

South Jubilee News

Fort
Oak Bay
Foul Bay

web site: <http://www.s-jubilee.city.victoria.bc.ca>

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November 15, 2004

The South Jubilee Neighbourhood Association is a registered non-profit society established by residents to act as a forum for the interests of all those who live, work or own property in the neighbourhood.

Canadian Koalas

Especially at this time of year when daylight saving ends and the clouds close in, I find myself thinking of the brighter sun I grew up with in Australia. One of my strategies in settling in Canada has been to create, as far as possible, a kind of micro-climate that reminds me of my origins. We have a wonderful, warm sunroom overlooking our “back forty,” where we have planted some hardy Australian natives. Grevillea, bottlebrush, bushmint, wattle. And we have two splendid eucalypts (the fancy name for the trees I know as gum trees). My office overlooks the back forty, and I can look up from my computer to see the birds, squirrels, and neighbouring cats as they interact in a kind of National Geographic documentary. I can also enjoy the view of a slender, tall gum tree as it intertwines with our neighbour’s massive Garry oak.

Late in the summer, my wife Roberta and I were chatting in my office, when I glanced out the window and thought for a moment that I was hallucinating. There in the gum tree was a cute furry grey koala snoozing in the sun. A few unbelieving seconds later, and with the help of Roberta’s less Australian eyes, we realized that it was a raccoon. We grabbed a camera and ran downstairs into the garden to get a closer look.

No less than four raccoons were sunbaking in the tree—so far as we could tell they were a mother and her four young. We quickly took photos as they reluctantly decided that their privacy had been invaded, and, one after another, bumbled in



their leisurely way down the trunk, onto the fence, and over a neighbour’s toolshed roof on their way to some other quiet spot.

Roberta had met the family on the street a week earlier. Unafraid, almost friendly, they cheerfully roam the streets in broad daylight. No doubt other readers of this Newsletter will have seen them, and may also have lost fruit or had their garbage recycled by them. But I bet no-one else has seen our Canadian koalas.

Michael Best

Hospital Fan Noise

North Jubilee Neighborhood Association has set up a hot line to field comments about exhaust fan noise from the hospital. We’ve decided to do the same. I live on Davie St. near Fort St. and sometimes I feel like a now live near an airport., the hum is so loud and nonstop. If you have experienced problems with exhaust fan noise please leave a message at 595-4148. Include your name and address so we have an idea of how far the noise is traveling. Also, any information about when the noise is most noticeable would be helpful. Thanks. Liz Hoar

Useful Information from City Planner

At the October director's meeting we were pleased to host Lindsay Chase, the city planner who has been assigned to our neighbourhood. She brought us up to date on what the city has been doing. Most everything she mentioned is described in further detail on the city website.

§ 2003 Annual Report now available

§ 2004 Work Plans now available

§ Citizen's Guide to Rezoning Process is available at:

http://www.city.victoria.bc.ca/common/pdfs/planning_ctznsg2.pdf

She also mentioned a conference coming to Victoria next April that might be of interest to some: 2005 Planning Institute of British Columbia. Although it will cost between \$400 and \$500 to attend, there might be opportunities to volunteer at the conference and therefore get free admittance to some of the sessions. You can check for opportunities at www.pibc.bc.ca

For those with questions on secondary suites, the planning contact at City Hall is Brian Sikstrem. His email is brians@city.victoria.bc.ca

Bylaw enforcement is the job of Dan Scoones. If you have a complaint, it is highly recommended that you put it in writing, otherwise you will not get into the queue. Dan's email is dans@city.victoria.bc.ca

While looking through the website I noted that fall leaf pickup is scheduled for our Neighbourhood from November 15 - 26. Of course your garden would be happy if you left them behind, but sometimes they can get out of control.

If you have any articles or news items to contribute to the next newsletter, contact Liz Hoar at 595-2685 or Anna Drengson at 598-7004, email fudd312@hotmail.com

Vacant Lot: Bank and Leighton

Discussions are taking place concerning the property at Bank and Leighton. Efforts to keep it as greenspace have led to a proposal to have it assessed for its potential for restoration as a Garry Oak ecosystem. This assessment could involve an advanced student from the University of Victoria's Environmental Studies Program working both with the neighbourhood association and with the Garry Oak Ecosystem Restoration Team. If it has potential and the neighbourhood is committed to helping with the ongoing work of restoration, the city may be able to help us purchase the property. There are still a lot of loose threads in this proposal, but we are keeping the vision alive.

New Director for the Victoria College of Art

The neighbourhood welcomes John Harris, the new Director of the Victoria College of Art, who is looking forward to possible future collaborations with us – for example, our restoration project across the street from the College.

Car Thefts in Our Neighbourhood!

Beware: There have been reports of increased car vandalism and theft in South Jubilee. If you see anything suspicious please notify the police.



SJNA StreetFest 2004