

# THE SHANNON LAKE NEIGHBOURHOOD Advocate

PUBLISHED & DISTRIBUTED BY THE SHANNON LAKE NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

## ISSUE #1

### Pier Proposed for Shannon Lake Waterfront

**L**OCAL FISHING GROUPS and C.O.R.D. staff have proposed construction of a “community fishing pier” on the west side of Shannon Lake.

The proposal was presented to the Central Okanagan Regional District board at a special meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

According to the proposal, a community fishing pier would provide enhanced fishing access for children, the elderly, and others who cannot readily access fishing at Shannon Lake by conventional means.

They also proposed construction be completed by a team of volunteers recruited from local fishing clubs.

In response to the proposal, C.O.R.D. board members requested staff seek input from the “neighbourhood” as well as the District of West Kelowna.

West Kelowna Councillor and C.O.R.D. Board Director **Duane Ophus** opposed the proposal stating the pier would be “large and intrusive on a lake that size.”

He also expressed concern about parking and traffic flow patterns along Shannon Lake Road if the pier attracted large numbers of users.



**Pier Pressure...** Given the success of the Go Fish program, local fishing groups have proposed construction of a community fishing pier on the west side of Shannon Lake. The C.O.R.D. board requested “the neighbourhood” and the District of West Kelowna be consulted before proceeding further.

#### What are your thoughts?

- Would a pier increase the incidence of property damage in the park or the neighbourhood?
- Would a pier be a liability? Would it foster after hours use or attract more after hour parties?
- How would the proposed pier affect the natural setting and the aesthetic nature of the lake?
- Would it add value to the park? What other potential issues can you identify?

Forward your views to us at:

[opinions@shannonlake.org](mailto:opinions@shannonlake.org)

SLNA will collate responses, submit them to the municipality, C.O.R.D. and share them with readers on the website and subsequent newsletters.

#### ISSUES in this ISSUE

1. WILL A PIER APPEAR AT SHANNON LAKE? page 1
2. ROAD CONSTRUCTION AT SHANNON LAKE page 2
3. THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN... WHAT IS IT? HOW CAN YOU MAKE YOUR VOICE OFFICIALLY HEARD? page 3
4. UPDATE ON THE BLOCK WATCH PROGRAM page 3
5. SHANNON LAKE LIFE BY **DEBORAH GREAVES** page 4

## Message From the SLNA President

**S**INCE INCORPORATING, the elected officials on West Kelowna's Council have been busy. Our new municipality requires a vision, a working plan, civic by-laws and codes and competent civic employees to carry out the day to day business of the municipality.

It's not work that make headlines and it typically doesn't charge the electorate. Still, it's necessary work and it requires residents actively participate in the process - especially if our municipality is going to realize its potential. Ensuring our neighbourhood has a voice in the process is what our neighbourhood association is about.

We're an open group of Shannon Lake residents committed to ensuring our neighbourhood and community continue to be a great place to live, thrive, raise a family or retire in peace. But, we need your input!

Join us. Complete the form on page 4 and become a member. If you can write a letter, send an email, go to a council meeting, meet with an elected official or tell a neighbour about an idea or way to improve our neighbourhood your contribution is valued.

If you have an issue you think would be of interest to the community, please contact me or a board member by e-mail at: [slna@shannonlake.org](mailto:slna@shannonlake.org)

Dave Mathieson - *President*

## A Newsletter for Our Neighbourhood

**S**HORTLY AFTER moving to Shannon Lake, there was a knock at our front door. It was a C.O.R.D candidate greeting me with a smiling face and an outstretched hand. As I went to reciprocate, I realized I had just performed Pamper duty and thought I'd spared the candidate the... you know (the irony). I withdrew my hand and told him it was "nothing personal."

I told him I was new to the neighbourhood and interested in hearing more about local issues but "now wasn't a good time. Could he forward some info?"

He took down my name, number, and promised to call back. I never heard from him. Relying on him wasn't a way to become informed. Reading this newsletter ought to be. And, that's our goal. When it's convenient *for you*, let us know how we're measuring up... You'll hear back from us.

Gordon Wiebe - *Editor*

## ISSUE #2

### Road Construction at Shannon Lake

**T**HE DISTRICT OF WEST KELOWNA has announced a road improvement package for the Fall of 2009 that includes upgrades to **Shannon Lake Road**.

Details of the upgrade program are documented at: <http://www.districtofwestkelowna.ca/>

The surface from **Tallus Ridge Drive to Asquith** is scheduled to be repaved and a 1.8m bike lane added to the east side of the road.

These improvements may include curbs, gutters and sidewalks along-

the Tallus Ridge property and are currently being negotiated.

SLNA recognizes the importance of a safe pedestrian corridor along this stretch of Shannon Lake Road. Currently, pedestrians risk personal safety when using this route given the high traffic volumes and the number of curves.

Because it is the only pedestrian link between "Northeast" Shannon Lake, the elementary school and Westbank shopping areas, priority should be given to sidewalks and ways to improve safety.

## About the Shannon Lake Neighbourhood Association

### The Shannon Lake Neighbourhood Association

(SLNA) is a group of civic minded residents committed to improving the quality of life in the Shannon Lake neighbourhood. We strive to make our neighbourhood a better place to live, to raise families or retire in peace.

We seek, foster & promote:

- Ways to protect and enhance property values
- The maintenance and development of a planned transportation infrastructure which supports street safety and public spaces
- Public safety and programs designed to reduce crime
- Communication and civil dialogue between neighbours and residents by providing a forum & voice where issues can be raised, authenticated and discussed
- Maintenance of information pertaining to neighbourhood issues

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Dave Mathieson**  
PRESIDENT

**Tanya Lister**  
VICE-PRESIDENT

**Brian Gaucher**  
TREASURER

**Karen Flavin**  
SECRETARY

**Deborah Greaves**  
COMMUNICATIONS

**Cheryl Penner**  
DIRECTOR

**Gordon Wiebe**  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

### EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the Editor are encouraged. In fact, they're a moral obligation. If you have or know of an issue that affects the well being of the neighbourhood, please write. We reserve the right to edit for brevity, content and accuracy. All letters must be accompanied by a name and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication. Send to:

[newsletter@shannonlake.org](mailto:newsletter@shannonlake.org)

**ISSUE #3**

**Status of the Official Community Plan**

**A**N OFFICIAL COMMUNITY Plan (OCP) is required by every municipality in BC under the **Local Government Act**.

It provides direction and guidance for municipal bylaws that define policies for:

- location and density of land use and development for residential, agricultural, industrial, institutional, and recreational purposes
- protection of environmentally sensitive areas
- the phasing of community infrastructure (e.g., roads, sewers, water systems)
- the location and type of present and proposed public facilities (e.g., schools, parks, wastewater treatment sites)
- sand and gravel extraction
- targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

An OCP takes a long-range view - up to 25 years, to ensure the needs of all residents can be met in that period. For instance, if residential development is being planned, population projections (how many people will be born or move here), the municipality can estimate approximately how many new homes will be required.

**The OCP describes what types of homes (single-family, apartment, townhouses) are needed, and gives direction on how, when, & where those new homes will be located.**

This issue recently surfaced when residence of Tallus Ridge discovered that multi family housing was being considered for the next phase of development (↘).

An OCP may also include policies on:

- social needs, well-being, and development
- maintaining and enhancing agriculture
- protecting the natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity
- a regional context statement

You can participate in this process by becoming involved in the SLNA or attending the OCP open meetings in person.

SLNA will solicit feedback from Shannon Lake residents and provide feedback to authors of the OCP. Initial drafts have been completed and are available for review.

**ISSUE #4**

**Block Watch Update**

**T**WO YEARS AGO, the Shannon Lake Neighbourhood Association hosted an open forum centered on neighbourhood crime and safety issues.

At that time, the CORD coordinator for the *Neighbourhood Watch* program, **Duane McTavish**, presented the program to our membership.

This program has been replaced with the *Blockwatch* program.

The Blockwatch program provides street level solutions to residential security and is an initiative undertaken by residents themselves on a "block by block" basis.

The SLNA may try to convene another general meeting to help launch this program in our neighbourhood.

**ISSUE #5**

**Tallus Ridge Residents Oppose Development**

**I**N MID-AUGUST, residents at Tallus Ridge received an invitation to a meeting hosted by developer **Ryser Developments**.

At the meeting, the developer revealed their intention to build multi-family homes in the "southwest zone." This, they suggested had been the original plan citing a 2005 C.O.R.D planning document.

Neighbouring residents were outraged. Some had been told it would stay "green space." Others questioned the logistics of building multi-family homes there.

A petition was started and residents placed "For Sale" signs in their yards a means of raising awareness. Those signs have been replaced and the issue remains outstanding.

The Advocate is Sponsored in part by

**Why Not Advertise Here?**

- Rates are Reasonable
- It's Cost Effective
- You'll reach a smart, informed group of citizens

For information or a rate sheet, contact Gord at: newsletter@shannonlake.org or 250-826-7422

The Advocate is Sponsored in part by



**ROYAL LEPAGE  
KELOWNA**

11 - 2475 Dobbin Rd.  
Westbank, BC V4T-2E9

Cell: **250.215.1718**  
Bus. 250.768.2161  
Fax: 250.768.2342  
Toll Free: 1.800.747.6954  
akflavin@shaw.ca  
www.karenflavin.com

INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED



**Karen Flavin**

# Fall is fine, but do not fear when winter is near ...

By Deborah Greaves

**WE IN THE SHANNON LAKE** neighbourhood are fortunate. Most of us can walk right into wilder-ness within less than half an hour.

In the Shannon Lake area, natural parks filled with birds, Ponderosa Pines and small wild animals wind through several Westside neighbour-hoods, sometimes just a short walk from home.

At Tallus Ridge and above Shan-non Woods, there are trails leading into crown land forest areas and meadows that are still home to a wide variety of birds and wild animals.

Shannon Lake itself is home to muskrat and native Western Red-painted Turtles as well as birds and fish. If you haven't been getting out of your car between work and home, haven't walked around our nearby parks and trails, you've been missing out on a rich natural heritage as well as the healthy exercise and head-clearing.

Lovely Shannon Lake Regional Park and adjacent Shannon Lake golf course are the centrepieces of the community, affording fine views of imposing Carrot Mountain on the west

and a beautiful, tranquil area in which to walk, picnic, fish and de-stress in all seasons of the year. Autumn around the park and lake is gorgeous, but in winter, Shannon Lake when it freezes provides an entirely new set of pleas-ures.

Ice skating, hockey and ice fishing are some of the activities you'll see dozens of people enjoying in Shannon Lake Regional park when the lake freezes. Those of us who love the snap of cold winter air on our faces are walking on the park's level pathways, an increasing number of us using ice grips on our boots for sure-footedness when it's slippery. Little children are towed on sleds and thermoses of hot chocolate are toted into the park.

Another set of winter advantages in Shannon Lake: we're just a half hour drive from Telemark Cross-country Ski Club on Glenrosa Road and about forty minutes from a downhill ski and snowboard facility just a little farther up Glenrosa Road, Crystal Mountain Resort.

The fire of summer 2009 in the lower elevations did not affect the cross-country ski club area or the re-

sort. At no cost, you can take chil-dren sledding or go snowshoeing yourself on a lovely crown land trail just across the street from Telemark.

A local business, Selah Outdoor Explorations, takes people out day and night for mountain-top snow-shoe treks at Crystal Resort, high on Last Mountain. It's a whole new world up there, and on a clear night there are wonderful views. Winter in the Okanagan is usually mild com-pared to other parts of Canada, and the snow is light and dry. When it gets grey indoors, get yourself out-side to find out why this is often called a Four-Season Playground.

Later in another edition of this newsletter, we'll talk about wild ani-mal tracking. Meanwhile, we urge you to dig out your fleece, boots, fuzzy socks and warm hat, go and get some ice-grips, and prepare to enjoy the coming winter.

*Deborah Greaves is a business and outdoors writer and publisher of the book series, **Guide to the Wild Side of Your Neighbourhood in the Okanagan Valley.** Her website is [www.airwaterearth.ca](http://www.airwaterearth.ca)*

## Sign ME UP as a Member!

I'm For Making Shannon Lake A Better Neighbourhood!  
Please remit with a cheque for (a mere) \$10.00 payable to:  
"The Shannon Lake Neighbourhood Association"

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Issues & \_\_\_\_\_

Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

The above information is for SLNA purposes only and will not be shared with 3rd parties under any circumstances. Memberships expire at the beginning of the 2010 SLNA AGM.

Receipts Issued by e-mail (or hard copy if requested). Please send to:

**Shannon Lake Neighbourhood Association**  
c/o 2191 Shannon Way,  
West Kelowna, BC V4T-1S2

## Public Service Announcements

- NEW YEAR'S GALA - Westbank Chamber of Commerce & Agostino's Restaurant** will be hosting a 2010 New Year's Celebration at Shannon Lake Golf Course. This marks a return to a neighbourhood tradition of ushering in the new year at the Golf Course. Contact the Chamber at: **250-768-3378** or [chamber@westbankchamber.com](mailto:chamber@westbankchamber.com)
- SHANNON LAKE ELEMENTARY ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR** - The Parent Advisory Council at SLE will be hosting their annual craft fair on **Friday, Nov. 30, 4:30 - 9:00 p.m.** Contact **Jodi @ 250-707-3558** to reserve a table. All proceeds go to the SLE PAC & help benefit the school.