



CASA LOMA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Newsletter - September 2014

Editorial Commentary

The summer months of July and August have come and gone all too quickly. We now move into the four remaining busy months of 2014. This Casa Loma Community Association ("CLCA") newsletter highlights some of our community activities since the last newsletter in May.

The highlight event of the CLCA's year is the Annual General Meeting which this year was held on June 14, 2014. An AGM is a great time to get together, initially with a family style barbeque, watching children (some young, and some not so young) have fun at Dupuis Park and then move on to the AGM itself.

Then, under the big white tent we gather to discuss local Casa Loma issues wrapping the afternoon with the election of directors. Thank you to all of the volunteers who made AGM 2014 an enjoyable event.

Mayor Doug Findlater provided an update to the Casa Loma community of what the District of West Kelowna ("DWK") is facing in overall civic challenges related to various community issues and projects provided by DWK over the past year including funding and taxation challenges which the DWK taxpayers face in the future.

The Mayor's update along with other DWK councillors and officers attending provides a great time to connect with our elected municipal officials in a casual setting.

The AGM is the one time each year where the members can speak to the current leadership, express their viewpoints on various topics and then collectively determine who leads the CLCA for the next year.

Elected as the eight incoming CLCA directors for the 2014 – 2015 AGM year was a balance of four incumbent directors (shown as (I) below) as well as four first time elected directors. Joe Gluska, Al Hildebrandt, Shelley Lynn Mazur (I), Gisela Scholze, Heather Schaub (I), Janice Spencer (I), Tim Stanfield and Rodney Wright (I) were elected.

With the maximum number of eight directors elected, the membership then elected the following officers. **President** - Joe Gluska, **Vice President** – Shelley-Lynn Mazur, and **Secretary/Treasurer** - Al Hildebrandt.

The CLCA directors held our July and August monthly meetings to understand what association activities need to be carried on from the former AGM year and see how we plan on organizing the next year's activities including setting up five committees. We looked at the major topics we would address in the next year as well as those which may become multi-year projects.

We are counting on our members to provide their personal input onto those projects and activities in person to our directors, as well as on our new website.

The CLCA was incorporated in 2002 by a group of Casa Loma residents. Over the past 12 years the CLCA membership received the majority of its "news" from the CLCA in the form of this periodic newsletter and at the AGM.

In the past few years as our community has grown, so has the involvement of more people and it's time to move to a more modern communications. We are proud to introduce the Casa Loma Community Website, which we hope will become another way of all of us staying in touch with each other, throughout the year, not just at AGM time. Coming Soon www.casalomacommunity.com

Editorial comments by Al Hildebrandt, Secretary/Treasurer of CLCA. Al can be reached at al@casalomacommunity.com.



Message from CLCA President Joe Gluska

As the incoming President of the CLCA I want to thank all who attended the 2014 AGM and contributed to a very important membership role for any non-profit, volunteer led society such as the CLCA.

My family and I moved to Casa Loma in July 2011. For over 30 years, I've been involved in many lower mainland non-profit community associations and know firsthand that to make any organization work well, it takes the dedication of many people to share the workload and make it enjoyable as part of a team.

Often the behind-the-scenes leaders and volunteers are not always recognized for their efforts. But without their effort and time commitment these organizations cannot function.

So, to ensure we recognize all the past efforts of everyone who has ever served in the CLCA as directors over the past 12 years and have volunteered their efforts to make Casa Loma a better place to live, I want to give them all a big and loud, "Joe Gluska" style, Bear Hug and THANK YOU.

I would like to acknowledge the 2013-2014 CLCA directors who decided not to run again this year and thank them for their efforts in our community.

Jim Laird served the past six years, Mike Budd the past two years, with both Patty Curran and Peter Poulton serving in their first year. Thank you to all of them for the effort to make Casa Loma a better place to live in.

As for our current elected board, we have a mandate to move the association forward. We need to ensure we are doing what the CLCA constitution was originally founded upon, but make sure we are relevant to our membership today, as well as future members we hope will join the CLCA.

Going forward the CLCA can be a more active and broadly supported community organization.

Over the past few years, I've met many residents in Casa Loma personally. My style is to meet and talk personally about the issues and what you care about.

I will continue to do so and encourage all Casa Loma residents to reach out to our CLCA directors communicating with each other. We want to make sure we are one strong voice of the community when dealing with DWK and the province as well as our surrounding community associations.
date.

We look forward to bringing a fresh new look to our association with our new website to be launched in September for all Casa Loma residents. This will be another avenue of online interactive communication as we gather your input.

I hope you had a great summer in the Okanagan with your family and friends, and look forward to our future together as neighbours in Casa Loma. We really do live in one of the best places in the world.

CLCA Directors

In Alphabetical order the following directors elected for the CLCA 2014-2015 AGM year are;

	Director Name	Position	Phone #
1	Joe Gluska	President	(250) 808-2049
2	Al Hildebrandt	Secretary/ Treasurer	(250) 878-9100
3	Shelley Lynn Mazur	Vice President	(250) 469-2822
4	Heather Schaub	Director	(250) 769-4630 (X375)
5	Gisela Scholze	Director	(250) 769-7123
6	Janice Spencer	Director	(250) 769-5179
7	Tim Stanfield	Director	(250) 808-4846
8	Rodney Wright	Director	(250) 454-6766

Casa Loma Community contact points.

Website	www.casalomacommunity.com
Membership	member@casalomacommunity.com
Information	info@casalomacommunity.com
President	joe@casalomacommunity.com
Secretary /Treasurer	al@casalomacommunity.com

Recruitment of new members (underway soon)

During the next few months, the CLCA will actively canvassing more of the area residents to join our association and to get more involved and make the CLCA a vibrant community organization.

CLCA Committees

In addition to the directors being involved in all director meetings and activities, we have formed the following five standing committees, where we feel there will be a need for ongoing and broader community involvement, not just with the directors. We will be inviting those who have a personal interest in any of these areas of concern to let us know your viewpoint and availability to help us out in these matters when more detailed input is required, such as community surveys.

- Communications Committee
- Fire, Safety & Traffic Committee
- Membership & Governance Committee
- Parks & Recreation Committee
- Water & Storm Management Committee

Volunteers who want to help in any of the above areas or volunteer potentials can check this out and register online at www.casalomacommunity.com.

Committee updates

MEMBERSHIP & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Membership rules According to the **CLCA Constitution, Part 2 – Membership**, anyone can apply to be a Casa Loma Community member and pay their membership fees. Then, the directors can accept their membership, if there are no reasons for objection to CLCA membership.

The CLCA constitution has not been updated since inception in 2002. Some clarifications are required and we want to give the members an opportunity to have a vote on the proposed Special Constitutional Resolutions to be brought forward at the next Annual General Meeting or a Special Meeting recognizing some changes may be needed because of our community's evolution.

FIRE, SAFETY & TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

House Fire The CLCA wants to pass its thoughts to Lou and Merle McKay whose house was damaged by fire on August 8th. We want to thank the neighbors who ensured that no one was in the house at the time and who took action to protect the adjacent houses prior to arrival of the DWK Fire Department.

We would like to recognize Shelley-Lynn Mazur and Dwight Unrau who were able to get into the house and rescue both the family dog and cat. Heroes live among us.

Block Watch

While we don't have an official Neighbourhood Watch program in place yet, the best defense is a strong offense. Get to know your neighbours. Be aware, and watch out for each other. If you notice any suspicious activities, contact the authorities. We're all in this together.

Traffic Calming Project As commented on during the recent AGM, DWK is conducting a traffic calming project in many areas of DWK, including Casa Loma.

Rodney Wright, Janice Spencer, Gisela Scholze, Tim Stanfield, along with long time Casa Loma Resident Heinz Zdrelak are the CLCA representatives working with DWK on this project.

At the Open House meeting held on August 20, DWK presented data from two separate speed studies carried out in April and July this year. It was determined that there was an 85% (operating speed) of 62/km/hour on Campbell Road. Results were consistent on both studies but the traffic volume increased in the July study.

In addition to Campbell Rd, the community identified other problem areas - in particular lower Campbell Road and the sharp corner at the bottom of Lucinde Road.

Based on input that DWK received both at this Open House meeting as well as the results from the Casa Loma traffic calming survey distributed, the community will have the opportunity at a future Open House meeting this fall to decide which solutions are best for the different areas of Casa Loma. The CLCA will update the timing of this next meeting.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Beach Restoration Project The Casa Loma beach access restoration is being actively worked on by DWK as a follow up to the original roadwork construction over the past few years.

On August 8, 2014 DWK met with a number of area residents to get their input. DWK has taken the information and will be putting together representative drawings for the restoration upgrades and a proposed budget which will be considered for the 2015 fiscal year improvements.

Walking and Bicycling Trails There is an ongoing project to link the walking and cycling trails from Vernon to Penticton as a regional project. An initial meeting with DWK was held on August 13, 2014. The CLCA's Parks and Recreation committee will keep us all updated as this project.

WATER & STORM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Ditches of Casa Loma project As we all know, the aftermath of the August 2011 storm led to the construction of ditches which were dug in front of 20 homes in Casa Loma.

What might have originally seemed to the DWK engineering department to be a quick, low cost solution certainly hasn't exactly turned out that way. Area residents with support from the CLCA members have been actively engaged with DWK on improvements to their improvement and restoration plans. A number of meetings have already occurred over the past few months, and we expect a further update from DWK in October.

According to the DWK this is a high priority item for them to deal with as it is for all Casa Loma residents that drive past these ditches. This is not just an issue for those with the ditches in front of their homes.

Development Updates

2211 Campbell Road Condo and Marina project

The applicant must provide DWK with additional detailed plans for housing development above Campbell Road as well as plans for a marina/moorage docks on the lower portion of property.

Nothing new has transpired since the original draft application presented to council. The CLCA will continue to monitor both these projects and will update you if new proposals are presented to DWK.

Benedick Road Development project

The development project at the south end of Benedick Road appears to have stalled as the applicant must address specific concerns regarding land slippage, storm water management and road access before this project would be considered by DWK.

The structures that were on the property posed a considerable fire hazard to the community and were beginning to be used as a part time shelter by transients.

The owner of the property brought down the vacant house and removed the truck trailer from this property. We would like to thank the developer for his actions

CLCA new member profile – Heinz Zdrelek

We would like to recognize one of our newest CLCA members. For those at the June 14th AGM you saw Casa Loma's longest resident, Heinz Zdrelek, now 90 years "young", relaxed in his chair holding his unique white cane.

Everyone who drives past the Zdrelek property every day probably wonder's what's all on the property. I'm sure more than once you've been envious of the fresh smell of hay cut several times a year and wish you could be out there with him and his family for that job.

Engelbert Zdrelek moved into Casa Loma in 1930 with his family including 6 year old Heinz and his older brother John and began the Zdrelek's influence in the Casa Loma area. Heinz married Elsie in 1948 and they have a daughter.



If you've ever had the privilege of visiting Heinz on his home-stead, you can see a vast array of historical construction items accumulated over the years. A story can be told about everything that is on their property, and in our community and Heinz remembers it all. Did you know that the Zdreleks ran the Casa Loma water works in those early days for \$3 a month?

Heinz felt it was time to become a CLCA member this year and be counted.

For a more complete story on Heinz Zdrelek, go to: <http://www.westbank.biz/images/heinz.pdf>

Note: if you know of any unsung Casa Loma hero's or special projects that would be of community interest, please let us know at info@casalomacommunity.com.

