

2023-04-10

Spring Newsletter

Casa Loma Community Association



Spring has Sprung

As the temperatures warm, we spend more time outdoors exploring this wonderful community we call home. It is the time of year when kids of all ages and abilities dig out their bikes and trikes, helmets, and scooters, enjoying the fresh spring breeze as they travel between our local beaches and playgrounds. It is also the time of year that we remind motorists to slow down and watch for children and pedestrians who are out cycling or strolling our streets.

While we are blessed with abundant recreation, we do not have sidewalks, crosswalks, or streetlights. However, we have four-way stops, speed limits, and playground zones. Please respect them.

As we look forward to sunny days, beach time, and strolls through local parks and byways, let's make sure we do our bit to keep our community safe for everyone.

- Let's keep our furry friends on leashes unless we're strolling through off-leash dog-friendly areas. As many of our local pet owners know, several designated dog-friendly beaches exist in Kalamo Park.
- Speaking of beaches, the community has four designated swim areas for people. These areas are not for motorized watercraft, so please keep your boats away from community swimmers.
- We enjoy a public boat launch that allows folks to safely access the wonders of Okanagan Lake. Please use the launch respectfully. Ensure boat passengers load off the launch at the launch as the public dock is in a designated swimming area utilized by children and swimmers - loading or unloading boat passengers from the public dock is not allowed.
- When cleaning gardens and yards, remove fire hazards, including dead debris, from your property. Let's all be Fire Smart together.
- Be bear and rodent aware. We live in a wildlife corridor alongside a pristine regional park home to an abundance of hungry wildlife this time of year. Keep your garbage bins secure and food inside until garbage day. It is our responsibility not to habituate the wildlife.

As stewards of Casa Loma, we are fortunate to live and play in a pristine playground. Take time to say hello and get acquainted with your neighbors, join Block Watch, volunteer for a neighborhood clean-up, or add your skills, talent, and energy as a Casa Loma Board of Directors member.

Become a community member! Your contribution of \$15 a year ensures that we have representation with West Kelowna City Council on the things that matter most to us and continue to have fun community events like the Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Casa Loma Easter Egg Hunt



That was one busy bunny! The Casa Loma Easter Egg Hunt is growing by leaps and hops yearly, with more and more little egg hunters moving into the community. Saturday, April 8,

2023, saw close to ninety neighbors of all ages gather in Dupuis Park to join in the festivities, treats, and face painting.

Chocolates, treats, and laughter filled the park as children raced about filling their baskets with sugary treats and bigger kids filled steaming mugs with other tempting treats. Bubbles and bunny ears were abundant again; it was an eggceptional community celebration.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made this day possible.

Special thanks to our extra special bunnies: Sheri, Brenda, Dal, Freddie, Shelly, Amy, Cory, Jill, Natalie, Mary Jane, and all the tweenage bunnies who helped paint little faces.

Kalamoir Park Input

Kalamoir Park is an integral part of our neighborhood, offering residents of Casa Loma and beyond the opportunity to safely experience the outdoors in a pristine and natural setting. The rambling pathways encourage people to slow down, pick their pace and share the trails with walkers and hikers of all abilities.

Located on the west side of Okanagan Lake, it remains pristine - unfettered by retired railway tracks or roadways that encroach on shorelines preventing animals' access to and from the lake. To this day, Kalamoir Park boasts a natural landscape for non-motorized recreation. In a region where over-tourism sneaks up on communities, we are fortunate to enjoy a sanctuary that provides the citizens of West Kelowna safe access to the lake.

The City of West Kelowna is seeking the input of locals to determine the future use and development of Kalamoir Park. The District of Central Okanagan is creating a new plan to guide the management of Kalamoir Regional Park over the next twenty years. We strongly encourage community members to weigh in on what that looks like.

This Sunday, April 16, from 10 am until 2 pm, members of the Casa Loma Board of Directors will join the Friends of Kalamoir Park just north of the Collens Hill Road waterfront parking area. If you're looking for a reason to stroll, this is as good as it gets.

If you can't make it this Saturday, we strongly encourage you to visit the website <https://yoursay.rdco.com/> . The Regional District will accept comments until April 30, 2023.

Earth Day Clean Up

This newsletter's theme focuses on gathering with your neighbors and community stewardship. We have a great event that encourages you to stroll with your neighbors as we clean up the community for a new season of fun and rejuvenation.

Our Clean Up Casa Loma Earth Day event is on Saturday, April 22, 2023. Participants will meet and greet in Dupois Park at 10:00am before executing their clean-up mission. Garbage bags and gloves will be provided; bring your smiles and sunscreen as we do our bit together to be "part of the solution."

Casa Loma AGM and BBQ - June 17, 2023

Rain or shine, bring your lawn chair and head down to Dupois Park at 11:00am to partake in the fun and food. Gather as neighbors to celebrate the 25th milestone anniversary of the Casa Loma Community Association.

We'll discuss our community vision, priorities, and ideas. The Mayor, City Counselors, and Fire Chief typically attend, and we expect a few more officials to join the celebrations this year. We'll also have a booth where you can sign up for your community membership. We need your support to ensure the Association remains responsive and relevant to the community's needs for the next 25 years.

This year we're exploring a few ideas to change and mix it up. Gone is the community garage sale as we explore a community swap meet where neighbors can barter their

wares, collecting honor donations for their gently used treasures while raising much-needed funds for a designated charity. We encourage everyone to bring donatable items to the event to display in bazaar-style tents where people can take what they need for a small donation. What's left at the end of the day will be picked up by a local charity.

Where should our cash donations go? The Central Okanagan Food Bank and Mamas for Mamas and Women's Emergency Shelter are a few charities community members have suggested. It has been a challenging year for many, and our gesture will make a big difference in the ability of these charitable organizations to help those who need a hand up during tough times.

Watch for updates on the event coming to your inbox soon and consider letting your name stand for consideration as Board Director representing the needs of Casa Loma in the upcoming 25th elections.

Visit our website for more information, or contact our standing President, Ryan Holt, to express your interest in getting involved as a member of the Board of Directors.

