

# WEST PANORAMA RIDGE RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

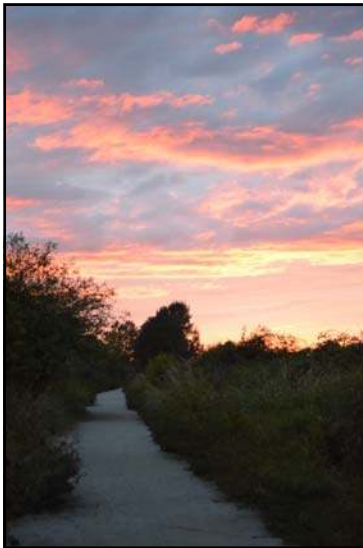
website: [www.panoramaridge.org](http://www.panoramaridge.org)

email: [panoramaridge@shaw.ca](mailto:panoramaridge@shaw.ca)

*Fall 2016 Newsletter*

## Special points of interest:

- History Spotlight
- Traffic Calming
- Ridge Day Photos



*Enjoying Nature*

## Inside this issue:

Presidents Message	1
Boulevard Trees	2
Owls	10
Colebrook Park	11
Membership	12

## President's Message

Welcome to fall where we've had the rainiest October and then to one of the mildest days in November, that it felt like summer again. This is "my" first Newsletter as your President of the WPRRA. I have been Vice President for too many years and now, Arnie van Hattem and his wife Jeanette have moved off the Ridge, I was "promoted" to my current position. Arnie still continues to attend Community Assoc. meetings and provides his ideas and insight as well as volunteering at Ridge Day. Jeanette still comes back to walk the dogs and visit with all her long standing friends and continues to enjoy and photograph the abundant nature in our back yard. Arnie gave many years of his time and we thank him immensely. This leads to my next round of congratulations and thank you's to Bob Campbell, another Past President of the WPRRA.

I'm sure many of you, ( if not all!) noticed late last Spring, more precisely 2:00 p.m. May 26<sup>th</sup>, that the last whistling occurred, at the last train crossing below the Ridge, when there used to be 13 unguarded crossings! The history of the TRAIN WHISTLING ISSUE is one that supersedes my 18 years on the Ridge. I can say that we all have Bob to thank for the peace and quiet we now enjoy and treasure. The issue of train whistling was in our newsletters back in 2001 when I first became involved with the WPRRA. At that time, there were about 1500 whistles per day and this was when it was a single track, without the Port expansion that has evolved to the size it is today. Bob was persistent, diligent and dare I say "one track minded"! Pun intended.

We would be remiss in thanking all of our Board, who volunteer their time and talents, in making the WPRRA a great Community Association and setting the example for their neighbors. Whether it is to attend meetings, picking up garbage, reporting issues to by-laws, being Block Watch Captains, observing and reporting suspicious activities to the RCMP, and acting on their neighbor's requests! Your actions do not go unnoticed and are greatly appreciated.

We hosted our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Ridge Day BBQ and Community Event on September 10<sup>th</sup> at Colebrook Church parking lot. It was another stellar day, greatly attended and enjoyed by all. The Surrey Fire Department brought one of their trucks; we had face painters and mehndi and balloon artists as well as great food! Our new BBQ set up is brilliant and all paid for personally by Darryn, our Treasurer and Director!

## Presidents Message continued...

As the shorter days and decreased daylight are upon us, we are reminded to think and act accordingly. Remember to wear reflective or brighter clothing when walking to the bus, cycling or walking/running, especially if you are one that does not use the sidewalks! There is a link to tips for outdoor lighting for safety and security on our website ([www.panoramaridge.org](http://www.panoramaridge.org))

Please continue to be vigilant and report suspicious activities to the RCMP via the non-emergency number at 604-599-0502. We have seen a **disturbing trend** on the Ridge where you might find a piece of paper (usually fluorescent) in your gate or mailbox. This seems to be a way to identify whether you are home or checking your mail frequently or coming and going often. If the paper is not moved for a certain time, this lets criminals know your habits without doing too much “legwork”!

If you have had this happen to you, please report to the RCMP. They want to know of any tactics being used as they may also occur in other communities. Don't forget to report to our email address: [panoramaridge@shaw.ca](mailto:panoramaridge@shaw.ca) or to our website as it is linked with the RCMP.

And lastly, we deliver this informative newsletter to all homes on the Ridge, whether you are a member or not. Please consider joining or rejoining so we can continue to act on your behalf.

You will find membership information on the last page of this newsletter.

Have a safe winter and hope to see you at a Community Event in the future.

Cheers and again, Thank-you.

*Tammy Ritchie*

*President, WPRRA*

## Boulevard Trees

Surrey has a wonderful program in which in which you can request trees for the boulevard in front of your house. You can consult with city arborists about a specific kind of tree or discuss the size of tree, shape of tree, or amount of shade you would like the tree to cast. City arborists will assess your boulevard to consider the existing landscaping and how a new tree would fit in. Not only is the tree free, but the city does almost all the work: the city plants between January and April: they dig, plop the tree in, stake it, put bark mulch around, and provide a tree protector as well as watering bags for the first two years. When planting, the city uses a slow release fertilizer and in the second year you can fertilize *lightly* if you wish. Long term maintenance of the tree will be done by the city and if you have concerns about the health of your tree you call the city.



If you are interested in trees for your boulevard, call 604-501-5050 or email [parks@surrey.ca](mailto:parks@surrey.ca). You can request a tree at any time, but you should have any requests for a 2017 spring planting in by February at the latest. Your only responsibility—and you must do this without fail—is to water the tree thoroughly twice a week during the dry season. Then sit back and enjoy your new tree! If you also whisper sweet nothings in its leaves, I won't tell!

## Traffic Calming



At our Annual General Meeting in April, 2016, the members present raised speeding as one of the top issues of community concern. Shortly after the meeting, the WPRRA Board wrote to the City asking how the issue could be addressed. The City suggested contacting the RCMP Speed Watch Program for enforcement on “collector streets”, which include 128, 132, 136 Streets and New McLellan/56 Avenue from 125A to 136. These roads no longer qualify for calming because of a change to city policy in the early 2000s. However, some calming, in the form of raised intersections/pads, was installed many years ago under previous policy. In late April a petition was prepared and submitted by neighbours around 128th Street, requesting traffic calming, but that request was declined by the City. The WPRRA Board followed up with Speed Watch and further requested that the City do a traffic study on 56 Ave between 136 and 140 Street.

The good news is that the City study confirmed our expectation that 56 Ave from 136-140 does qualify for calming. That section is designated a “local street”. The study showed sufficient volume (must be at least 500 cars/day) at high speed (85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of daily traffic is 10km/h higher than the 50 km/h speed limit) to warrant calming. The solution will be to install 4 speed humps over that section of road. The City has forwarded their recommendation for traffic calming in that segment to “emergency services”, to get their feedback on how it might impact response times. If there are no major emergency service concerns the next step will be for the City to poll (survey) the residents on that section of road. In order to proceed with the plan the City requires a 50% minimum response rate from all households, with at least 60% of those responding in favour of the plan.

**It is vital to this process that the residents who receive the survey respond to it. If you receive a survey, contact as many neighbours as you can to ensure that there is sufficient response.**

Once the plan is approved by the local residents, it may still take some time to be implemented due to high demand throughout the City and limited budget. The WPRRA Board will monitor the situation and report again in the spring at our AGM!

## Fireworks

Halloween and Diwali have come and gone and many residents are beyond happy! The constant noise and tormenting of pets, the mess left behind from the exploded fireworks and the use of these illegal and dangerous explosives stresses many and keeps RCMP and By-laws working well into overtime and wasting valuable tax dollars.



The City of Surrey reminds us that Fireworks are only allowed with a Permit issued by the Surrey Fire Service Fire Prevention Branch. These permits are issued only after many conditions are met, including proof of insurance, Site plans, a Fireworks Supervisor card etc.

Most of the fireworks that are detonated, are illegally purchased on sites such as Craig’s list or in other municipalities, across the border etc.

We have had many complaints from people on the Ridge.

Please contact us by email if you are bothered by fireworks or see no issues with their usage.

[panoramaridge@shaw.ca](mailto:panoramaridge@shaw.ca)

## History Spotlight

Warren Redmond's father first came to Panorama Ridge to visit his brother in 1906 who was working as a logger clearing much of the area. The logs were cut and shipped by rail to a mill in Newton. He again visited from Vancouver in 1909, coming by the Great Northern Railway, to see huge cedar stumps 12-15 feet across with lonely seed trees left standing to reseed the clear cut areas. The Mud Bay dyke system had not yet been constructed and paddle wheelers from New West went up the Nicomekl River collecting farm produce as they went. There was a clam processing factory at the foot of Hwy. 91.

Warren grew up in Vancouver and joined other boys for a 4 day bike ride to Seattle. They treated themselves by returning home on the BNR. He became a machinist apprentice for 5 years and earned .35c an hour at his first job in 1951. He obtained his industrial engineering certification and worked for Gearmatic in Newton. Warren married Grace in 1959 and purchased a ¼ acre lot between King George and Trites Road in 1960 for \$4000. They had lived at 69 Ave. and 148 St. but needed a larger house for their 7 children. He totally designed and built their lovely home which is filled with beautiful needlepoint projects completed by Grace. Warren also ran an electronics and TV repair business which he opened in 1954 and operated for 55 years.



Much has changed over the years. The .25c toll on the Oak St. bridge and the .50c toll on the Massey tunnel have both been removed. Gone also is the Boeing factory on Sea Island which built center sections of aircraft that were then shipped to Seattle for completion. A very small Peace Arch hospital serviced the area but there were no ambulances. B.C. Provincial Police maintained the law. Warren built a drive through his property so pedestrians could safely walk from Trites Road to Hwy. 10 without walking onto dangerous King George where there have been many fatalities over the years.

Warren and Grace continue to enjoy their comfortable home which they share with 3 macaws. They still celebrate an annual picnic with their neighbors on Trites Road. Many large trees again grow below their home but they still enjoy a panoramic view of ocean and mountains every day.

## Useful Surrey Numbers:



Consider downloading the **Surrey Request App** on your cell phone device.

You can report litter, graffiti, potholes and much more. Many of us have had great success using this App.

ITEM	Phone
<b>City of Surrey</b> (general line)	604-591-4011
<b>Emergency issues</b> (water mains, missing stops signs)	604-591-4152
<b>By-law and Animal Complaints</b>	604-591-4370
<b>Street and sidewalk repair</b>	604-591-4152
<b>Fire:</b> burning regulations, abandoned building, suspected grow-up, general issues	604-543-6700
<b>Blockwatch program</b>	604-502-6560
<b>Crimestoppers</b>	1-800-222-8477 (TIPS)



# Panorama Ridge Day

Another successful Ridge Day, what a great day Ridge Day turned out to be with over 300 people attending. Wow—the time does fly and the weather changes. It is hard to believe that Sept 12th over 2 months ago. Everyone had fun playing games and eating great food. We'd like to thank everyone that came out: guests, volunteers, and the local firefighters!

Below is a glimpse of the day, to see more pictures of the day, please visit the photogallery on our website.



# Emergency Preparedness: Is Your Family Prepared?

You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 72 hours. If a disaster happens in your community, it may take emergency workers some time to get to you as they help those in desperate need. By taking a few simple steps today, you can become better prepared to face a range of emergencies – anytime, anywhere. These basic steps will help you take care of yourself and your loved ones during an emergency.

## Step #1 – Know the risks. Know your region.



Although the consequences of disasters can be similar, knowing the risks specific to your region can help prepare yourself better. In BC, we face a number of hazards, from earthquakes, windstorms, blackouts, industrial or transportation accidents, and the possibilities of acts of terrorism on Canadian soil.

## Step #2 – Make a plan.



Every household needs an emergency plan. It will help you and your family know what to do in case of an emergency. Remember, your family may not be together when a disaster occurs. Plan how to meet or contact one another and discuss what you would do in different situations.

## Step #3 – Prepare an emergency kit.



In an emergency you will need some basic supplies. You may need to get by without power or tap water. Be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours. You may have some items already, such as a flashlight, battery operated radio, food, water and blankets. The key is to make sure they are organized and easy to find. Would you be able to find your flashlight in the dark? Make sure your kit is easy to carry. Keep it in a backpack, duffel bag or suitcase with wheels, in a easy-to-reach, accessible place, such as your front hall closet. Make sure everyone in the household knows where the emergency kit is.

To learn more about emergency preparedness visit

[www.getprepared.gc.ca](http://www.getprepared.gc.ca)



IS YOUR FAMILY  
PREPARED?



# The Ridge's Journey with Trains:

## Train Whistles

APR. 2001

Our President, Bob Campbell, wrote the following letter to the Presidents of BC Rail and CP Rail, the Senior Railway Inspector, BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Traffic Operations Engineer, City of Surrey.

"Dear Sirs,

West Panorama Ridge area of Surrey bounded by 120<sup>th</sup> Street to the West, King George

## Train Whistles

Trains, the issue that never seems to end... As I have said before, trying to resolve an issue with respect to trains is incredibly complex. In our case, the players involved include BC Rail, CP, CN, BNR and Amtrack, the Port Corporation, the Province of BC, the City of Surrey and private land owners! The good news, despite the obstacles, progress is being made and 2004 is starting a quarter of mile ahead of the crossing, and finishing after the train passes through the crossing. Doing the math for our stretch of track, this equates to 32 whistles per train, or 960 whistles per day. Sound measurements taken 600 metres from the track record the sound level of some whistles at over 94 decibels. To provide some comparison, a lawn mower running at full throttle while sitting on a driveway generates 90 decibels. In addition to whistles, concern has been expressed regarding engine and wheel noise, vibration, and coal dust.

## Train Whistles. The 127A Street Crossing Saga Continues!

We are close to eliminating train whistles below Panorama Ridge. That being said, we've been close for some time. There are two crossing where trains cross 127A Street and around the 138th street

## PANORAMA RIDGE?

Most Ridge residents are familiar with the Community Association's 15+ year campaign to eliminate train whistles below Panorama Ridge. These 95+ db whistles are a major quality of life issue for residents who live on the southern portion of Panorama Ridge. To-date, we have reduced the number of crossings where whistling occurs from 13 to 2. Just last month, at the urging of the

I have put hundreds and hundreds of hours into this issue and it is great off. I should mention a few key individuals who have helped immensely: Bill and Dennis Lypka of BC Rail, Peter Walters of Land, Water and Air, Cheema, our MLA, and finally, invaluable assistance from the City of Surrey Parks department.

As we all know, the trains aren't going away, in fact the Port Corporation has major expansion plans for the Roberts Terminal that will increase the impact of the whistles significantly. Whistles are a big concern for the community, but not the only one. There's coal dust as well, but for now we're working on these problems.

Panorama Ridge

Association

7

## Large Garbage Item PickUp

Surrey Households who have curbside garbage pickup are entitled to pickup of up to 4 large garbage items, 2 times during a calendar year or 6 times if the property contains a registered secondary suite.

These large items include furniture, large appliances, mattresses, BBQs, and small boxed household goods. The program does not include microwaves, car bodies and parts, TVs and computers, carpeting, tires, lumber, home renovation materials and hazardous or special waste.

Call 604 590-7289 for pickup date and ensure your items are at the curb before 7 a.m. Please phone to cancel your pickup if you find others have adopted your unwanted items from your curbside. Check City of Surrey's website or download their app to find drop-off locations for other materials such as paint, pesticides and items listed above.



## Colebrook United Church

Telephone: 604-596-2412, e-mail [info@colebrookunited.org](mailto:info@colebrookunited.org), website: [colebrookunited.org](http://colebrookunited.org), and find us on facebook.

Colebrook United Church has been part of our community for many years and continues to provide spiritual guidance and support of many kinds to all who visit. Everyone is invited to join the many recreational activities which include yoga, pickleball, youth groups, drop-in bridge and a knitting group making comfort shawls to show support. Details of most activities are posted on their sign outside the church which is located on 125A Street. Please call the office Monday-Thursday mornings for further details @ 604 596-2412.

Enjoy their annual Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. between 10 and 3. Join your neighbors at the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service which has become an annual tradition for many families. There will be no service Christmas Day.



## Salmon are Spawning in Joe Brown Park

A sharp-eyed Ridge resident spotted spawning salmon navigating the fish ladder on Eugene Creek. The fish, a dark red, were about 50 cm long.

Think of it—salmon spawning in our own back yard. On the Ridge. WOW!



## Noteworthy Dates in 2017



- 11th Annual Earth Day April 22
- WPRRA AGM Colebrook Church April 26
- 8th Annual Ridge Days September 9 or 16 - stay tuned.

## With thanks to our advertisers:

**Gurjinder Bhurji**  
Sales Representative

Bus: 604.530.0231  
Cell: 604.802.6703  
Fax: 604.530.6042  
Email: gkbhurji@royallepage.ca  
Web: gurjinderbhurji.com

Royal LePage Wollencroft Realty  
Unit #110 19925 Willowbrook Drive,  
Langley, BC V2Y 1A7

**ROYAL LEPAGE**  
Wollencroft Realty

**T&D**  
TY & DAN CORSIE  
REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS  
WWW.TYANDDANCORSIE.COM

TY 778.772.5754  
DAN 604.612.4972  
TYCORSIE1@GMAIL.COM



**RE/MAX**

**Performance Realty**

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

**BILL PARSONS**

Real Estate Sales Professional

MLS PRESIDENTS CLUB

Lifetime Achievement Award

11925 - 80th Avenue

Delta, B.C. V4C 1Y1

Bus: (604) 590-4888

Fax: (604) 597-7771

Email: wparsons@shaw.ca

Email: bill@remax-performance-bc.com



Would you like to advertise in the next Issue of this Newsletter?

If so please let us know.

# Owls in the Neighborhood

In Joe Brown Park we mainly see and/or hear the barred owl. The barred owl is also called a “hoot owl” and can be recognized by its distinctive call: “Who, who, who cooks for you?” This owl is active both during the day and the night.

- ◆ Half of all owl species in BC hunt during the day.
- ◆ Owls can hear the squeak of a mouse from 150 feet away!
- ◆ They frequently drink and bathe in open water, like Mud Bay, even in winter.
- ◆ They use the same nest annually. Their lifespan is up to 23 years and they can have 2 to 4 young at a time.
- ◆ The barred owl is closely related to the spotted owl. Where populations overlap, these two species will interbreed. Their progeny are called “sparred owls”.
- ◆ The spotted owl is found only in South Western BC.
- ◆ Barred owls compete for territory and prey and are more adaptable than the spotted owl. The number one reason for the spotted owl’s low numbers is the loss of old growth habitat. Releasing captive bred owls back into an unsustainable habitat, i.e. reforested areas, where all trees are of the same species and same growth rate has not worked and the spotted owl has been red listed. The captive breeding programs in Seattle and Langley, BC have been up to this date not very successful, out of each 12 eggs only 2 or 3 usually hatch.

Some more interesting facts about owls:

- ◆ There are 150 species of owls in the world.
- ◆ Owls are found on all Continents except Antarctica.
- ◆ They have binocular vision.
- ◆ Owls cannot move their eyes, they turn their head instead.
- ◆ They have 3 (!) eyelids, one for blinking, one for sleeping and one for keeping dirt out.
- ◆ Their feet are zygodactyl, which means that two toes face forward and two backwards (for easy gripping and holding onto branches and catching prey).
- ◆ Not all owls hoot!
- ◆ Wingspan can be up to 1.5 meters. Their weight ranges from 1.5 kg for smaller owls to 8 kg for the larger owls.
- ◆ A group of owls is called, “a parliament”.
- ◆ Some owls like the snowy owl, have insulated feet covered with feathers to protect it from cold. This owl can be seen on Boundary Bay Dyke in winter. The male is all white, the female has white feathers mottled with brown. They rely on lemmings and other small rodents for their food source on Boundary Bay. The female can lay up to 11 eggs. Its Latin name is “Bubo Scandiaca”, the Harry Potter owl!



In general, threats like habitat loss, pesticides, wire fences and vehicle collisions, are reducing their numbers. If you have never spotted an owl, listen to other birds around you, birds like robins and crows will go crazy and argue with loud noises to try and chase the owl away from their territory, when you get closer to the noise and look up at a branch close to the trunk of a tree! Gotcha!!

## Colebrook Park Update

Ratepayer's Parks Committee receives updates throughout the year on the progress of Colebrook Park development. The main access gates you will notice at the north edge of Colebrook Road as you travel west about one kilometre from the rail crossing. You'll see newly constructed parking area. The forested area being developed is over 175 hectares of natural park land on the south slope overlooking Mud Bay. Here you will find wildlife, birds, trees and streams.

The City of Surrey Parks Planning, Research and Design manager wrote to us describing the new gravel parking lot area and two main access routes to the forest line, one north, and one heading east from the parking lot. These access routes will provide the opportunity to transport materials, by truck, to the forest edge. The next step will be to map out the route through the forest and finalize which areas will be boardwalk, and which will be gravel trail.

The Park development staff will be working with the Natural Area staff to finalize these routes. This is going to happen in the second week of November to see the higher water table. The rest of the work will be weather dependent. Likely it will be done in small sections through the winter and spring and finally be ready for public use in late spring 2017.

We wish the Parks Board less rain and a mild winter to do their work. We certainly look forward to the opening of Colebrook Park in 2017.



*Colebrook Park, at over 175 hectares is a huge natural area park on the slope overlooking Mud Bay. Here, you'll find loads of wildlife, birds, trees and streams. -*



# Membership in the WPRRA



Our community of West Panorama Ridge is bounded by Highway 10 on the north, King George Highway on the east, Highway 99 on the south and Scott Road on the west. We are proud to live in one of Surrey's most desirable residential communities.

For over 50 years the West Panorama Ridge Ratepayers Association has provided its' residents with a strong voice relative to promoting the further development of green spaces and parks within our community's boundaries. The Association directors are vigilant in ensuring that the residential development reflects the direction provided by our community.

The community website [www.panoramaridge.org](http://www.panoramaridge.org) was established to provide all residents with an opportunity to find information about available essential services, and to communicate the most current information available on happenings and events of concern and interest to you in our community.

Our Directors work hard to fulfill the mandate of the community association. We would encourage you to consider participating as a Director or a volunteer. Even if you can't spare any time, we need you to support the community association by becoming a member! Just being a member shows the City of Surrey that the residents of this community support the WPRRA. Your membership fee allows us to create and distribute the newsletter and the website. It is the best \$100 (Lifetime), \$25 (Three year membership) or \$10 (One year membership) investment you can make in your community!

website: [www.panoramaridge.org](http://www.panoramaridge.org)

-----  
Return this portion of the membership form with your payment to:

Darryn Langstaff WPRRA Treasurer  
5475 125A Street  
Surrey BC, V3X 1W4

*Or drop your completed membership form at  
the home of any Director.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Receipts will be sent to the address you list above.

The WPPRA keeps all membership information completely confidential.