

The Park News

Fall 2019



The Park Christmas Dinner

Saturday, December 7th

Tsawout First Nation Community Centre

Doors open at 4:30pm.

Dinner starts at 5:00pm

Tickets are \$25.00 and can be bought from

Lucy # 48 or Theresa # 19

Cut off for buying tickets is November 29th.

We have 100 gift draws along with a new 50/50 draw.

The proceeds will be donated to the Sydney Lions' Food Bank

\$1.00 per ticket or \$5.00 for 10 tickets

A professional p.a. system with beautiful Christmas music and a Christmas themed laser light show.

We will be singing Christmas Carols.

Christmas dinner is always delicious and plentiful.

Come and be part of your community. We need your support for our community. So being there is important.

If you can, come with a food donation or cash donation for the Sidney Food Bank to help others have a better Christmas.

Report from the Summer Park Social

The theme this year was a Harvest Festival and it was a great event. Many thanks to Teresa for hosting again and all the hard work by the Committee to set it all up and tear it all down again. Also, a big thankyou to the Committee for buying the fish for the party and a big thankyou to Teresa for cooking it.

There was more than enough food, and we had a lot of people. In fact, we had 32 residents and 2 guests come out for a total of 34 people. Teresa's back yard was filled with people.

The Committee did a great job creating the Harvest Festival mood. We had cornstalks and pumpkins, flowers for the tables, games to play and recorded music to help set the mood. And we had PRIZES to give away to our guests! Once again thankyou to the Committee for supplying the prizes. We couldn't ask for more perfect weather.

Here are the winners of our draw; Cheryl from unit #3 (Prairie Inn gift certificate), Pam from unit #23 (Thrifty's Smile card), Tom from unit #25 (Roost gift card), Sylvia from unit #27 (signed numbered print by Carol Lewis), Denis from unit #48 (Prairie Inn gift certificate), Audrey from unit #121 (Wine and cheese basket).

We are looking forward to holding another Summer Social next year.

Message from the Secretary

In my encounters with all the residents of this park I noticed a few of us are feeling a little sad and down these days. It's understandable considering how overcast and gloomy it can be this time of the year.

Here are some ways to stay positive and look on the bright side of life:

Gratitude - Intentional thankfulness is a sure way to brighten your days. Consider keeping a gratitude journal and write down one thing a day your grateful for and go back and read it regularly.

Smiling - Smiling makes you happy! And smiling at someone makes THEM happy. Smile whenever you can, talking on the phone, at the store, or whenever you are talking to someone.

Connect - Combat sadness by visiting a neighbour, make a phone call or join in park activities. There is an art show in the park next door on November 24th and our Christmas Party on December 7th. Go there. People will be glad to see you.

Message from the Park Committee

For those of you wondering about all those little lizards running around our park this season, Carmen, of our Committee, has investigated and found out about our little lizard friends.

She emailed Gavin Hanke of the Royal B.C. Museum some questions and he responded back. Here was his response; (Edited by James to fit onto the page)

Carmen: Are Lizards going to become a problem getting into our homes and sheds?

Gavin: Not likely they will go into houses, but sheds are probable especially as a frost-free refuge in Winter.

Carmen: Do they eat beneficial insects that help pollinate ground vines?

Gavin: We know they eat earwigs, ants, termites, wasps, flies, butterflies, each other, earthworms (even dried ones), and aphids. They also eat wind-fall figs, blackberries, blueberries, probably raspberries and one has been seen coring out the bottom of tomatoes (maybe for water).

Carmen: Will the snakes eat the lizards?

Gavin: Yes, but Wall Lizards also eat newborn garter snakes.

Carmen: Do the lizards have natural predators?

Garvin: Yes, domestic cats, Racoons, garter snakes, gulls, crows, maybe some hawks, American Robins, Steller's Jays, and House Sparrows. But they don't seem to be catching up to the lizard population.

Carmen: How can they be controlled?

Gavin: They are beyond control now. We should have attacked them in the 1970's when there were just over a dozen released at Ruby Road. Today we estimate about 500,000 lizards on Vancouver Island.

Carmen: Does sticky tape work?

Gavin: Sticky tape does work – but it is a cruel way to deal with animals. Maybe try spritzing Windex or spear hot sauce along the door frames. Or make sure the weather stripping is well maintained.

Carmen: Do you think the hotter summers are a cause of the lizard increase?

Gavin: Yes. Wall Lizards can get two clutches of eggs in typical summers, three clutches in longer dry years. But this year we have seen at least four.

Carmen: I don't think they like to get wet?

Gavin: Yes -they certainly do belt away when my sprinkler soaks their basking spots. They don't seem to like being showered.

Gardening Tips

Bird Friendly Winter Gardens



Many winter plants can provide food for birds that prefer seeds and fruit. Plants like Staghorn Sumac, viburnums, Virginia Creeper, Serviceberry, Winter berry Holly, Bayberry, and others provide fruit and berries that birds love. Evergreen trees can provide seeds from cones. Crab Apple trees can provide both fruit and seeds. Many gardeners find that berries are the easiest thing to offer, as most plants providing them are shrub-like and small.

Trees and plants in your garden can offer shelter to birds. Plants like shrubs and trees that maintain their leaves during the winter can provide cover from the wind, rain, and snow. Brush piles can also provide a safe place for birds to hide, try making your own from your fall pruning. Recycle it in the spring when the birds don't need it anymore.



Joke of the Day



A pastor, a doctor, and a big corporate lawyer out golfing and were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers.

The greens keeper happened by, so they asked him: "Say, what's with that group ahead of us? They're really holding everyone back?"

The greens keeper replied, "Oh yes, that's a group of blind firefighters. They lost their sight saving the lives of the people burning in our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime they want."

The pastor got all choked up and with tears in his eyes said, "These men are heroes. I think I will get my congregation to start fundraising to help these poor men."

The doctor got a lump in his throat and his eyes became moist said, "Good idea. And I'm going to contact my ophthalmologist buddy and see if there's anything he can do to help these brave men."

They looked at the corporate lawyer and asked what he would do to help.

The lawyer paused for a moment, shrugged his shoulders, then said "Naw, I don't need to do anything to help, these guys can play at night in the dark, lets just play through."

Park Residents Committee: Chairperson, Ann Miller 778 351 0114, Vice-Chairperson, Carol Lewis 250 885 2550 Secretary, James Dies 778-977-2497 Treasurer, Jaan Scheel 250 665 6137 Hospitality, Karen Fraser 250 656 3062 Members-at-Large: Detlev Szukalla 250 818 4211, Lucy Bandet 250 857 5109, Lilly Botting 778 351 4445, Margie Cogill 250 665 6137 (front entrance gardener, Sylvia McMahon 778 351 2888, B.J. Ward 250 652 4461, Teresa Britton 250 652 9664, Carman Robertson 778 351 3893

The Park Committee plans and organizes the Social Activities. If you need information on any social activities, please contact any Committee Member. For Park Issues and concerns please contact Park Management: Gus Underwood 250-652-3724 or Tony Underwood 250-652-5777. If unable to contact either, call Ann at 778 351 0114