

THE SPIRIT OF NICO WYND

nico-wynd estates



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Comings and Goings

We extend a sincere and warm welcome to the following newcomers to Nico Wynd: *Meri and Dick Wilson*, the *Cheungs*, and *Byron and Nancy Paul*. We look forward to seeing each of you at our many social activities.

Sadly we report the deaths of *Evelyn Hogg* in May, *Angelo Sacchi* in July and *Mariette Smith* in July. These members of our community will be greatly missed. We offer condolences to their loved ones.



Many Thanks

Throughout the year Nico Wynd benefits from the countless hours of volunteer time devoted to keeping the complex running smoothly and efficiently and I am going to try to encompass these contributors in this article. If anyone notices a lapse - firstly, I apologize - and secondly if I could be notified I will rectify the situation next newsletter. There is no particular order to this stream of consciousness – so here goes.



To our outgoing Council – *Chris Lythgo*, *Walter Davidson*, *Judy Crooks*, *Jack Girvan*, *Don Pickerill* and *Herb Tyler* who have accomplished so much during their term of office. Well done!



Also, to the invaluable *Dave Roberts* who does so much for the complex that it is impossible to calculate. Many of us think of him by the sobriquet of “Mr. Nico Wynd”. We cannot forget, either, his wonderful wife *Pat* who has contributed so much to the social life here.



to *Joan and John Racey* who have done so much to keep the Marina running smoothly. In addition, *Joan* spearheaded the Garage Sale in June.



to *Bob Kurys* who has had a large hand in keeping the Golf Course running smoothly as well as for organizing the all-important Divots Days.



to *Pat and John Rudl* who refinished the pool deck surface. This was a huge task. *John* also undertook to install the sound system in our refurbished social rooms.



to *Norma Janzen* who not only chairs our Safety and Security Committee but also undertakes many volunteer activities in the wider community including becoming involved with the Habitat for Humanity organization in which she participated by going to El Salvador in June.



to *Audrey Elliott* who had a busy June. *Audrey* was involved in organizing the very successful Scramble as well as the Garage Sale. *Audrey* is another stalwart who can always be counted on the do whatever is required to make the running of Nico Wynd more efficient.



to *Ron Allison*, not only for heading the Landscape Committee but also for his very substantial contribution to the installation of the watering system that is assisting in the improved appearance of our landscaping.



to *Sandi Scott and Doreen Larter* for the successful Ladies Niners golf and Invitational Dinner. The evening was a smashing success.




to *Jane Lythgo* who directed the well received entertainment "All That Jazz" for the Ladies Niners Golf Invitational.. *Jane* is a talented singer and entertainer who belongs to the internationally award winning Westcoast Harmony Chorus. They will be competing in Hawaii in 2008 and we wish them all the best!



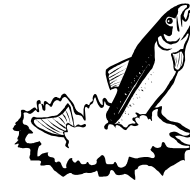
and, speaking of *Jane*, we must also add that husband *Chris* who not only contributed massively as President of the Strata Council, also found time to present a slide show about his experiences in Afghanistan. This was extremely well received.

...3

to *Jack Fortin*,  entertainer ‘par excellence’ who has given so much of his time to Nico Wynd social affairs and to *May*, Jack’s devoted ‘groupie’. 🎵🎵



Thanks also to *Larry MacDonald* who often acts as Master of Ceremonies; *Terry Graydon* for thinking of the “*Jimmy Stewart*” refreshments at the Scramble in June; to *Ken* and *Deb Bentley* for cleanup assistance; , *Viv Halpenny* for emceeing the Ladies Niners Golf Invitational and just for being *Viv*;, to *Jane Lythgo* and *Rick Weldon* for organizing the Bocce and Tennis Tournaments; to *Cecil Darby* for his well received Movie Nights; to the various committee members – too many to mention individually, but who contribute huge amounts of time – Budget and Finance, Social, Security, Long Term Maintenance, NW Tomorrow, Ladies and Men’s Niners as well as Landscaping and Adopt-a-Street Programm, and to all of the residents who contribute their time to keeping the gardens looking top-notch. We cannot possibly generate enough money to hire people to do all of the work of our volunteers. ♥



Life in and On the River by *Don Pickerill*

Our little community nestles alongside the Nicomekl River, downstream from the flood control gates, under the Elgin Bridge, and about two miles upstream from the river mouth at Crescent Beach. The river was named by First Nations people, retained by the earliest European settlers, and unfortunately, the exact meaning of “nicomekl” appears to be lost in the mists of time.

The “Nik” is a very healthy river. Since the banning of DDT, the raptor population has increased, and the salmon runs are getting larger every year.

Our river has a resident population of Great Blue Herons, Canada Geese, Mallards and some small waders, called “yellowlegs”. These last little guys are frequently referred to as sandpipers, and tend to occupy the small island (at lower tides) adjacent to the second hole—third tee blocks. They prance around on their stilted yellowlegs, and are always bobbing their heads. They feed on small insects and larvae found in the mudflats. They are a migratory bird, and tend to mass further out in the bay in spring and fall. Like some of the Canada Geese, a few seem to enjoy the climate here and there always seems to be a few that “miss the flight” each year.

Seals are frequently seen in the river, especially at high tide during the salmon run. With the flood gates closed by the tidal action, any salmon hatchery in the river between the mouth and Elgin Bridge are essentially trapped on their upstream journey, and the seals take full advantage of the “smorgasbord”.

Our river hosts annual runs of Coho, Pink and Chinook salmon. The Chinook were reintroduced to the river about ten years ago, by a private group, and the returns have been stunning. Fish in the 20-30 pound range are being caught in the bay, and many of us have seen a seal come up with a “whopper” in its jaws. The Coho and Pinks are indigenous to the river, and their return is remarkable, in that they are all wild fish, with no hatchery support.

Another largely unseen fish is the Cutthroat Trout. There is a large migratory school which returns to our river each year. These tend to weigh in at one to two pounds, and get their name from the bright red band behind the gill openings. The Federal fisheries people have been electronically tagging these fish for several years and have discovered that their winter route takes them down the Pacific coast to the environs of San Francisco.

Right now the salmon run is starting, so check out the tide tables, spot the seals (usually the area from the boat launch to the marina, is best) and watch Mother Nature in action.♥



The Nico Wynd Golf Course by *Bob Kurys*

The sounds often heard this summer.

“The golf course is in such good shape.”

“The deck is a really pleasant place for a snack and drink.”

“Thanks everyone for coming out to our tournament/event today, we hope you had a great time.”

After a miserable winter and spring season the golf course flourished this summer. Time after time, whether it was residents or public players, club play, or tournament play, we saw plenty of smiling faces. Weather permitting and sometimes not permitting, the golfers came out and enjoyed.

The new top dresser was used for a regular light sanding program which enhanced the fairway grass and will improve winter conditions. Unfortunately the course did not come out of the rough winter season completely unscathed. We have 35 or so trees which need to be replaced for one reason or another. Some were damaged by storms, some have been infected and some have just reached the end of their lifespan. A tree replacement program will be started soon. Also, we hope to improve the drainage by adding a couple of pump stations over the next couple of years. Many of you will remember the high pressure pumps that were brought in during the spring to alleviate the flooding. The pump stations will help us be more proactive in reacting to high water levels. Finally, we hope that we will be able to improve the appearance of the 4th hole ponds by installing a series of low trumpet plume fountains.

In the Grill, the new Point of Sales terminals improved the speed and quality of service. After the initial learning period, tee times are now booked more quickly and efficiently. With the additional terminal customers can be served at the counter at the same time. Also, the seating was improved which should allow us to accommodate more golfers during the inclement weather. Over the next year, we hope to incorporate the new storage space into the Grill operations. The new storage space should alleviate the problem of stock shortages which we have now due to space limitations.

You can walk by the patio deck almost any time of the day or evening and there will be somebody there enjoying the view while having a snack or beverage. Trevor and Bob are the long time members of Grill / Pro Shop crew which is led by Logan. They, along with a crew of summertime seasonal helpers, provide the service required to support this success story.

Then there is that group of people who make this golf course operation unique – the resident volunteers. There are about 25 residents who make up this group, too many to name here. We know who they are and we appreciate them. These are the folks who run the Niners and Lady Niners, help out with their special events, help with the various Men's and Ladies clubs, garden, transplant, and weed, paint, build tee collection boxes, fill divots (3 divot days this year), repair and serve on the Golf Operations Management Committee. To all of the above, many thanks.

A reminder that, as in most years, members rotate off the Golf Operations Management Committee. Please consider serving on this committee. We can always use fresh ideas.

I'm writing this on a warm sunny day in early September. The sun is still shining and there is time for nine holes. Then, perhaps, we will stop by the patio deck to mellow out and watch the sun slide over the horizon, hopefully in the company of other likeminded neighbours who include this time amongst the many things to enjoy at Nico Wynd.

“If I hit it right, it's a slice. If I hit it left, it's a hook. If I hit it straight, it's a miracle.”
Author Unknown ♥

Update on Parklane's Southport by *Myles Parsons*

It's an anthill of activity around here these days – not only on Nicowynd with painting and other work in progress, but also on Parklane's Southport development east of Nicowynd. Eighteen houses are now in varying stages of construction ranging from just started to complete. A fleet of dump trucks, backhoes, a big bull dozer, and other machines have been excavating peaty soil from the central area of the site and building a “mountain” near the dyke. Still other dump trucks have been moving soil fill onto the site to backfill the excavated area and add more preload. The growing soil mountain is intended as preload to increase compaction of soil at depth, thus improving foundation conditions for houses.

In early September, most Nicowynders would have noticed the large trench excavated along the property boundary between Nicowynd and Southport, on the Southport side. Shortly after, a sloped retaining wall comprising 2 layers of large concrete lock-blocks was installed. A Parklane representative has advised that this wall is temporary, installed only for the purpose of managing the preload soil. It will be removed after surplus preload is removed, likely in about six months to a year from now. In its place will rise a “sierra slope wall”. Such a wall is constructed with soil in combination with geosynthetic materials that serve to stabilize the slope (prevent slumping and erosion) and allow for growth of vegetation. According to plan, the top of the permanent sierra wall is to be a maximum 1.2 m in height above our existing pathway near the third green. At the top of the wall and set back about 1.5 m from it, will be a fence 1.2 m high maximum above lot grade. The sierra wall and the space between the wall and the fence will be landscaped. Once the vegetation is established, the slope will turn “green” and the geosynthetic materials will be generally invisible. Finally, large trees will be planted in the Southport backyards along the fence in an effort to create a high vegetation screen to help block future errant golf balls from the Nicowynd side. Consideration is also being given to installing golf ball safety netting some 3 m above the existing chain link fence beside the third green. This would mitigate further the risks associated with errant golf balls.

Meanwhile, on the other end of the Southport property, readers will have noticed that the little old white house on Elgin Road opposite the Esso Station has vanished. Parklane acquired this property (Lot A) recently and has applied for the necessary rezoning and a development permit that will allow for integration of Lot A into the Southport layout. Parklane’s plan for

Lot A would allocate part of it for a vegetation buffer zone along Elgin and Crescent Roads, part of it to increase the size of two existing lots on which new houses are now built, part to increase the size of a third lot in order to make it buildable, and part to create one additional lot. To make way for implementation of this plan, unfortunately, two large Sitka spruce trees will be removed. On the plus side, most of the other trees on the site, 14 or so, will be retained, and 21 replacement trees are proposed for planting. In time, this plan should represent a plus in the streetscape of the area, and for pedestrians making their way along Elgin and Crescent Roads. Let us hope! ♥





Upcoming Events:

Oct. 2	Tues.	Ladies Niners Closing Lunch
Oct. 24	Wed.	First Koffee Klatch
Oct. 29	Mon.	AGM
Nov. 5	Mon.	Adopt-a-Street Programme
Nov. 27	Tues.	Xmas Decorating Day
Dec. 8	Sat.	Xmas Party
Dec. 31	Mon.	New Year's Party (if sufficient interest)

Odds & Ends

Dairyland Foods will deliver more than milk. Their service includes other food stuffs and supplies. Tel: 604-421-4663 www.morethanmilk.ca

Surrey Transfer Station (aka Garbage Dump) at 9770 - 192 Street, will take BBQ Propane Tanks. Free. check www.gvrd.bc.ca before you go.

Salvation Army will dispose of electronics, TV s & computer components Free. Off Johnston Road, right on Thrift and immediate left into the alley.

..... 8

♥ How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are? ♥



THE LAST WORD by *Norma Davidson*

Have you been wondering what happened to the little white duck?

Early on in the summer one of our resident eagles decided to dine out on duck on the pond at the first tee. In spite of an attempt at snatch-and-grab, it was unable to get off the water with the duck and with much flapping of wings was doing a breast stroke to reach solid ground. Our dauntless waitress Chloe noticed this action, grabbed a broom and took off after the eagle like a cross between the flying nun and a quiddich player with Trevor frantically following up in the rear and shouting “don’t hurt the eagle”. (What would Work Safe BC have to say about the coronary risk?) Once the eagle reached dry land it must have thought Chloe was more than it could deal with; relinquished the duck and departed with its gaggle of circling onlookers. The little duck was taken to a local veterinarian, treated and released to a bird sanctuary where Logan reports it is doing well. Trevor also survived.

The moral to this story: There is no free lunch at the Nico Grill. ♥

