

# DEPARTURE BAY NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2nd Annual Halloween Howl

Bring all your  
little ghosts and  
witches to the  
**Departure**



**Bay**

**Elementary School gym on**  
**Halloween night** for some  
pre-trick or treating fun. We  
will provide some nutritious  
snacks to fuel your little trick  
or treater, and there will be  
games, crafts and storytelling.

Time: 5:00-6:00pm



Photo credit:  
Deryck Cowling

## NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

### Block Watch

The DBNA executive welcomed Cheryl Booth to our meeting in May to discuss the the Nanaimo Block Watch Program.

Cheryl is one of two Block Watch Captains for the Holiday and Fandell blocks. Recently we became aware of another Block Watch for the waterside neighbourhoods of Departure Bay Rd. This excellent crime prevention initiative sees a 40% decrease in theft for neighbourhoods with Block Watch signage. If you are interested in reducing crime on your block, receiving a reduction in your home insurance and developing a sense of community with your neighbours, contact Constable Gary O'Brian at the Nanaimo RCMP Community Policing Section at 250-755-3257.



## **Neighbourhood Night**

This year we are thrilled to be



hosting professional storyteller Margaret Murphy for our Neighbourhood Night. Margaret has been sharing stories for over 22 years. She is passionate about bringing history to life by sharing stories of colourful characters. Margaret will be telling stories that outline the lives of notorious Nanaimoites of the past, and include a poet, a teacher and even a hangman!

**Date: Thursday Nov. 28**

**Time: 7pm**

**Location: Kin Hut**

**Cost: FREE**

## **Departure Bay Road Speed Limit and Pedestrian Safety**

As you will have likely noticed, the speed limit on Departure Bay Road has been reduced to 40km/hr. This is a big win for our neighbourhood as we have ever increasing traffic. Thanks especially to Executive DBNA member Chuck Easton for his traffic monitoring efforts and liaison with the City of Nanaimo to make this happen. Well done!



With more pedestrians down by the beach, drivers need to be extremely cautious and focussed. For more information on being a safe pedestrian please check out :

<https://www.icbc.com/road-safety/teaching/Documents/teach-your-child-to-be-a-safe-pedestrian.pdf>

In related news, a number of concerned residents have started initiatives related to speed and safety throughout the Departure Bay area. Of particular interest are the excessive speeds on Bay St., the lack of cross walk/sidewalk on Departure Bay Rd. at the top of the steps coming from Woodstream Park, and the lack of sidewalk on the 7-11 side of Dep. Bay Rd. If you are keen to add your voice to the cause, please let us know and we can connect you to the neighbours leading the charge.

## **Departure Creek Restoration Update**

The creek now has a better functioning weir and a number of important additional structures in place to improve the habitat of the creek and its productivity. Many thanks to all of the hardworking volunteers who dedicated their time and muscles to get the job done! This project would not have happened without the support of our partners; the City of Nanaimo, the Snuneymuyw First Nation, and our DFO Community Advisor Erica Blake and D.R. Clough Consulting; and without the financial support of a



## **Beach Bonfire and Sail Past**



Is there anything better than a bonfire on the beach? Yes! A bonfire on Departure Bay Beach enjoying the company of our neighbours all while watching the Nanaimo Yacht Club Christmas Sail Past!

**When: Sat. Nov. 30**

**Time: 6pm**

**Donations of one or two pieces of firewood appreciated!**

generous donation received through the Nanaimo and Area Land Trust and the corporate in-kind donations from The Milner Group and Island Equipment Rentals.

## **Wardropper Park Outdoor Classroom**

Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Larsen along with their Grades 6 and 7 classes from Departure Bay Eco Elementary School are working in partnership with the city to clean up an unkept area of Wardropper Park. They worked hard to remove invasive species, clean up trash, trimmed back walking paths and also did some planting. The city came in and removed some dead and invasive trees. During their clean-up, the students came across a number of agricultural items that really sparked their curiosity. They researched the history of the Wardropper family who donated the land, and also did an historical interpretation of the artifacts they found. All of their research was uploaded to a website you can see here: <https://sites.google.com/learn68.ca/wardropper-park/home>



The classes raised money to purchase a plaque and buried a time capsule. Their plan is to continue working on invasive removal but also establish some learning areas out of logs and stumps. Mrs. Thompson keenly exclaimed “aside from the learning spaces, it's also just a great wild space too. It's different from other city parks with well-kept paths and designated walking areas. There are all kinds of loose parts for building, designing, and all kinds of creative play. The students can play where ever they want, move things around, and during each visit, there is always something new to discover”.

This space was planned and cared for with not only the students in mind, but with the larger Departure Bay Community. “We did it with them in mind. Our vision is to see it as a community space as well”.

## Goodbye

A big THANK YOU to Paul Winn who served as an Executive member of the DBNA for four years. Paul was instrumental in liaising with the City to make upgrades to the Off Leash Dog Park, served as one of the delegates for the upgrades to the Waterfront Walkway and continues to serve as a City Park Ambassador for Woodstream Park. Paul has supported numerous other DBNA initiatives. Thank you Paul for all of your commitment!

**We encourage you to pass along this newsletter with your neighbours and friends. Want to get more involved in the DBNA?**

**Email:**

**[dbna.nanaimo@gmail.com](mailto:dbna.nanaimo@gmail.com)**



photo credit: Deryck Cowling