



July 2006

Heritage Expo and Tea

By Katherine Williams

Life is about new experiences. And although I live in Victoria—a city that thrives with English fare such as afternoon tea and fish and chips—aside from the obligatory trip to the Empress for high tea, I had never been to a “tea.”

I decided to remedy that by going to the Heritage Tea at St. Aidan’s church on March 25. The Mt. Tolmie Community Association was hosting this event, and had requested volunteers. I felt the best way to truly immerse myself in this new experience would be by volunteering.

Through my participation, I met many people involved in making this day a success: pioneers of the area and their families; the Mount Tolmie Community Association (of which I am now part); the St. Aidan’s Music Group, Church, Historical Committee, and Tea Group; Saanich Historical Society; Bill Nicholson, who brought the vintage cars; Stages Dance Studio dancers; the Royal Victoria Heritage Fashion Society; and neighbourhood emergency services providers such as Block Watch and Earthquake Preparedness.



Saanich pioneers: Irene McCoubrey (left), Jack Merrett (behind teapot), and Ken Stofer (right).

Ken Stofer, 85, is one of the Mt. Tolmie pioneers who attended the Heritage Tea to “catch up with the old timers and their children.”

Stofer was born in his family’s rented apartment on Pandora Ave. and then moved to the Mt. Tolmie area with his parents in 1925. Stofer willingly shares the history of the neighbourhood with others, both in conversation and by writing articles for local papers. Several of his articles and photographs adorned the walls of St. Aidan’s church for the Heritage Tea.

Because today’s world is filled with rapidly changing technology and seemingly constant construction, Stofer’s recollections of when, as a child, he was taken by row boat across Shelbourne St. when it had been flooded by Bowker Creek after exceedingly heavy rain, just to get to Cedar Hill School, and of herding cows up Stamboul, Midgard, and Mortimer Streets with his friend Phil Ellis, remind us of the roots of our city and the drive of the pioneers who helped make this a great place to live. Today the part of Shelbourne St. that was one time covered by winter floods, is now covered by Petro Canada and Shelbourne Plaza.

In 1947, Ken and Lynette were married in the old St.

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Aidan's church, a plain wooden structure built in 1894 capable of holding 150 people. The sanctuary of the current St. Aidan's church was built in 1960 to house the growing number of parishioners.

Today the church offers the community facilities rentals, thrift shops, and a place of worship.

In addition to highlighting the area's history, another function of the Tea was to raise funds to replenish the Emergency Kiosk supplies. The Emergency Kiosk is located at St. Aidan's Church (3703 St. Aidan's Street, at the intersection of Cedar Hill Cross Rd. and Palo Alto) and is funded by the municipality of Saanich and the Mt. Tolmie Community Association.

The kiosk is a secondary emergency reception centre, a place for locals to go if they are required to vacate their homes in the event of a catastrophe such as an earthquake, flood, fire, or snowstorm. First aid supplies, food, blankets, and water are some of the provisions available at the kiosk until emergency service providers,

such as the Red Cross and Saanich's Emergency Social Services Program, can be accessed. Usually, the Fire Department would authorize the activation of the kiosk.

To contribute to the community's awareness of safety enhancements, Saanich Emergency Services, including the Fire Department, Block Watch, and other groups, provided information to Heritage Tea attendees.



A young community association member takes a break from playing with the siren in the Saanich historic police car.

Horner Park Picnic

One of the things I like best about Saanich Summer Sunfest events is when they literally show up at my doorstep. The Mt. Tolmie Community Association Picnic is one such event. No need to drive, no need to make dinner, no dirty dishes, and the space to enjoy the company of hundreds of people! Hot dogs, drinks, Timbits, and coffee will be available as will games for children. This annual event was the first major venture with which the association was involved. This year's sponsors are Saanich Parks and Recreation, Fairway Market, McDonald's, and Tim Hortons.



Location: Horner Park.

Date: Wednesday, July 5

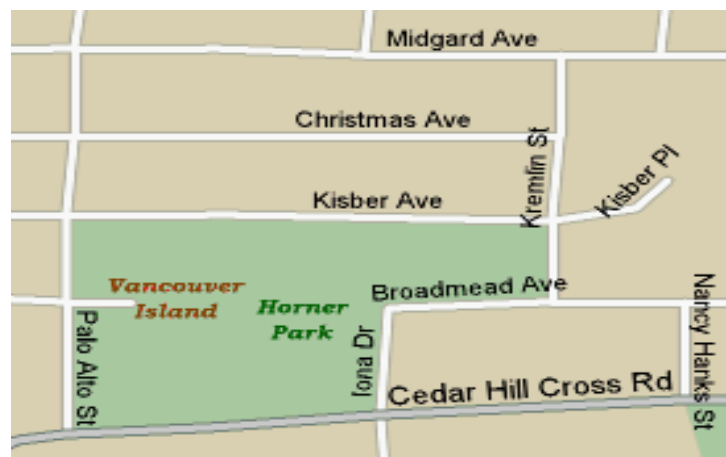
Time: Event from 5-8 pm; Food from 5:30-6:30 pm

For more information, please see the website mtca.ca or contact Jo-Ann 472-1400

Saanich Summer Sunfest runs from June 30 to July 9.

More info:

<http://saanich.ca/resident/community/services/sunfest.html>



President's Message

I hope you are ready for summer. The weather is warm and we live in the perfect location to enjoy outdoors. With the mountains and ocean so close, and walking and biking trails and parks, the possibilities are endless.

This past year the Mount Tolmie Community Association organized our second community expo – a heritage theme to coincide with Saanich's 100th anniversary. We had over 400 people enjoying tea, singing, dancing, viewing old photos and artifacts, and mingling with the pioneer families. I want to thank all of the executive and community volunteers who made this event possible.

Another Saanich centennial event was the unveiling of the MTCA community board at Shelbourne Plaza, located on Fairway's outside wall, close to the People's Drug Mart. The community board provides a forum for the association to inform the community of events and services.

The MTCA, the Municipality of Saanich, Fairway Market, Morguard Investments, and the merchants of Shelbourne Plaza jointly sponsored the board. We feel fortunate to have such a great communication tool and thank all of our sponsors for making this possible.

Of course, a favourite event every year for young and old is the Mount Tolmie Community Association Horner Park Picnic. Make sure to come out on July 5th and enjoy the food and fun.

Have a safe and fun summer.

- Patty Mack, president, Mt. Tolmie Community Association



Mt. Tolmie Community Association Board at the unveiling ceremony, February 21.

The Man, the Myth, the Legend



Ron Kirstein sampling some of Horner Park Picnic's finest dogs.

We are fortunate to have a full compliment of talented executive this year; welcome and thank you for your time.

At the same time, we say goodbye to Ron Kirstein, the man who founded our association in 1991 with the goal of having a voice within the municipality of Saanich when community needs surfaced or development occurred.

Ron has been my mentor as well as a mentor to many others. I know most of you know Ron; he is responsible for many of the positive changes in our area over the last decade. From sidewalks to community expos, Ron has been the driving force.

On June 8, the Saanich Community Association Network (SCAN) recognized Ron's community activism. Ron helped develop SCAN which links the many Saanich community associations in their common goals.

The MTCA thanks Ron for all of his work and wishes him well. We pledge to carry on his mission of fostering a better community.

- Patty Mack, president

Two Thumbs Up! By Katherine Williams

I want to extend my gratitude to the family on Glastonbury Rd. who let me use their phone, even though they had a group of people over to watch hockey. My dog injured her back leg on Mt. Tolmie and I needed to call for a ride home because I couldn't carry her much farther. Thank you; she's doing better now.

Both myself and Sharon are grateful to Doug and Christine who spent a good part of their Saturday afternoon sharing their tales of renovation highs and woes with us. I'm a firm believer in learning through experience – other people's experiences. Thanks again; your "new" home is beautiful.



**We're on
the web!**
mtca.ca

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Saanich Centennial Grand Finale Saturday August 26

Concert with Natalie McMaster.

<http://saanich.ca/resident/centennial/eventdetails.html>

The Mt. Tolmie Community Association welcomes Tim Hortons to the neighbourhood.

Coffee houses in the area now include Tim Hortons and Mac's Convenience Store in Shelbourne Village Square, Urban Cup and Bakery at 3690 Shelbourne, and in the Shelbourne Plaza – La Dolce Vita (next to A & W), and Starbucks (by the Liquor Store). Booster Juice is another new addition to Shelbourne Plaza and provides an option for those wanting fruit and vegetables other than beans (coffee).



The Association extends a heartfelt thank-you to all the volunteers who help make this community a community – the assistants at events and the newsletter carriers to name only a few of the many.

Delivering flyers and newsletters to condos has been a challenge due to accessibility. The Association would like to reach out to everyone in the community so if you know people living in the condos or happen to reside in a condo, please contact Katherine Williams to receive newsletters for your building.

Mt. Tolmie Community Association Executive

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Jennifer Duhamel, Secretary, 384-4818

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Dora Jessen, UVic Representative, 386-2747

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Peter Spurr, Planning/Development, 477-7678

Matthew Taylor, Planning/Development, 477-8960

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