



Qualicum Beach Residents' Association

2013/1

We Care

January 2013

Happy New Year!

The Board of Directors of Qualicum Beach Residents Association (QBRA) is pleased to introduce its first Newsletter of 2013. We aim to publish four newsletters each year beginning with this edition.

The purpose of QBRA is:

- (a) To encourage and promote the residents to improve their respective local conditions on political, social, cultural, economic and environmental matters that affect the residents in the community of Qualicum Beach.
- (b) To make suitable recommendations before Town Council regarding specific issues that both benefit and improve the quality of life in the community of Qualicum Beach.
- (c) To ensure representation of the Association at the Town Council meetings for information purposes.

In 2012, the membership of QBRA grew significantly.

The residents of Qualicum Beach have a lot on their minds these days. The headlines in the local papers set a negative and angry tone over the past year: “Qualicum Beach is Doomed” or, “Bring It On!”. Letters to the editor appear most weeks, expressing alarm and disappointment, sometimes outrage, with changes by the our Town Council to our Official Community Plan.

Opposition by Qualicum Beach residents to the determination of some of our elected officials to alter our Official Community Plan—just over a year after its completion—seems to be widespread throughout our community. We hear it in the coffee shops, the grocery story aisles and in the gallery of the Council Chambers. Our Board has seen it in an unprecedented surge in membership applications to QBRA.

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President's Report from the AGM Bill Adkins

I have served on the board of the QBRA for two years. In the first year I listened with great respect to all the reports from our representatives on the town committees. In my second year I was appointed as President by the Board on the resignation of Scott Tanner when he was successful in getting elected to Town Council. It has been an eventful year.

At the first meeting of the new Town Council most of the advisory committees were abolished. This was a shock as we felt it was one of the most important ways of providing community input to the Council. In addition there appeared to be some tension between the members of Town Council that did not bode well for the citizens. We realized that we must redouble our efforts in monitoring the Town Council meetings and providing our input on civic events whenever we could. We also realized that in order to be more effective we must represent a larger membership.

In the past year we have had a representative at every Town Council meeting and have made presentations at most of the public hearings. We have taken the position that the Quality of Life Survey and the resultant OCP represents the views of the majority of Qualicum Beach residents. The new Council has made several changes to the OCP that we have

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Facebook

The QBRA has a Facebook page. To get to it go to Facebook and search for the Qualicum Beach Residents Association. It is in its early stages but we will try to keep it up to date. If at least 30 people “LIKE” it we can do even more with it.

Board Meetings

Any member of the QBRA is welcome to observe our board meetings. They take place on the third Tuesday of the month at the Gardens of Qualicum Beach at 10:00 am. If you want something on the agenda send it in advance to the president, Bill Adkins 250-752-7971 or badkins@shaw.ca

Public Meetings

The QBRA Board is planning to sponsor public meetings in 2013. The first will be a community conversation on Ambulance Services and First Responders. Other topics that have been suggested are Transportation and Ambulatory Care. We plan to begin in the Spring and encourage our members to contribute ideas for topics that might be interesting for all our residents.

Do We Need A New Fire Hall?

This essential question was asked by members at our 2012 Annual General Meeting. We read in the local newspapers that all Town Council members agree that eventually a new hall will be required. There does not appear to be agreement on when this should happen, how much money should be spent on a new facility and where this money should come from. Also, there is debate about where a new fire hall should fit with other Qualicum Beach priorities.

The AGM attendees passed a resolution directing the Board to establish a committee to study the matter. At its last meeting, a Committee of the Board was established with the following mandate:

- to seek opinions of experts Re: the Firehall to use in consideration when reviewing the financing as designated by the Town.
- consider input of residents at a public hearing.
- and prepare recommendations to present to Council"

...President's Address Continued

suggested were unnecessary. These changes make it possible to build taller buildings in the downtown business core and to have residences on the main floor without a public hearing. Our position to Council was that a good plan would stand up to a public hearing.

As an organization we must work to preserve our beautiful small town. The character of our buildings, our gardens, our flower baskets and our community organizations make Qualicum Beach a great place to live and a tourist destination. Developers should be asked to keep their new developments up to the standards of the surrounding community. When the Council put a cap on upgrading charges to developers it potentially puts the cost of keeping the infrastructure up to snuff onto the taxpayer. In addition we felt that, while we supported the goal of increasing density in the Village area, reducing the development charges would have very little effect while possibly increasing taxes.

Our membership has doubled in the past year. Much of it was thanks to the work of Janet Raines and Iris Page. We still need a larger membership to have more influence in Council. We also need to provide more for our members. Our plans for next year include:

- a newsletter at least quarterly
- a web site for the QBRA
- a Facebook Page for the QBRA

I would like to thank all the board members of the Qualicum Beach Residents Association for all their hard work during the past year. Although I cannot mention everyone I would especially like to point out the work of Tom Russell who worked with others on the now defunct Parks and Recreation Committee to bring us Beach Days and Dave Golson who as our representative on FORA did outstanding work in conveying our ideas to VIHA and keeping us informed about what FORA was doing. A special vote of thanks goes to Qualicum Foods and The Gardens of Qualicum Beach for providing space for our Board meetings, and all the members for providing the support we need in order to have an effect on our community.

Bill Adkins, President

...Editorial from Page 1

Some of our new members tell us that they feel helpless.....what can we do, they ask? We're not sure ourselves, as Board members, but we sure are going to try.

We are volunteers and we are concerned residents. We need to come together with our neighbours to identify and understand our common interests as residents. Some of these interests may also be in common with those of developers, the business community and others and...some of our interests may be in conflict. Where there is disagreement, we need ways and means to compromise and, where necessary, ensure that the will of the majority is respected. Our Board believes that the fundamental relationship between residents and our Town Hall needs to improve greatly. Citizens advisory committees have been terminated, the provisions of the Local Government Act for 'public hearings' are very limited and the exhaustive process leading to an Official Community Plan can be easily reversed. Other vehicles for an effective relationship with residents—between elections--need to be established and respected.

For those who have recently joined QBRA....thank you for your commitment. The QBRA is forty year-plus Qualicum Beach tradition. We need it now more than ever!

Health Care Centre

From a Report by Dave Golson

The QBRA Board has participated over the past year with the local Federation of Residents' Associations. This group was formed to advocate for improved health care services in our area, following a report from 2000 in which it was recommended that five essential services should be provided in the Oceanside area. Only some of these are met by the new Health Centre and we need to continue to work until all the necessary services are available locally.

QBRA presentation to Council

(Draft)

At our recent Annual General Meeting it was pointed out to us that anytime we have more than two members of Council present they are unable to discuss anything that may come before Council in the future. We feel that this is an affront to democracy and must be a miss-interpretation of the Charter. In a town our size there are too many occasion when more than two Councillors will be at the same event. For example if more than two councillors are members of the Chamber of Commerce they can longer take part in the deliberations. At civic celebrations such as the book launch, beach days, flagpole dedication, we expect all our councillors to be present and no one would ever classify this as a meeting of Council.

The Community Charter, the new act that governs municipal government, states that a meeting is only constituted under three circumstances:

- scheduled by motion and recorded in the minutes.
- A special meeting requires a minimum of 24 hours of public notice before it can be held.
- In an emergency a special meeting can be held without notice but only with the unanimous consent of council.

Therefore in no circumstances would a gathering of a quorum of council be ever considered as a meeting of council nor would it ever be able to make decisions or promises in the name of council. It would merely be three or four councillors consulting with their constituents. Even if all the councillors were present, it would only become a meeting of Council upon receiving unanimous consent of all the councillors—and they would have to clearly name the reason for the emergency.

We want to present this at the Feb 4 Council Meeting. Please send any suggestions for change or additions to QBRA2010@gmail.com

**You are invited to a
Community Health Forum**

Presentation and Open Discussion about ...

Palliative, Hospice and Respite Care in Oceanside

Wednesday, January 30

7PM to 9PM

LOCATION – TBA

1. Guest Speaker:

Terri Odeneal, President, Vancouver Island Federation of Hospices.

Subject:

The End of Life Continuum – a review of all the Palliative and Hospice options outlined by the Ministry of Health in their 2006 document –
A Provincial Framework for End-of-Life Care

2. Discussion Portion of the Evening:

Open forum session to allow community residents to ask questions and offer perspectives about service delivery for Palliative and End of Life Care in Oceanside.

Please indicate “group” attendance by the number of those to attend from an organization. It will assist with our seating and refreshment planning to:

FAX – 1.877.395.3741

E: gsera@divisionsbc.ca

We received notice of this Community Health Forum. They want us to register as a group so if you wish to attend, please email badkins@shaw.ca or phone 250-752-7971