

LLAPS Meeting Thursday, June 5, 2008

Ron Mc called the meeting to order at 7:00. Ron announced that there will be no formal meetings in July or August, though there may be some small group planning meetings held at the credit union on Jacklin Rd as need arises. Ron will be forming a committee to organize a pot luck social dinner at the park near Ma Miller's pub sometime in August.

Ron suggested that LLAPS purchase a number of Neighbourhood Watch signs and have them installed in visible areas near each of the lake communities. Bob P will check costs and an installation process with the RCMP and the City.

Joan gave a brief report on her bird watching activities and bird count. She was concerned that there was an absence of Stellar Jays around Langford Lake but Doug R reported there is a healthy population at Florence Lake eating his sunflower seed offerings. Ron asked Joan to provide a written submission to include in the next newsletter.

Jim Mc was invited to the meeting. He is involved with the Suzuki Foundation and the Water Watch Coalition. He has been involved in sewage treatment studies for the past few years and the report recently released by the provincial government to the CRD definitely suggests there should be opportunities to recover significant amounts of heat and possibly bio-gas from our local sewer system. This and other topics will be discussed September 25th at Isabelle Reader theater when LLAPS and the Victoria Water Watch Coalition host a presentation entitled "Is our water safe?" Ann N will be putting together an organizing committee that will meet at least once over the summer.

Steve A raised a couple of concerns:

- Maury Stearns has not been to any of our meetings recently. As a community member of the Parks committee, Steve wondered what plans, if any, Langford has for the lakes and whether Maury could be encouraged to come to a meeting to update us.
- Steve is concerned about the lack of volunteers for the weed harvester. Now that Ian has moved, there is nobody who has the expertise to repair or adjust the machine or to train potential operators. Bob reported that he has heard nothing back from Jason Parks requesting Langford take on the operation of the harvester. Ron suggested writing directly to the mayor.

Jerry (?) L was introduced. She is a contributor to Douglas Magazine and is doing a piece on the "Renaissance of Langford". She was invited to the meeting by Ron to get a flavour of grass roots environmental concerns.

Our guest speaker, Dr. Elaine Limbrick talked about the importance of mapping cultural and environmental sites in the Western Communities. She has been working with Highlands Council and a committee to produce a map of Highland green spaces and cultural sites. The "mapping" is based on work by Briony Penn and her book "Islands in the Salish Sea". Artists in the Gulf Islands were responsible for identifying cultural elements of their community and mapping them, and this has inspired Dr. Limbrick to

focus on similar mapping in the Western Communities as it encourages “cultural tourism”. She hopes to have the official mapping of the Highlands ready for public presentation at the Highland Fling which will occur in August.

Doug R confirmed that the orange goo is still seeping over a retaining wall built by Bear Mountain and finding it’s way into a waterway flowing into Florence Lake. Doug provided copies of a chemical analysis of the water reported by Jason Youmanns from Monday Magazine. The goop is evidently far more toxic to aquatic life than was originally reported in the Gazette.

Jackie F said there is now an orange goop appearing in one of the ponds in Hall’s Field that is finding it’s way to the culvert by the boat ramp flowing into Langford Lake.

Shelagh P suggested we contact Westhills to see if their water sampling is indicating increased levels of pollution. While the substance was not originating on their worksite, they also have considerable interest in keeping the lake clean and may have more clout in asking that the work near the ponds not harm the lake.

Ron wondered if we could find some scuba divers who might be interested in eyeballing the lake bottom to see what’s down there and to see if we can track new problem sites from older problem areas.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 with the reminder that Ann N , anelms@telus.net, is looking for volunteers to help organize the Sept. 25th Water Quality workshop at Isabelle Reader and Ron, rmacisaac@shaw.ca , is looking for volunteers to help with planning a pot luck social.

If you have not renewed your \$20 annual membership or would like to become a member of LLAPS. please contact either Ann or Ron at the above email addresses.