



How An Idea Takes Flight

Jim Harris | 2074 Candalera Place

It all started with a glass of wine

It is my pleasure to submit this article regarding how the neighbours on

Candalera Place came to organize a Community Block Watch Program on our street.

Being a Block Watch Captain in our last two neighbourhoods, I knew how valuable a "Block Watch" program could be ... not only in regards to the safety of our "hood," but also for the quality of life in it as well.

My wife Debby and I moved from North Vancouver to Sonoma Pines in June 2015. There were still homes being built on the street so we knew that most of the folks were likely in the same boat as us – new surroundings, new neighbours, similar stage of life, and perhaps other challenges that come with moving to a new location or city.

Clearly the Okanagan offers many advantages and activities to partake in – hiking, swimming, boating, skiing, golf, and other recreational activities – but developing new-found relationships in our neighbourhood seemed the most important activity to pursue. This is where the glass of wine comes in

Sitting on our front deck one evening, we noticed several of our new neighbours talking on the street, each with a glass of wine in their hands. Ding, ding, ding ...

"lottery win"! This form of activity is right up our alley, so we filled our glasses and went out to introduce ourselves.

While socializing that day, we talked about how we were all in the same boat – retired or nearly retired, new or relatively new to the city, and wanting to get to know those in our community better. We quickly decided to organize an official Block Party to get to know each other better.

The planning began – we set a date, organized a neighbourhood "contact list" with names, emails and phone numbers, and sent out an invite. We soon found that every one of our neighbours was equally pumped-up for our first block party. It turned out to be a wonderful evening with fabulous food contributed by each neighbor, a litany of fun games that made everyone interact and learn more about each other, lots of wine and laughter. In one night, we began to forge new relationships that continue to grow and develop as time goes by.

We have now had three Block Parties and I can confidently state that everyone is familiar with all 31 homes and families on our street and are now keeping an eye out for each other! We have formed a level of trust and support for one another that is especially apparent when anyone needs help with shovelling driveways, a last-minute cooking ingredient, fixing something in their house, and more. But

most importantly, we have taken an interest in our new friends lives and their safety.

To reduce incidences of crime and promote an increased feeling of security for our neighbourhood, we chose to form a BlockWatch program through the local RCMP. Our Regional Crime Prevention Coordinator, Roy Morgan, made himself available for educational sessions and has also provided a general list of valuable tips to help keep our homes and cars less inviting to thieves.

We and our wonderful neighbors are now looking forward to when the snow departs and the snowbirds return so we can have our next party! We invite other streets in Sonoma Pines choose to also join the BlockWatch Community and begin to reap the same benefits our street has gained from being informed, aware and neighbourly!

Christmas Lights



Christmas lights and outdoor decorations must be put away by March 31st.

Enjoy the "coming soon" long summer and the warmer weather just around the corner.

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Sonoma Pines Website and Sonoma Sun Newsletter

www.sonomapines.info

You can check here for most recent articles on the community, back issues of the newsletter, or copies of Council minutes and financial statements. Some pages are password protected so use sonomapines and you should be fine. If there is something that you would like to see on the site or in the Newsletter please email us at sonomapinesnews@gmail.com.



Irrigation Start Up

As spring is approaching, Evergreen Irrigation will be preparing for the season by starting up and testing/repairing the irrigation systems throughout the community.

Weather pending, the start up will begin in the common areas on **Tuesday, March 14th** and will continue the remainder of that week. For all single family homes, this work will commence on **Monday, April 3rd**.

For all single family homeowners, please ensure that your **water is turned on prior to April 3rd** so that Evergreen can effectively get all systems up and running. Any call back charges due to water not being turned on will be the responsibility of the individual owner.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Kanina Wright
Assistant to Mike Makin, Strata Manager

OUR CANADA GOOSE



Many people can recognize a Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* by its characteristic black head, white cheek patches, and long black neck. However, there are several different races, so a Canada Goose in one region may be quite different from a Canada Goose in another. Although there has been some disagreement about the exact number of races of Canada Geese, most scientists believe that there are 11.

Members of the different races range in size from one of the smallest geese, the Cackling Canada Goose, which can weigh as little as 1.1 kg, to the largest of all geese, the Giant Canada Goose, which can weigh up to 8 kg. Wingspans vary between about 90 cm and 2 m. The underparts range in colour from light pearl-grey to chestnut, and even blackish brown. Differences in body proportions, particularly the relative length of the neck, the body shape, and the body stance, further distinguish the different races. In general, the larger the bird, the longer the neck and the more elongated the body. Please note: Four former races of Canada Goose are now considered a separate species, the Cackling Goose. These geese all breed in the Arctic, and in general, they are smaller than Canada Geese. A revised version of this fact sheet reflecting this change will be posted soon.

Newly hatched Canada Geese have a coat of yellow to olive down that darkens to dull grey over the first few weeks of life. As the birds grow, feathers gradually cover the down, and by the time the young geese are ready to fly in late summer, they are nearly indistinguishable from their parents. From that point on, both males and females look the same throughout the year.

Goslings begin communicating with their parents while still in the egg. Their calls are limited to greeting "peeps," distress calls, and high-pitched trills signaling contentment. Goslings respond in different ways to different adult calls, indicating that the adults use a variety of calls with a range of meanings to communicate with their young.

Signs and sounds

Flocks of migrating Canada Geese are readily recognized by their irregular "V" formation as they pass overhead in spring and fall. They can often be heard as well, since there is usually a steady chorus of honking. Their calls range from the deep *ka-lunk* of the medium and large races to the high-pitched cackling voices of smaller races. Researchers have determined that Canada Geese have about 13 different calls ranging from loud greeting and alarm calls to the low clucks and murmurs of feeding geese.

REMINDER TO ALL DRIVERS IN SONOMA PINES COMMUNITY

As spring quickly approaches the street cleaners, landscapers, irrigation specialists, and maintenance crews will be back out in the field and travelling our streets.



Please help keep them safe and productive in their greatly appreciated efforts to maintain Sonoma Pines as one of the premier retirement communities in the Okanagan.

The speed limit within Sonoma Pines is 40 KPH and is under the enforcement of the RCMP.

NOTE ON THE LOWER RV LOT



The Lower RV Lot is under the management of Associated Property Management and any inquiries should be directed to Kevin at 250 712-0025.

Sonoma Pines Home Owners Management Company Ltd. does not have any responsibility with respect to the management of this site.



Central Okanagan Clean Sweep Ltd.



OK Clean Sweep Ltd

Central Okanagan Clean Sweep Ltd.
Residential, Commercial, Window Cleaning,
Landscaping Services

okcleansweep@shaw.ca

(250) 707-1077

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www.okcleansweep.com

Sonoma Pines Calendar Of Events

Calendar click here: <http://www.sonomapines.info/calendar/>

Happy Hour



St. Patrick's Day Happy Hour: Wear your green or, bring your green beer to our St. Patrick's Day Happy Hour **Friday March 10th**

from 4pm - 7pm. Please bring an appetizer to share (think of something Irish), or if you are unable to the cost will be \$10.00 per person. We will supply the desserts. There will be a gift basket to raffle off. Please bring your own refreshments. Just remember no matter where you are from, we all have a little Irish in us on St. Patrick's Day. Leprechauns are welcome!



Happy Hour Friday March 24th from 4pm -7pm. Please

bring an appetizer to share, but if you are unable to the cost will be \$10.00 per person. We do try to encourage people to bring a dish to ensure we have enough for everyone. We will supply the dessert. Please bring your own refreshments. See you there!



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St Patrick is known as the patron saint of Ireland.

True he was not born Irish, but he has become an integral part of the Irish heritage, mostly through his service across Ireland in the 5th century.

He was born about 390 AD. His birth place is either Scotland or Roman England. His real name was probably Maewyn Succat. Though Patriciu's was his Romanticized name, later becoming Patrick.

He was the son of a Roman-British army officer growing up normally as other kids. However, one day a band of pirates landed in south Wales and kidnapped this boy along with many others. He was in slavery in Ireland for 6 years. Finally, he did escape and went to Britain then France.

He joined a monastery and studied under a Bishop. When he became a Bishop he went back to Ireland to tell them about God. He converted the Gaelic Irish who were Pagans. He made important converts even among Royal families. For 20 years he travelled Ireland, establishing monasteries, schools and churches.

By the end of the 7th century Patrick had become a legendary figure. It is said he used the three leafed shamrock to explain the Trinity, which refers to the

combination of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Legend says that Patrick put the curse of God on venomous snakes in Ireland and drove them all to the sea. He died on March 17, AD 461.

The leprechaun, a Celtic fairy, has also become known as a chief symbol for St. Patrick's Day along with the Shamrock. So, every year the Irish and the Irish-at-heart across the globe observe St. Patrick's Day.

What began as a religious feast day for the patron saint has become an international festival celebrating Irish culture with parades, dancing, special foods and whole lot of green.



Happy Hour - Trivia Night

Our last Trivia night was such a success that we will be having another one on April 7th, from 4pm to 7pm. Please bring an appetizer

to share, but if you are unable to the cost will be \$10.00 per person. We do try to encourage people to bring a dish to ensure we have enough for everyone. We will supply the dessert. Please bring your own refreshments. This should be lots of fun and there will be prizes for the winners. **This event will be limited to the first 60 people.**

To save a spot, please contact either:

Lorna Wright lorna-wright@shaw.ca

250-452-9872 or

Sharon McNichol mcnicholgs@gmail.com

778-754-0777

If you are interested in past copies of the Newsletter or more information on

The Sonoma Pines Community please check out the website at: sonomapines.info



Have some news that you'd like to share with your neighbours?

The Sonoma Pines Facebook group is growing and you can join by [clicking here.](#)

Letters



Please send your comments and letters to sonomapinesnews@gmail.com

Sonoma Pines Activities & Contacts

Quilting

Gaye Hunter at
250 768-0996

Painting Club

Glen Heming
[250-768-0991](tel:250-768-0991)
glenheming@telus.net

To place notices, on the Bulletin Board, please contact:
John Cole 778-754-7265

Clubhouse Rentals

If you are interested in reserving the Sonoma Pines Clubhouse and require any information please call Tom McEwen at 250-768-3439 or Jean Scheidl at 778-754-1884

Rental Forms and Insurance Information are now on line at www.sonomapines.info under the Clubhouse tab.