



ROCKLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

Promoting Rockland's Unique Heritage

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The Mayor & Council
City of Victoria

25th June, 2013

Re: Rockland Public Parks

The Rockland Neighbourhood Association (RNA) respectfully wishes to draw the attention of Council to the current dearth of public parks in the Rockland area. As Council is no doubt aware, Rockland has but a single park, out of the more than 70 City parks administered by the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department.

A representative of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department attended a RNA Board meeting on 12th June, 2013, and provided a very helpful overview of the current situation regarding the development of parks in the City of Victoria. Further to this, the RNA would like to make the following points:

- 1) The RNA would like to express its desire and intention to work with the City, in particular the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department, to expeditiously rectify the imbalance of public green spaces evident in Rockland through collaboration on park planning and development.
- 2) The RNA urges Council to expedite the creation and publication of a Parks Master Plan. We believe that a Parks Master Plan is an essential component of the Community Plan.
- 3) The RNA has on several previous occasions brought the attention of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department to various properties offered for sale which appeared suitable for conversion into public green spaces, but for various reasons the procurement was not realized. We are aware of the difficulties attendant in procurement of such properties without a corresponding source for funding. In this regard, we propose that Council consider the possibility of applying a portion of Building Development Permit fees towards establishing a fund specifically for the development of parkland. This should of course apply city-wide, not solely in Rockland.
- 4) The RNA further proposes that Council investigate suitable methods of providing tax relief in the case where a property title is transferred to the City from an estate for development and use as a public park or other green space, e.g. trail or walkway, as a charitable donation or by covenant.
- 5) The RNA will undertake to notify the Council and the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department when suitable properties come on the market. One such

property which is of particular interest is the large lot on Oak Shade Lane which has been preserved in its natural state.

- 6) We believe that a list of properties was at one time drawn up in connection with the expansion of the Pemberton Trail; the RNA would like to obtain, and hereby requests, a copy of the relevant information for future reference.

Signed, on behalf of the Rockland Neighbourhood Association:

Janet E. Simpson,
President