AGM, when I took the Chair and enjoyed a full complement of executives, (12 total), the attrition began. As life dictates, some changes were expected.

Nonetheless, we did have a few successes:

- RAP changed the unattractive board fence to black chain link.  
[http://www.city.victoria.bc.ca/residents/prksrc\\_facrap.shtml](http://www.city.victoria.bc.ca/residents/prksrc_facrap.shtml)
- The murals on the Vancouver St. fence are a real asset to the neighbourhood and have been very well received. (See page 1)
- The City accepted the "greening" of Caledonia St. and we should see some positive changes by this fall.
- We continue to have representation on the Arena Inter-disciplinary Committee.

The traffic & parking policy was endorsed by the City with minimum change and will be implemented in stages starting this fall.

- We have a seat on the Advisory Committee of the Sobering Center and Assessment Centre. (See page 3)
- The first annual NPNA Photo Contest was a great success.
- Central Park installed the "foul ball" net.
- The Art in the Park mosaic and construction is due to start soon in Franklin Green (near Wellburns).

All our endeavors take dedication from our hard working executives and members. I believe that with our voices we were able to effect positive change in our community.

There are, however, some areas where our strengths as an association will be put to the test:

- Parking and traffic issues when our arena opens.
- Discarded needles, drug users and property violations will take a prominent place.
- safe injection site - what will that mean for North Park
- The "Greening" of our neighbourhood.
- Land use issues

As your chair for 2004/2005, I look forward to working with you to address these issues.

**Dave Brocklesby,  
Chair**

Challenges, opportunities and change have marked my time as Victoria City Council liaison to the North Park Neighbourhood. The Neighbourhood Association has done an extraordinary job in representing community interests and worked very hard to make sure that issues are brought to the attention of City Council and city staff in a proactive way that encourages cooperation and results in positive outcomes.

The participation of Board members on the arena interdisciplinary committee has ensured that neighbourhood concerns specific to the new arena are addressed and will ensure that the new facility will be seen as an asset to the immediate neighbourhood. This included the development of a transportation demand management plan to mitigate the impact of the arena on the immediate area. An innovative planning initiative, spearheaded by the community, focused on the opportunities afforded by a "sustainable village" model being developed for the neighbourhood. The *greenways plan* identifies ways to make the neighbourhood pedestrian and bike friendly while providing transportation links to the rest of the city. The removal of the fence at Royal Athletic Park has brought into view the green 'heart' of the community and the public art recently installed adjacent to the park on Vancouver Street enriches the environment for all who pass by. A mosaic project will be installed shortly at Franklin Green and the Crystal Pool now sports a pair of colourful murals. A photo contest, sponsored by the Association, brought attention to the rich character of the North Park Neighbourhood. A strong and active neighbourhood association makes my job both more challenging and more rewarding. I would like to thank all of the board members and volunteers who work so hard to make sure that North Park remains a desirable, livable, vibrant and inclusive neighbourhood.

**Pamela Madoff**, Councillor - City of Victoria

### 2004/2005 North Park Neighbourhood Association Board of Directors.



**Dave Brocklesby**  
Chair

**Charlotte Brocklesby**  
Secretary

**Peter Tarnowski**  
Treasurer

**Joan Waller**  
Land Use

**Leigh Anne Isaac**  
Parks

**Sharon Klein**  
Marketing

**Audry Walt**  
Membership

**Wayne Poohachoff**  
Networking

**Steve Caruthers**  
Inter-D/Arena

**Matthew Lebrun**  
Traffic

**Stacy Ness**  
Safety

**Doug Schneider**  
Business Liaison

Members of the 2004/2005 NPNA Board.

To contact a member of the Board, email: [npna@npna.ca](mailto:npna@npna.ca)

## Victoria Sobering and Assessment Centre

(Located at Pemberton & Cook)

By: Sharon Klein

Now that the centre has been open for approximately 6 months, we are able to more clearly see what the impact has been on our neighbourhood. The Centre has made a smooth entry into our community with very few complaints from the neighbours and received many kudos from other social service agencies. It is operated by professional staff at all times. The peak hours for admission occur from 7pm to 11pm and discharge from 8am to 11am. Through the "Good Neighbour Policy" the Centre has adopted, a daily van will run at peak times to deliver clients to the centre and also downtown after discharge. If the van is not scheduled, the Centre will call a taxi to deliver a client to their destination. To date, the average length of stay for clients is about 10 hours. Statistics indicate there has been 2,729 admissions, including 341 repeat-users. The average client is a male in their 30's. The Centre reports few complaints have been received from neighbours and the complaints that they have received were addressed immediately. North Park Neighbourhood Association is very appreciative of the Centre being extremely responsive to people's concerns.

Our (NPNA) remaining concern is individuals who make their own way to the Centre through residential neighbourhoods and then find they may not be admitted due to the Centre being full. They are left to their own devices - will they make their way into or through our neighbourhood to find a place to sleep, or worse, be looking for goods to support their habit? If you have concerns, we encourage you to contact Vancouver Island Health Authority at 370-8408. Myself and Dave Brocklesby represent North Park on the Victoria Sobering and Assessment Centre Advisory Committee and would like to hear your concerns. Contact Sharon at: [sharlynn@telus.net](mailto:sharlynn@telus.net).

## The Mosaic on Mason St.

By: Leigh Anne Isaac

The N.P.N.A. was awarded funding from the Matching Grant Project (funded by the City of Victoria) to undertake activities that would improve our community. In order to foster community spirit and pride, we decided to create a community mosaic that could be appreciated by everyone who lives, works, and plays in North Park.

After consulting members of the neighborhood through the NPNA Newsletter, and getting little response, we decided, along with the artist, to create a mosaic using a sports theme. We thought this would best celebrate the unique character of the neighborhood, created in part by the numerous sports facilities located here. We decided on a little known park behind Wellburn's Market, known as Franklin Green, as a first step toward improving the park. A local artist, Sandra Millot, was contracted to develop and install the mosaic on the northwest section of the trail bisecting Franklin Green.

Sandra has a wealth of experience in designing mosaics, and she has recently finished a tugboat mosaic and mermaid mosaic for James Bay. She began her mosaic-making career in 1991 when she designed a panel for Rebar Restaurant followed by one for Cascadia. We are fortunate to have such a talented artist as Sandra working with us.

We hope to have the mosaic installed in the fall. Please stay tuned for more details about our mosaic-unveiling activities, and for other improvement projects for Franklin Green!

## Events and Community Info

### Mason Street Artists' Market

Visit Victoria's weekly outdoor art market Fridays, from 11 – 4, in the parking lot of St. John the Divine (Mason St. near Quadra). This open air "gallery" will feature lovely and unusual arts and crafts ranging from woodwork to art cards. Drop by, grab a refreshment, listen to lively music and pick up some beautiful art. More information at 480-7480.

Fall leaf pickup will happen through November and December. Call 361-0602 for specific dates when the Parks



Dept. will be working in your area. Do not put them in bags, boxes or other containers. No tree branches, garden refuse, lawn clippings or other debris.

### Great Canadian Beer Festival

Victoria's annual celebration of the brewing craft takes place on September 11 and 12 at

Royal Athletic Park. Come and sample some of the best this continent has to offer. Admission is \$20 and beer tokens are \$1 each.

WHERE: Royal Athletic Park (1014 Caledonia Ave.)

WHEN: Sept. 11 to Sept 12/04

For more information visit: <http://www.gcbf.com/>

### Architectural Tour - Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition

Sept. 26 Architectural Tour: Similar to the Historical tour but the emphasis is to view and learn about local architecture in a 20 kms. Bike ride. Rides cost \$5 for members or \$10 for non-members. Contact Brian Collier at 516-4081 for further information or the GVCC hotline at 480-5155 to register. Pre-registration is encouraged.

Note: All participants must have a helmet and a mechanically functioning bicycle for all rides. There will be meal stops but we recommend that you bring water and a snack with you.

### Recreational Renewal Meetings

The following recreation renewal consultation meetings have been scheduled by the City of Victoria.

Rockland Neighbourhood Association, North Park Neighbourhood Association, South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association and North Jubilee Neighbourhood Association - Wed., October 20th at 7 pm in City Hall Council Chamber.

### Block Watch Information

Find out how to make your street, condo or apartment building a safer place.

Tues., Sept 28 and Oct 26th, 7 - 9pm in the Community Room at the Victoria Police Station, 850 Caledonia Ave.

### Soil in the City

Learn how to build soil for next year's strong, healthy plants - all without a compost bin! Sunday, September 19th, 12 - 1:30pm at Blanchard Community Centre, 901 Kings Rd.

## Magnificent Houses In our Hood



2201 Vancouver St. – 1911, \$3850, architect DC Frame. English Arts & Crafts style, note flat-roofed, gabled & through-the-wall dormers. Owners Maria & William Cooke Thompson, salesman, Weiler Bros furniture store; now owned by 3rd generation of family.

From North Park I Heritage Walking Tour brochure published 2001, produced under the partnership of North Park Neighbourhood Association and the Victoria Heritage Foundation. To obtain copies, please call 389-1864.

Jennifer Nell Barr, E.D.  
Victoria Heritage Foundation (VHF)

Literacy is  
for life,  
enjoy time  
reading with  
your  
children.



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## Thanks to Islandnet.com

The NPNA gratefully acknowledges the sponsorship of Islandnet.com, who have kindly donated webspace and hosting services for our website at <http://www.npna.ca>.

## That Monstrosity on the Corner!

By: Joan Waller

*“Can you imagine anybody in their right minds allowing developers to build such a thing!”* How many times have you heard a comment like that about a new building in the neighborhood? The Land Use Committee (LUC) tries to prevent just that type of comment from occurring. It is the role of the LUC to communicate with neighbors about proposed land use changes in the neighborhood; to provide a forum for developers to bring proposals forward for review; to propose, recommend and negotiate improvements in proposals brought to the LUC; and to monitor the implementation to the North Park Neighborhood Plan. On the table at our meetings are how such issues as density, shading, massing, and overall design will impact the immediate neighbors, as well as the neighborhood as a whole. Additionally, the LUC will assist the neighbors in understanding anything about the rezoning process that they do not understand.

The LUC meets regularly, not less than once a month; unless there are no agenda items, in which case, the LUC may choose to not convene. LUC meeting dates are usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at Crystal pool. Please check with the LUC Chair if you are curious about any developments around you. Her number is (250) 385-5296 or cell (250) 744-4948. Please ask for Joan.

**Residents of Victoria may check the following website out for rezoning applications in their neighbourhood:**

[http://www.city.victoria.bc.ca/residents/planning\\_Ind.shtml](http://www.city.victoria.bc.ca/residents/planning_Ind.shtml)

### Monthly Board Meetings

7:30 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday Every Month,

Police Station Community Rm., (Caledonia & Quadra)

Members, and interested neighbours, are warmly welcome to attend our monthly board meetings.

### NPNA Membership

Live or work in North Park? Membership dues are just \$1 per year. Memberships may be obtained by contacting our Membership Coordinator, Audrey Walt at [Walta@islandnet.com](mailto:Walta@islandnet.com).

### Land Use Committee Meetings

Contact Joan Waller at [ewickedlandlady@shaw.ca](mailto:ewickedlandlady@shaw.ca). North Park residents are invited to join us and have a say in what landowners and developers plan to do in your neighbourhood.

### The City Connection

The following Web link will connect you with the latest press releases from City Hall:

[http://www.city.victoria.bc.ca/cityhall/pressroom\\_rel.shtml](http://www.city.victoria.bc.ca/cityhall/pressroom_rel.shtml)

*Editors Note: This is a very useful link:*

<http://www.city.victoria.bc.ca/business/profiles.shtml>

*There are links to a North Park map, a N.P community profile and other issues pertaining to the City.*

**To contact us, write to: North Park Neighbourhood Association, PO Box 661, #185-911, Yates Street, Victoria, B.C. V8Y 4Y9, or email [npna@npna.ca](mailto:npna@npna.ca)**