

# North Park Neighbourhood News



BLANSHARD STREET

BAY STREET

NORTH PARK



NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

COOK STREET

PANDORA AVENUE

## New Mini Park at corner of Vancouver & Green Streets.

Article by: Dave Brocklesly

City crews are putting the final structural components on this walking/sitting park, with only the bench selection and landscaping items still outstanding.



The proposal is to have two curved seating benches placed in the circle area and facing each other. The main landscape item is another "London Plain" tree to match those three which were planted last year on Vancouver Street. These trees are of the very large "canopy" variety, which will eventually look like those trees now on Vancouver north of Pembroke and are part of our "Greenways" plan.

The irrigation system to support these plantings has also been completed.

It's small, leads to a parking lot, and will probably be changed as Royal Athletic Park (RAP) changes, but for now we have a pretty oasis in a sea of asphalt.

Victoria Parks Department have boxed in the "Stuffy" concession stand on Vancouver at Pembroke Streets in an effort to keep out the residentially challenged, substance-abuse users who frequent this area.

Central Park is due for evaluation as a leash free park, with restrictions, starting around April. This will be a council decision.

There is a possibility that the Stuffy McGuinness Fastball League may not be playing this year, which would be sad, but this may allow us to get council/parks to consider Central as a "People Park" with a jogging track, picnic tables, expanded kids area, more trees, etc. We would be asking residents for input if re-assignment happens.

**Planned road work around new Memorial Arena. Pembroke Street 800 block, Southside:** new curb, sidewalk, and restoration of the road are all in the plans. Construction will start soon and completed by early Spring.

## Arena Updates on Page 3

### Parking in the hood

As the Arena will soon be opening its doors, and as we can expect extreme pressure on our limited parking, the enclosed "Parking" document spells out your options. The

City and your North Park Neighbourhood Association with help from



professionals in this field, have worked hard to assure that you have the tools to protect what little parking you now have. You are offered options, and we now will have a dedicated "Hotline" to the Commissionaires, plus a promise from the City for more parking police.

We all must work to ensure our parking is protected. If you cannot get satisfaction through this document or City, let us know. Good luck!

**Important Parking Information Enclosed!**

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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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## DO YOU HAVE A SECONDARY SUITE?

## Welcome to the Hood

**Register with the Secondary Suite Support Program today! As a member we will offer you:**

- Landlord/tenant dispute resolution and mediation
- Support for tenants to maintain housing
- Pre-screened and referred potential tenants
- Periodic workshops on issues related to secondary suites

For more information, contact Eliza @ Burnside Gorge Community Centre 388-5251.



*Poor Richard's Books* has become *Dundee Wealth Management* on the corner of North Park and Vancouver. Welcome to our neighbourhood.

## Get with the Program - the Emergency Program, that is

**By: Rob Johns, Victoria Emergency Social Services Program Manager, City of Victoria**

Tragic earthquakes and tsunamis are in the news of late. Did you know that Greater Victoria is at risk from a multitude of hazards, including earthquakes, tsunamis, winter storms, forest fires, and many other hazards. Did you know that the City of Victoria has an active Emergency Plan and Emergency Program? You can get involved, as a citizen, and become a member of this emergency planning and response team. Training is free and commitment and time requirements vary to suite your lifestyle. The City of Victoria Emergency Program can be reached at 920-3373 or at the following website: [http://www.city.victoria.bc.ca/residents/safety\\_vep.shtml](http://www.city.victoria.bc.ca/residents/safety_vep.shtml)

Take the time to visit this website and get valuable information on personal preparedness and learn how to get involved as

**(NO COSTS INVOLVED FOR WORKSHOPS)**

February 24th, 2005

**Basic Search & Rescue / Damage Assessment**

Fairfield Community Place - OSC Room

1330 Fairfield Road, 6:30 - 9:00pm

Participate in a search for casualties!

Is your house safe to re-enter after an earthquake?

April 5th(part 1) & 12th(part 2), 2005 (Tuesdays)  
**Disaster First Aid (2 parts)**

Yates Street Fire Hall - use Camosun Street Entrance  
1234 Yates Street, 6:00 - 9:00pm

Please wear comfortable clothes and bring a blanket.  
Learn how to triage and apply First Aid.

For information contact:

**Victoria Neighbourhood Emergency Program**

Victoria Fire Department

1234 Yates Street

Victoria, BC V8V 3M8

Telephone: (250) 920-3373

Facsimile: (250) 920-3370

## Notice of North Park Neighbourhood Association

### Annual AGM

June 14th at 7:30pm

Victoria Police Station on Caledonia  
Community Room

**Everyone welcome - see you there!**

# Promoting Action Toward Health (PATH)

Promoting Action Toward Health (PATH) is a community-based, health research project in the Hillside-Quadra and North Park areas of Victoria. This five-year initiative, a partnership of the University of Victoria, the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA), and Blanshard Community Centre, is funded by Community Alliances for Health Research (a program of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research).

PATH believes that health is more than not being sick. Being healthy is influenced by many factors such as having a secure and nutritious source of food, green spaces for walking and recreation, a safe home, friends, and a voice in determining what happens in your community. Living in a healthy community influences people's health in significant ways. PATH works with those who live and/or work in the Hillside-Quadra and North Park areas and with other community agencies toward building a healthier community and promoting the health of area residents. These collaborations have resulted in some exciting neighborhood initiatives such as:

- **The Quadra Arts Centre**, which, through a partnership with the school board, transformed the previously vacant annex of Quadra School into a place which enhances the creative capacities of individuals and community by providing opportunities for expression through the arts. The arts help to connect people across generations and cultures. Classes and events are free or reasonably priced. Those who need financial help can access bursaries to help cover any course fee.

- **Home Grown Project**, a partnership with LifeCycles to create backyard gardens and enhance food security for area residents. This year, nine area residents built raised beds and planted a garden in their back yard. There is also a "sharing backyards" program which connects those who have space to share (and/or need some help with their own garden) with those who need a place to garden. Skill building workshops on planting, composting, organic weed control and other interesting gardening subjects are also offered.
- **Urban Harvest**, a group of dedicated individuals working to secure land for, and plan, a community garden.
- **A community map** which depicts the community's green spaces and assets.
- **Tai Chi classes** - free in the community's parks (summer) or at the Blanshard Community Centre (winter).

Something is always happening on the PATH project because community members come forward with new ideas and enthusiasm around how to build a healthier community. So get involved! The office is located in the lower level of the Blanshard Community, on the corner of Kings and Dowler. For more information contact us at 381-7284.

*Continued from Page 1*

**City of Victoria: Arena Updates.** Construction will begin shortly to make improvements to the 800 Block of Caledonia Street. Approximately \$97,000 will be spent to make pedestrian improvements, tree planting and boulevard widening along the south side of the block, opposite the arena. The North Park Neighbourhood Association selected this project as the neighbourhood mitigation to be done with the funding made available for that purpose. Approximately \$250,000 will be spent to widen the road to accommodate bicycle lanes on both sides of the street. Funding for this work is from the provincial Cycling Infrastructure Partnerships Program. In addition, the City will include some paving work on Caledonia Street as part of their 2005 Street maintenance program.

## Events and Community Info

### Neighbourhood Block Watch Meeting

March 8th at 7pm

North Park Manor, 875 North Park.

Informational meeting to let people

Know what is involved in starting a

Block Watch on their street. Bev Stewart, Block Watch Coordinator and Victoria Police Officer will be giving the presentation.

### Interested in Gardening?

PATH (Promoting Action Toward Health) has a brand new community garden - The Urban Harvest Initiative in Hillside-Quadra area. They have been promised space by University Canada West, the new occupants of the old Blanshard School site. PATH is planning a big ground-breaking event and need

your help to do it! They need to gather people and donations of tools, heavy equipment, amendments, plants, sheds, a water system, etc. Would you like to get involved in some way or do you know somebody who does? If you have ideas, connections, suggestions or questions, call Jackie at the PATH office at 381-7284.

Previous NPNA Director, Mr. **Avrie Cunliff** has now returned to North Park after spending nearly two years working as an architect on a large project in Baja, Mexico. Welcome back Avrie. Mr. Cunliffe was largely responsible for NPNA's "Greenways" planning and subsequent bringing of Victoria City on-side. (*Maybe he will be inspired to submit some articles to the NPNA newsletter*)

## Electoral System Change Yes or No?

***This question will be asked on  
Election Day - May 17th.***

Find out more about this  
important decision at our

***Information Session:***

**When: March 10th at  
7pm**

**Where: Oaklands  
Community Centre  
2827 Belmont Ave.**



**To Register - 952-4262.**

Sponsored by: **Sheila Orr, MLA**

Victoria-Hillside Website: [www.sheilaorrmla.bc.ca](http://www.sheilaorrmla.bc.ca) Phone: 952-4262

Ad not paid for with public funds.

## Green Party of BC (Victoria - Hillside)

**Candidate Nomination Meeting 1 PM  
Rock the Vote with Local Bands 8 PM**

**Saturday, February 19  
Norway House, 1110 Hillside Ave.**

***Everyone Welcome!***

Info: 382-8378 or [victoria@greenparty.bc.ca](mailto:victoria@greenparty.bc.ca)

**Paid for by the Green Party of B.C.**

## Thanks to Islandnet.com

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

## Almost the end of a year. .

Yes, friends and foes, March will mark the end of my first year as Chair of the Land Use Committee (LUC). During this year, we have wrestled with the **12 unit proposal** at 920-926 Caledonia. Hopefully, the concerns raised by the neighbours, the suggestions submitted by the Co-Chair, along with the thoughtful input of the other Committee members, coupled with the professional experience of the Planning Department, and the patience and cooperation of the long suffering Architect, will give us a better building than we might otherwise have had. Unfortunately, this project cannot pro-

ceed as it does not meet City Planning minimum requirements.

In addition to the **Caledonia Project**, the LUC Chairs from each Neighbourhood Association have been participating in the Land Use Committee Council (LUCC) whose goal it has been to create a uniform procedure for all LUC's to follow when dealing with a rezoning or variance proposal. Hopefully, this will clarify the process for the proponents as well as the Committees.

The **Mosaic Project**, started three years ago, is finally coming to completion. By the time you read this, a target date for pouring the concrete will be set. In addition to the lovely mosaic designed by local artist, Sandra Millott, we hope Parks and Recreation will find room in the budget for some lighting along the path. It is hoped the mosaic will be installed by the end of March.

Joan R. Waller, Land Use Committee Chair

### Notice of Change of Meeting:

**March 8, 2005, 8:00pm**

**North Park Manor (875 North Park)**

### 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)