



# Bowker Creek

URBAN  
WATERSHED  
RENEWAL  
INITIATIVE

# Bowker Creek Blueprint: 100 year Action Plan to Restore the Bowker Creek Watershed

## **Partnership Opportunities with School District #61**

**Jody Watson**, Supervisor  
Environmental Partnerships & Initiatives  
and  
Chair, Bowker Creek Initiative

School District #61  
5 March 2018

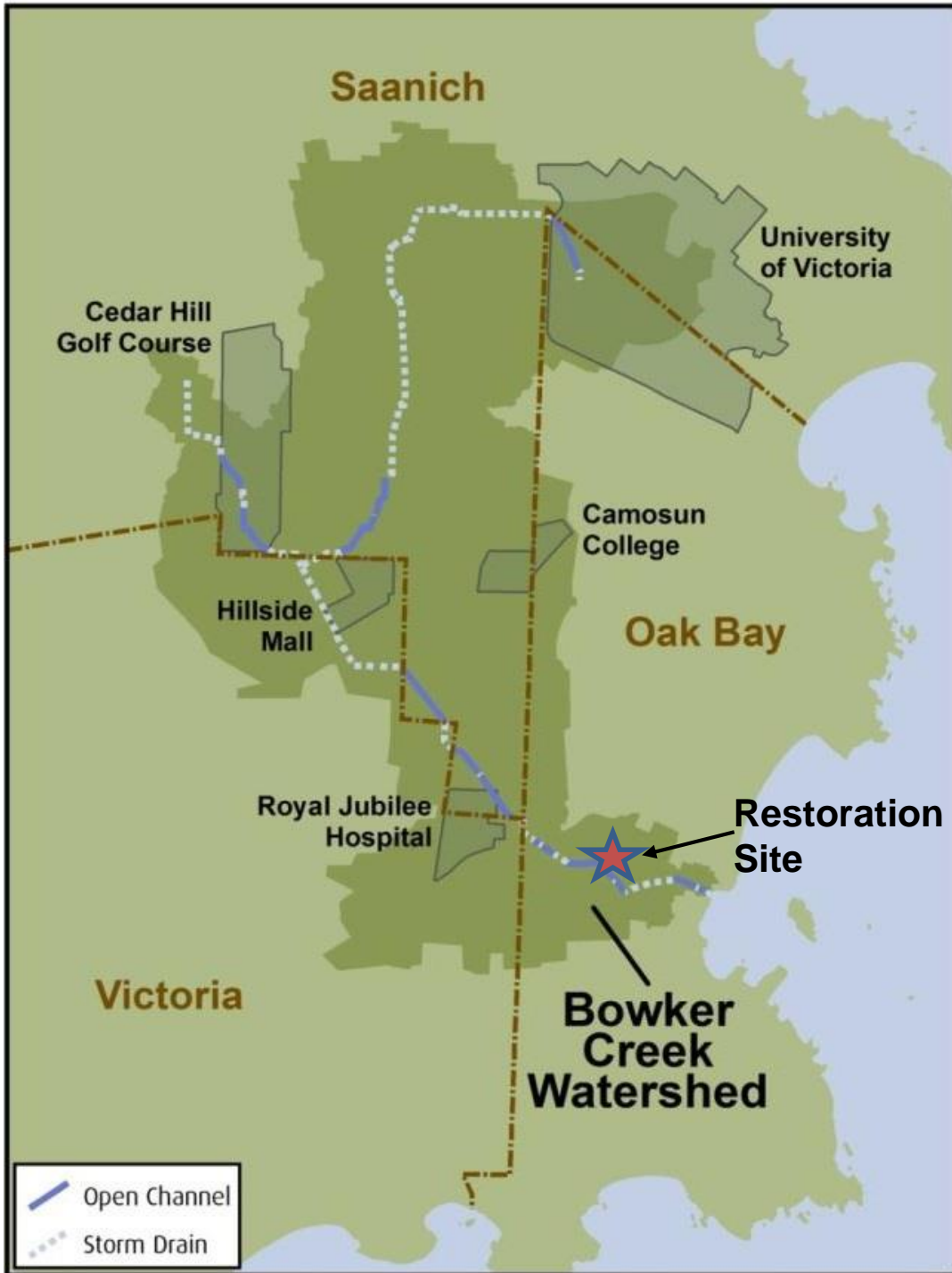
# Bowker Creek Initiative (BCI)

Multi-stakeholder steering committee tasked with coordinating efforts to implement the Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan

- 3 municipalities (Saanich, Victoria, Oak Bay)
- Regional District (CRD)
- University of Victoria
- 6 Community Associations

## Watershed Stats

- 1850 ha
- 56% impervious
- 2/3 of creek is piped underground
- 30,000 residents



**Bowker  
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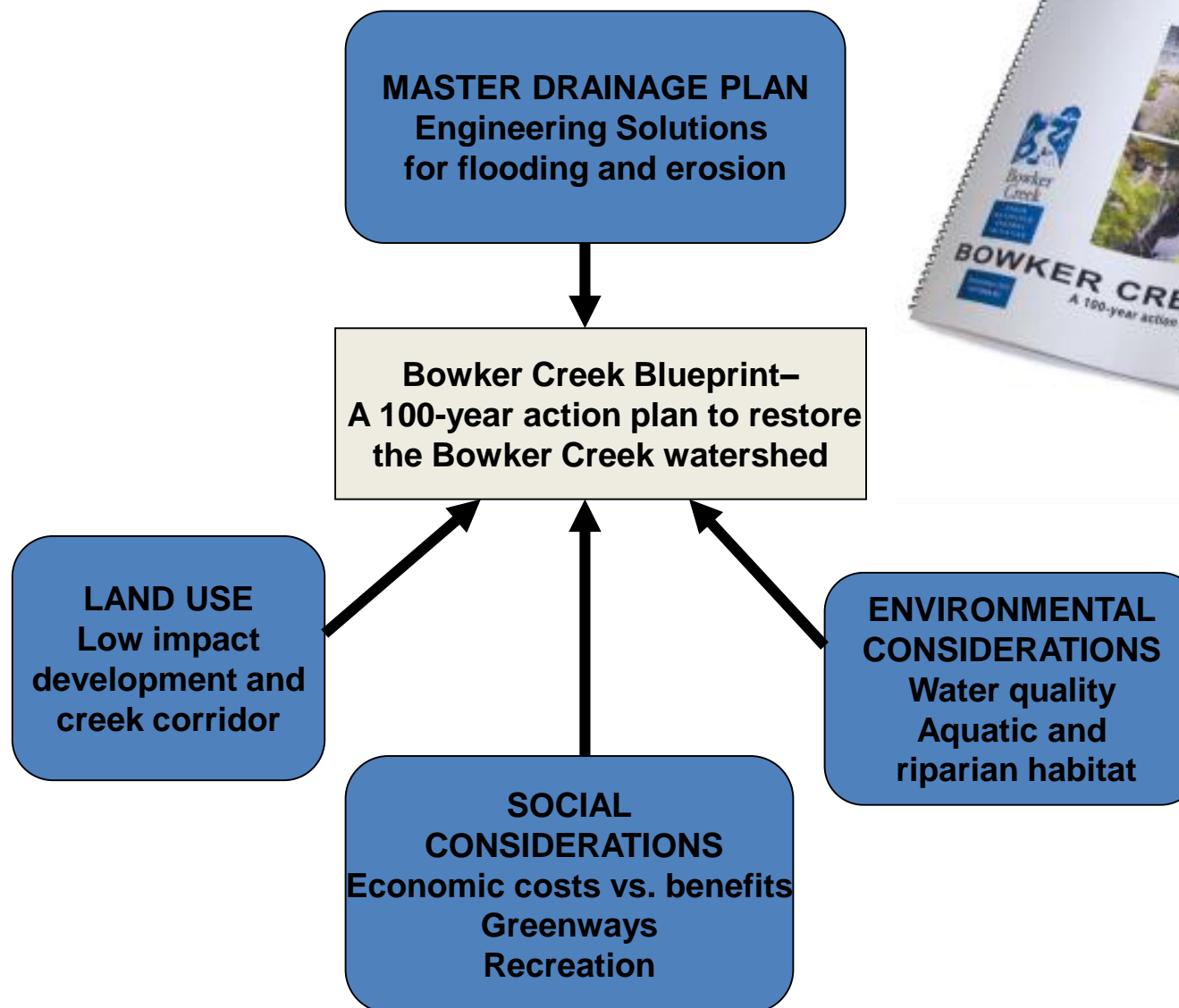


# Bowker Creek Blueprint

A 100-yr action plan to restore the  
Bowker Creek Watershed

## Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan Goals

- ❖ Take responsibility for actions that affect the watershed
- ❖ Manage flows effectively
- ❖ Improve and expand public areas, natural areas and biodiversity
- ❖ Achieve and maintain acceptable water quality



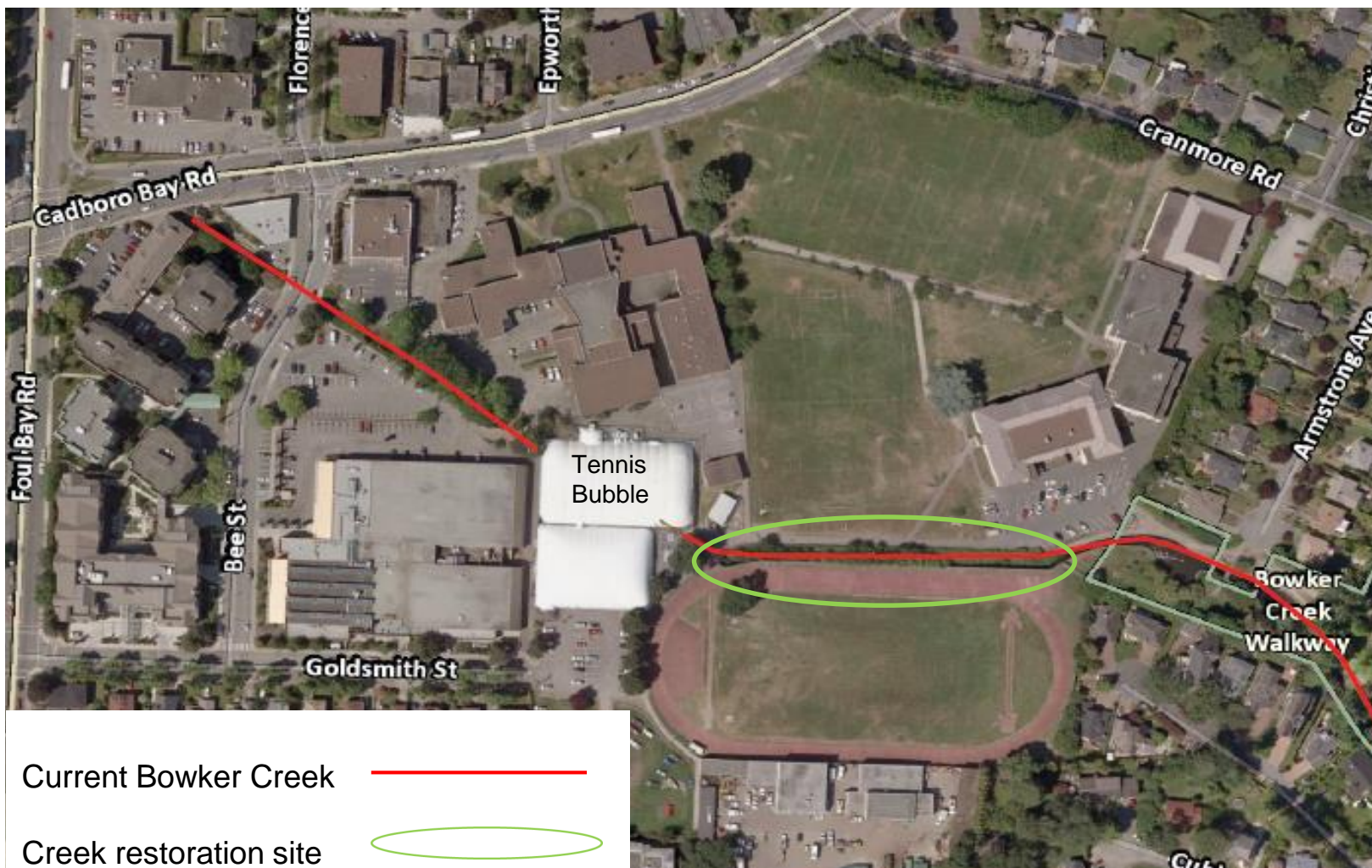




# Prepares us for Opportunities: Oak Bay High School

## Bowker Creek Blueprint

- 9 key principles
- 33 Watershed actions
- 17 reaches (piped and open sections) each with a set of specific integrated actions
- 10 short-term priority actions
- Shared responsibility
- Look for opportunities
- Collaborate and build relationships
- Monitoring program



Current Bowker Creek



Creek restoration site





# Collaborative Effort

## Project Partners



Making a difference...together



## Design and Construction Team

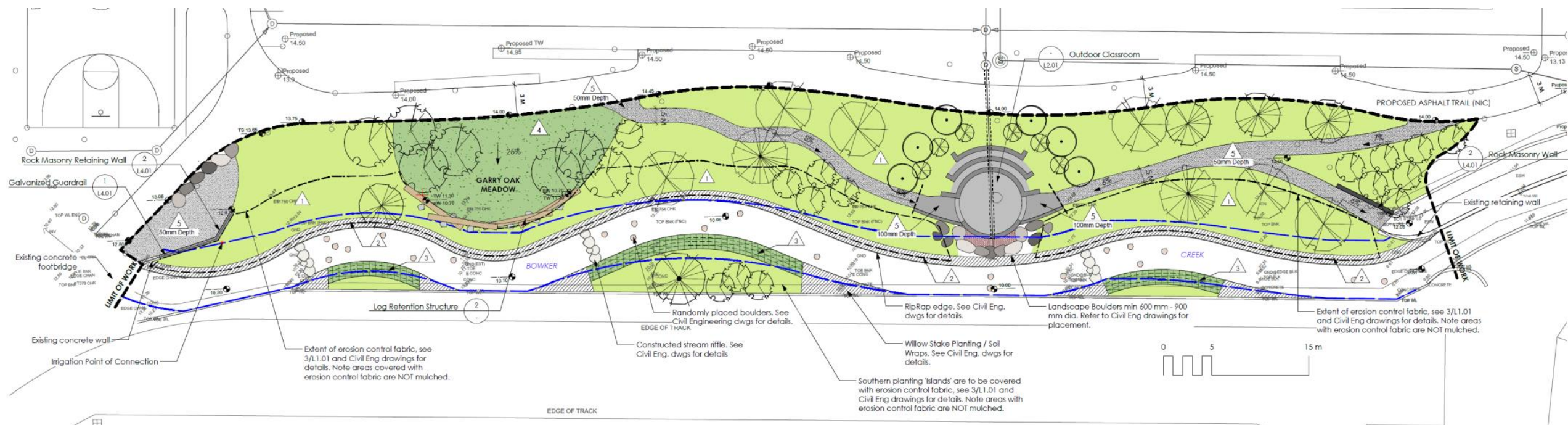






# Restoration Objectives

1. Safe conveyance of flood flows
2. Improvement to aquatic and riparian habitat quality
3. Outdoor learning and public education
4. Public access and greenway
5. Construction cost within budget and minimizing ongoing maintenance







**Before – Spring 2015**



**After – Spring 2016**





# Outdoor Classroom



Fall 2017



Just built - 2015



Official opening - 2015







# Richmond School



- Currently the most eroded section of the creek
- Severe bank erosion, highly entrenched
- 90% invasive plants (e.g. golden willow)
- Public hazard (surrounded by a fence)
- Property is bisected by creek





# Reach 9 – Richmond School







# Restoration Potential

What the creek could look like:

- Move the creek channel west to accommodate alternate land uses
- Create sloping creek banks, plant native vegetation
- Community greenway



FIGURE 12. A POSSIBLE LONG-TERM VISION FOR THE FORMER RICHMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCATION (REACH 9, AS IN APPENDIX B)

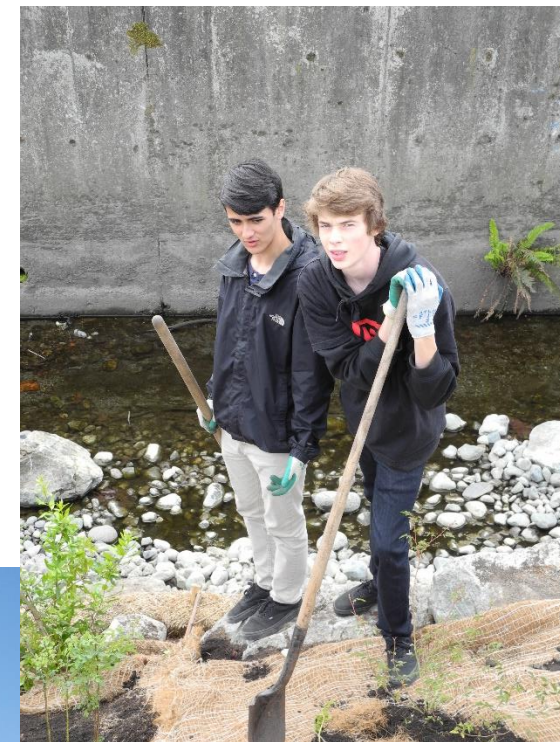
**BOWKER CREEK VISION**  
**FORMER RICHMOND ELEMENTARY**





# A Partnership Opportunity

- Endorsement of the Bowker Creek Blueprint
- Consider exploring options for working with the BCI to restore the creek through Richmond School property
- It's all possible!







# Connecting the School to the Stream

“A young person’s surroundings are always a silent educator and the best way to inoculate a sense of environmental responsibility and stewardship in youth is to model it.

Allowing an important waterway to pass through our property in a ditch silently teaches students that the environment doesn’t really matter — whereas a rehabilitated and healthy creek, with safe and reasonable access, speaks volumes about how one should value the environment”

**Garrett Brisdon, Vice Principal, Oak Bay High School**