



## **Residents Association of Strawberry Vale, Marigold and Glanford**

### **Newsletter Vol 2020 No. 2**

**Greetings RASVMG Members,**

#### ***President's Message***

*During these unprecedented times it has been interesting to experience the multifaceted impact of the evolving "new normal" and its effect on one's context for thinking and acting. 2020 ushers in - for the first time - four generations in the work force with vastly different career expectations and communication styles, additionally challenging the definition of "normality". Unlike previous generations, GenZ understands their normal, regardless of the pandemic, is "change" and that their success is largely dependent on how "change ready" they are (how quickly and adeptly they can respond to change.) They will need to constantly educate and evolve for success under pressure - none the least of which is inheriting the stewardship of our planet (themes many businesses are only beginning to understand as a result of the pandemic.) It is interesting to notice the businesses that have been able to embrace the sudden change and quickly pivot their businesses for success. The pandemic's impact continues to test all of us to adapt to change at a staggering rate. Government leaders desperately trying to balance the economic impact with outdated practices never designed to respond to current rate of change – the results of which will not doubt have far reaching effects for many generations to come. With the media reporting rising anxiety, depression and stress levels, perhaps comfort can be found in knowing how one chooses to respond to change, as opposed to trying to control change, is possibly the best tool in our personal toolbox. "People change managements" goal is to increase the early and successful adoption of change by communicating both the impact of the change and the benefit of the change on a personal level. As the "change" messaging regarding safety protocols for health care, business, education and social environments, in addition to risk groups based on health and age factors, becomes more "mixed messaging", it is difficult for people to understand how to safely come together and support each other rather than separate further. Hopefully, many of you will have taken this experience as an opportunity to get to know your neighbours better and support those in need with simple acts of kindness – including yourself. Personally, I like to find things to be grateful for each day and initiate positive conversation with those I meet during the day – often receiving a smile in return – even from behind a mask - lightening the atmosphere if only for a moment: it really does illustrate for me that while I cannot choose the changes, I can choose how I respond to them. I look forward to a time when we can all come together again, in person, for our community meetings, until then...*

*Be Kind, Be Calm, Be Safe,  
Hollis Hodson*



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#### **Board Meetings and AGM**

Although the Board does not meet in July and August, it traditionally hosts Music-In-The-Park, which was cancelled this year due to the pandemic and replaced with pop up bands at various locations throughout Saanich. Despite not having formal board meetings, the Board continued to work with Saanich and the community reviewing community development applications and kept up with the association's administration. RASVMG resumed meetings using Zoom in September. By now you should have received notice of the AGM to be held in November via Zoom. Having been in contact with other Saanich Community Associations regarding the various approaches taken for AGMs, in general the meetings are not hosting guest speakers, and are requiring advance registration to meet either Covid requirements or provide a basis for online meeting invitations. The AGM's primary purpose this year will be to elect its new Board of Directors. If you are interested in becoming of board member, please send an email to [info.rasvmg@gmail.com](mailto:info.rasvmg@gmail.com).

#### **Saanich News**

The association ran several ads in the Saanich news, which included community support messages using the symbolic "hearts and hugs" of thanks for those impacted and/or braving the pandemic front lines. The ad also notified readers about the postponing of the annual spring AGM and invited readers to complete the Panama Flats survey posted on the associations website ([www.rasvmg.org](http://www.rasvmg.org)).

#### **Panama Flats Survey**

An email to membership was sent out to compliment the Saanich News add and encourage survey participation. SCAN (Society of Community Associations Network) members were also informed of the survey and encouraged to invite their members to participate. The survey concluded at the end of June.

The Survey results were tabulated in July and the results were posted on the RASVMG website ([www.rasvmg.org](http://www.rasvmg.org)) for your perusal. The survey results will be used by the Board as a basis for planning moving forward to ensure the community's priorities for Panama Flats usage are represented and communicated to Saanich.

#### **Board of Director Update**

Huge thanks to Jeff Howard for serving the board as a director at large and leading the development application review process for the last several years and attending the Wilkinson Correctional Centre monthly meetings – his contribution will be missed. Thanks Jeff!

RASVMG welcomes Shane Bostock, appointed to the board as a director at large. Shane attended his first BOD meeting in September. Shane lives in the Marigold area and bring previous community association experience to the board among his many talents. Thanks Shane!



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Anja Nurvo has expressed interest in joining the board and attended the October board meeting. It is fantastic to continue to steadily increase the number of directors over the last several years and build the organization. ***Recruiting for directors is an ongoing activity, if you are interested, please send an email to [info.rasvmg@gmail.com](mailto:info.rasvmg@gmail.com)***. The long term vision is for the board to evolve to having an executive with three committees, representing Strawberry Vale, Marigold and Glanford, where the Chair of each committee will additionally attend the general meetings to address cross neighbourhood interests, such as Panama Flats, while ensuring key activities in each area are also attended to such as; Marigold/Interurban, Wilkinson/Interurban and Glanford streetscape improvement projects.

#### **Membership**

All current memberships from 2019 will be extended through 2020 and if needed 2021. If you know someone who would like to join the RASVMG, please have them send a request to the association at [info.rasvmg@gmail.com](mailto:info.rasvmg@gmail.com) Thank you.