

# *The Knockan Hill Park Newsletter*



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## **Annual General Meeting**

All members, other friends and neighbours are invited to the Friends of Knockan Hill Park Society's **Annual General Meeting on Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** The location is the old one, 40 High Street, at the hall of the former St. Columba Church. **Carolyn Masson**, Communications Officer with the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team will give a presentation on their efforts to preserve these important environments. *(Members are encouraged to bring a friend or neighbour to the AGM!)*

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## **Adventure Overhead**

For some years, a pair of bald eagles has been nesting in the park. It has been interesting to see how the eagles build their nests and to observe the ever-changing fortunes of their family. Sometimes they manage to raise baby eagles successfully, sometimes not. A year or two ago, a windstorm blew down the tree the nest was in, but they picked out a new location and rebuilt the nest. This past summer, board members Bob and Doris Burow were sitting on their front porch enjoying the afternoon sun when they saw some eagle activity that was like an episode of a nature show on the Discovery Channel.

One of the adult eagles flew over the house with a freshly killed rabbit, closely followed by one the baby eagles. They settled into a big fir at the edge of the front yard and the parent bird started showing junior how to make a meal of rabbit. Then the other adult and the other baby eagle crowded in on adjoining branches, squawking away. Baby number one was busy having his meal and forgot to hold on to the branch and fell, crashing through a couple of branches and literally losing his lunch before he remembered that he could fly and pulled out of the dive. Then they all kind of freaked out and did some aerobatics for a while. All this was just a few feet overhead - quite a show! It is also another example of the benefit of turning off the television and watching the natural beauty of life around us.

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## Constant Change

One can easily be fooled by the calm peacefulness of places like Knockan Hill when we stroll along its shaded paths on a nice day. It all looks so tranquil, and with a little bit of imagination you can imagine that this is how it looked a hundred years ago, or more. Actually, the natural environment is very dynamic and both the forest and the Garry Oak meadows are engaged in a continual process of change. Sometimes, such as the series of winter storms we had some four or five years ago, the changes are dramatic and obvious. Even without big weather events, natural forces such as erosion, earthquakes, fire, insect infestations and the like occur with enough frequency to make sure that nothing stays the same for long.

A few months ago, I noticed the absence of an old friend, so to speak, while walking up the main trail. The friend I speak of was a great big old stump, weathered and worn and covered in ivy. There it was, no longer standing upright like an image from an Emily Carr landscape but laying flat on the forest floor. There hadn't been any particularly strong windstorms in the previous few days and one can only speculate on what was the final cause that toppled it, perhaps one tap too many by a woodpecker. Now when I walk by it serves as a reminder of how things change on a daily basis.

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### FRIENDS OF KNOCKAN HILL PARK SOCIETY 2012 Membership Form

**Family Fee - \$10.00**  
**Individual Fee - \$5.00**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tel.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Pay at the door** of the AGM, or please mail this completed form, with fee, to: Jean Screech, Membership/Treasurer, FKHP, 1256 Burnside Road West, Victoria, BC, V8Z 1N8