WEST PANORAMA RIDGE
RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

www.panoramaridge.org | 5781 125 A Street Surrey, BC V3X 3G8 | Panoramaridge@shaw.ca

Fall 2006 Newsletter

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President's Message

This is the first newsletter since the April 27 Annual General Meeting. Our Community Association continues to work on a wide variety of issues among which are noise mitigation for the widened Highway 10, sanitary sewer twinning, property development issues, the new tree bylaw, Trites Road access from King George Highway, reduction of train whistling and the likely addition of another train track along Colebrook Road as the Roberts Bank terminal is expanded…. Current talks with the Vancouver Port Authority and BCR Port Subdivision deal with noise mitigation along the length of the train track as well as strict adherence to (train) speed limits.

The WPRRA Board of Directors and affected residents whose houses back on to Highway 10 continued to meet with the Project Management team responsible for the widening of the Highway. The Border Improvement Team is currently working on detail drawings and provides options as to the height of the earth berms for those properties that are situated lower than the highway, subject to the availability of fill from the road construction. Currently a three meter hardwood fence is proposed but initial construction quotation costs indicate that a three meter concrete fence may actually be less expensive in the long run (when long term maintenance is considered). Not all houses that back on to Highway 10 qualify for sound mitigation. Residents that qualify and choose not to have the fence build will not get a second chance. This sound mitigation will reduce the noise and exhaust gases, enhance our home values and generally improve our quality of life on the Ridge. We have been assured that the fence will be maintained and when required, replaced by the Department of Transportation.

In a previous newsletter and on our web site (http://www.panoramaridge.org) we have advertised the following number "2005-2864" that should be quoted when reporting a crime to the Police. The Police generally rate Panorama Ridge as a lower than average risk for crime and therefore as a result we only rarely see Police patrols in our area. Our Association will set up our own crime reporting centre such that we have some statistics ourselves that we can provide to the police

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SURREY RCMP

Emergency

911

Non-emergency

604-599-0502

Quote this file number for Panorama ridge issues:

2005-2864

Local crime stats

The RCMP posts crime statistics on their web site.

www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/bc/lmd/surrey/content/crime_stats/maps_stats_e.htm

Excerpts for the period July - Sept. 2006 for Newton/Panorama Ridge (District 3)

0 homicides
2 attempted murders
3 abductions
400 assaults
45 robberies
141 residential B & E
268 motor vehicle thefts

President's Message (continued from page 1)

and make an argument for better police protection. If you have a crime or incident to report please write a note to panoramaridge@shaw.ca. We will take this information, strip it from any address or identification and place a general note on our web site that indicates the level and type of problems that occurs in our own "back yards". The Police can be reached by phone number: 604-599-0502 for any non-emergency calls. For emergencies please dial: "911".

In our spring newsletter we announced that we would award the "Yard of the Year". After some discussion among our own directors we found out that this would not be an easy task, as different people perceive a beautiful front yard very differently. Many categories can be set up to provide rewards

(i.e. the nicest designed, the most flowers, the best manicured or the most natural etc.). If there is anyone on the Ridge that is interested in organizing a garden contest with different categories please write an e-mail to panoramaridge@shaw.ca. It is our Association's intend to reward those residents that make an effort to beautify our community and instill pride to be living on the Ridge.

Our Association exists only because of you, the residents of Panorama and members of the West Panorama Ridge Ratepayers Association. Our Board of Directors works hard to make sure that we have controlled growth of our area. To do this we need your membership to be able to have a strong voice with the City of Surrey. Please write us an e-mail if you are interested in joining our Board of Directors. Your $10.00 membership fee is used to print this newsletter and pay for the web site charges. The Board of Directors is made up of only volunteers. At our next spring Annual General Meeting, I would like to invite residents of East Indian and other ethnic background to join the Board of Directors as we need representation from everyone in our community. Please write us an e-mail if you are interested in joining our Board of Directors this coming spring.

Many residents have not sent in their $10.00 for the 2006 membership. Please do so that we can continue to look after your interests. Please write your $10.00 cheque made out to the "WPRRA" and send it to: 5781-125A Street, Surrey, V3X 3G8.

If you have any comments or concerns that will help to improve our neighbourhood, please write us an e-mail.

Regards, Arnie van Hattem

President, West Panorama Ridge Rate Payers Association

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ROBERTS BANKS THIRD BERTH APPROVAL GIVEN, MORE TRAINS ON THE WAY!

The Vancouver Port Authority (VPA) recently announced that they had received approval from the BC government's Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) to proceed with their $272 million third berth project. This project will expand the number of ship berths at Roberts Bank from two to three with respective increases in truck and train traffic. The WPRRA and the City of Surrey, (encouraged by the WPRRA) have been working with the EAO to determine possible train noise mitigation measures in and around Panorama Ridge. The City of Surrey sent the EAO a very strongly worded letter indicating their support for the WPRRA's position. Unfortunately, and it is still a bit early to draw final conclusions, it appears that the VPA will implement none of the suggestions made by themselves, the WPRRA or the City of Surrey! The WPRRA is following up to clarify this situation and take the appropriate action. Check the WPRRA web site for updates.

On a related but separate front, the WPRRA continues to work to eliminate the whistles below the ridge. The current status in the same as the last report, there are three crossing below the ridge where whistling still occurs. We have a plan to eliminate whistles at all these crossings, but our focus has been to have it halted is at the 127A crossing. Nearly $400,000 was spent on this crossing to upgrade it to a standard that would allow whistling to cease. Unfortunately, the City of Surrey took so long to act on passing the anti-whistling by-law, that in the interim, the standards changed and it may be that the crossing no longer meets the required specification. To give you an idea of how arduous these issues are, it took nearly six months for the City to contact BC Rail to ask that an inspection be made of this crossing (one phone call) and it has been over three months so far that BC Rail has requested this inspection from the BC Safety Authority with no action to date! We have been assured that the inspection will occur. If the BC Safety Authority indicates that the crossing meets current standards, we should be able to stop whistling at this crossing within 3-6 months. Keep your fingers crossed!

JOE BROWN PARK PLANNING PROCESS MOVES FORWARD

A second community open house is planned for November 14th, 2006, to allow the public to comment on the current conceptual plan for Joe Brown Park. The meeting will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Colebrook United Church hall, 5441 125A Street. This is a follow-on meeting to the first public open house held in the spring. The City of Surrey has taken comments from the first meeting, where three different plans were presented, and created a new, up-dated plan. Please attend this important meeting and provide your opinion.

This planning process was initiated when the WPRRA expressed concerns regarding the on-going fill dumping operation when it looked like the "pit" area of the park was going to be completely (trees and all!) filled in. The fill dumping has been going on for at least 20 years, and the steady flow of heavy dump trucks through the community, past the school and through the park is very disruptive, dirty and somewhat dangerous. The City has agreed to involve the community in the development of a conceptual plan, to take that plan to City Council for approval, and then to fill to that plan, and when complete, permanently stop the filling operation. The eventual result should be an enhanced Park that fully incorporates the large undeveloped area to the west (this is the area the WPRRA worked for years to have dedicated as parkland), and no more dump trucks!

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SPCA Contacts

6706 - 152nd Street
604-597-5655

Did you know?

When idling your vehicle longer then 10 seconds, it is more efficient to turn it off and re-start then letting it run.

Save fuel, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and most importantly in school pickup zones, **protect our children's health**

Open House

Joe Brown Park Planning Process

Nov. 14, 2006
8 PM

Colebrook United Church

5441 125A Street

Man's Best Friend?

While jogging with my own (leashed) dog along New McLellan Road recently, I was charged and harassed by a very large dog that we could not shake despite a lot of hollering on my part. The dog had a collar but there was no owner in sight. I was thankful that this particular dog was not vicious- he wanted to play with my dog but was twice her size and was hurting her through his roughhousing. What if this dog had been nasty?

Owners are not permitted to allow their dog to "run at large" in the city, according to the Surrey Dog Responsibility By-Law No. 13880. Animal control has been delegated by the city to the Surrey SPCA, so the procedure is to call the SPCA when a dog is spotted running unsupervised. Depending on their priorities that day, the SPCA will eventually send out a patrol if you describe the location and the dog. If you know who owns the dog, the SPCA will visit the owners and/ or post a notice of warning at their house about not allowing the dog to run in the neighbourhood. Another option, if you feel it's safe, is to capture the dog yourself and deliver it to the SPCA. Once impounded, the dog will be kept for 72 hours and, if it is not claimed, it will be made available for adoption or destroyed. Only 50% of impounded dogs are claimed by their owners, but most are made available to other owners (adopted) and very few are destroyed. Perhaps the fees that must be paid upon reclaiming one's dog have something to do with this. For unlicensed dogs, a license must be purchased ($50), plus having a microchip or tattoo applied to the dog ($150). For licensed dogs, the first impound results in a fine ($25) , plus the microchip/ tattoo. If the dog is thought to be "dangerous" (i.e. has attacked, bitten or caused injury to a person or domestic animal, has aggressively pursued or harassed a person or domestic animal, or has a known propensity to attack), the first impound fee for a dog running at large is $1,000. The fees go up from there for subsequent impounds.

When I asked about recommended "self help" approaches when an unsupervised dog approaches, the SPCA rep said a person would need to read the dog's body language. If it's a smaller dog or seems tentative, it might be scared away by stomping and yelling for it to "go home". But, there are dogs that are "dog aggressive" and may seek to attack your dog and not you- in which case one should get away and try to get help because any efforts to get between the aggressive dog and your dog might result in you getting injured (i.e. it could be risky to scoop your unsupervised dog approaches, the SPCA rep said a person would need to read the dog's body language. If it's a smaller dog or seems tentative, it might be scared away by stomping **(continued on page 5)**

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Delta-South Surrey Regional Greenway

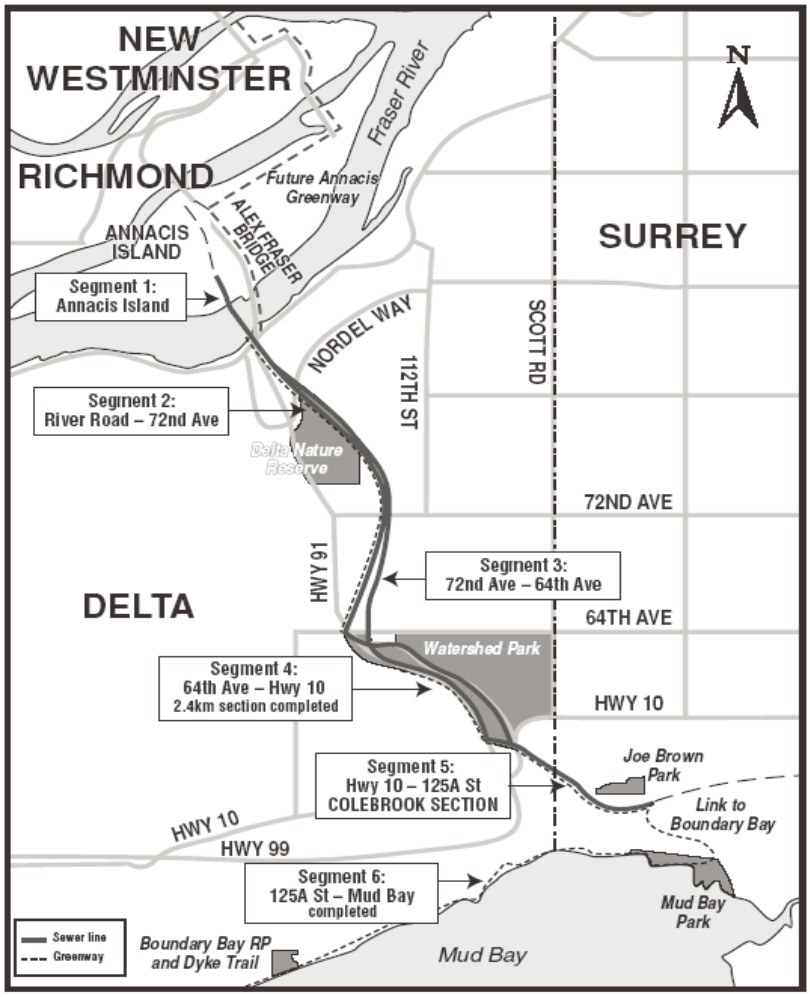
This new regional greenway will run from Annacis Island to Mud Bay (see map below) along the South Surrey Interceptor sewer corridor. By the summer of 2008, this greenway will provide connections between Delta's Nature Reserve and Watershed Park, Surrey's Joe Brown Park and Mud Bay Park.

The 2.3 km section between 64th Avenue and Highway 10 is officially open. Also Surrey's Mud Bay Park which serves as the southern terminus is open and connects to the Boundary Bay Dyke Trail.

The section that goes through Panorama Ridge (Section 5) is under construction, and will be completed over the next 1.5 years as dykes to connect south of Joe Brown Park to Mud Bay Park are completed. NOTE: this is a different route than indicated on the map. Due to private property issues, the trail will NOT follow along the sewer service road to 125A St., but cut south of Joe Brown Park to Colebrook Rd.

If you are walking on the trail south of Joe Brown Park, please respect the gates and signs indicating the trail is closed and exit out through Joe Brown Park.

While not on the Ridge, a cyclist/pedestrian overpass is also planned across the track just north of Hwy 10 to connect to the trail running along the sewer line towards 64th Ave.



Delta-South Surrey Regional Greenway

Man's best friend (continued from page 4)

and yelling for it to "go home". But, there are dogs that are "dog aggressive" and may seek to attack your dog and not you- in which case one should get away and try to get help because any efforts to get between the aggressive dog and your dog might result in you getting injured (i.e. it could be risky to scoop your smaller dog into your arms). Postal carriers usually carry pepper spray canisters with them, but they have been found to be largely ineffective. Most canisters are difficult to aim so that you would disable an aggressive dog- apparently even a blinded dog can manage to inflict a fair amount of damage by locating through its sense of smell. The thought crossed my mind that a partially injured animal is usually much more hostile.

For the defiant dog, the recommendation from the SPCA was to not stare at the animal, but to back away slowly and to look for anything that can be used to defend an actual attack (stick, rock, gravel). I usually carry my cell phone with me, but by the time I made the call and someone got to my dog and me, I suspect the damage would have been inflicted.

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Hwy 10 Links

Project Office:
17651 57 Ave,
Cloverdale

Contact:Helen Lester
604-719-4636

Project web site:
www.bip.gov.bc.ca

Traffic Links

B.C.Highway web cams:

Live web cams of all the major highways and intersections in BC

www.gov.bc.ca/bchighwaycam

Highway 10 construction update

The work presently in progress on the Highway #10 project is the construction of the hammerheads from 132A Street to 135 Street. Berms have been established where the streets abut Hwy.#10. It is anticipated that the landscaping, i.e. the planting of trees and shrubs on the berms should be completed by the end of October, 2006.

The hammerheads have been established to facilitate the turning of private vehicles as well as emergency vehicles. In accordance with the City of Surrey Traffic By-laws, street parking will be prohibited in these hammerheads. Traffic signs to this effect will be erected in due course.

The 57 Avenue extension has been completed and has generally been praised by most residents as an improvement in view of the danger and difficulty of entering Highway #10 during peak traffic periods. The absence of a street sign, at the corner of 57 Avenue and 132 Street, indicating 57 Avenue, have been reported to and should shortly be rectified.

Mr. Alex Izett, Project Manager for the Border Infrastructure Program, has advised that B&B Contracting Ltd. has been appointed to clear vegetation along Hwy.#10 as well as develop the 132 Street and Hwy.#10 intersection. Work will commence possibly as early as January, 2007, but could be delayed until February or March 2007. Possible adverse weather conditions could delay the commencement of construction.

The Ministry of Transportation is presently reviewing the nature and durability of the material to be used in the wall construction. Mr. Izett, has indicated that a decision will possibly be forthcoming from The Ministry by the end of October, 2006.

Colebrook Church
5441 125A Street

Upcoming Events

Panorama Ridge Christmas Craft Fair

November 25th, 10AM to 4PM

11th Annual Old Fashion Christmas Concert

December 2nd, 7PM

(Admission - donation to the Surrey Food Bank)

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Colebrook Park

Those of you with good memories will remember that the large tract of land below the ridge, bordering on Colebrook Road, was purchased by he City of Surrey and dedicated as park land in 1998. (Before that two golf courses surrounded by new housing had been proposed for the site). In 2002 City Council approved a "master plan" for the park, which plans included as a first phase the development of a series of trails. Since the approval of the master plan, no development or significant improvements of any kind have been undertaken at Colebrook Park by the City. The first phase, which in 2002 we understood would occur within a few years, would be the development of some basic trails and the installation of a parking lot in the south-east sector.

In October 2006, we were told by a representative of Surrey Parks & Recreation that there is no money being allocated to the improvement of Colebrook Park. We were advised that all of the available parks budget is being allocated to other parks projects deemed to be of higher priority.

Although it looks like the south-east portion of the park (next to King George Highway at Colebrook Road) is currently being developed as a parking lot, in fact it is being used by Surrey Engineering as a temporary fill site during neighbouring non-parks work. We have been told that the "fill" is acting as a pre-load for the planned parking lot and will be removed in 2007. However, Surrey confirmed that there is no budget nor intention to develop the parking lot any time in the foreseeable future.

If residents are interested in having trails or the parking lot developed as a first phase of improving the park, they should contact the West Panorama Ratepayers Association (via our web-site) or contact a member of our board or a City councillor.

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www.panoramaridge.org

Have you visited the West Panorama Ridge Ratepayers Association, (WPRRA) web site lately? Fire up your browser and type in the above URL and give it a try! Your Board Of Directors (BOD) felt a web site was great way to better communicate with the residents of our community and we have had our site up and running for about six months. The site is being constantly updated and expanded to add more information and new features. Click on it today to:

- read the current newsletter and back issues
- view AGM/BOD meeting minutes
- find out if a block watch program exists for your area
- see who is on the BOD and how to contact them or the WPRRA
- check the resources page, (what's the phone number for By-law?)
- parks and highway 10
- find the latest news and views on the ridge

These are just a few features of the current site!

In the future we would like to add features such as providing a spot where residents can view a list of any criminal activity that has occurred on the ridge and can add any incidents they have suffered or have heard of.

If you have ideas for our new web site, please pass them on! In the meantime, check back frequently to see what's new on Panorama Ridge.

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2007 WEST PANORAMA RIDGE RATEPAYER'S ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Ratepayer's Association is moving to a calendar year membership structure. Please complete the form below and mail or drop off, along with a cheque for $10 to: West Panorama Ridge Ratepayer's Association, 5781 125A Street, Surrey, B.C., V3X 3G8. If you have not submitted your fees for the current year, please consider adding the $10 2006 fee to your 2007 membership application.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

In every edition of our newsletter we ask the residents for input on issues that are relevant to life on the ridge. The input you provide by completing these surveys is an important source of feedback for the board.

SURVEY

The WPRRA is considering some changes to membership fees. Please answer the following survey to help us determine community opinion in this area. Drop your answers off to any Director, or mail to 5781-125A Street, V3X 3G8. If you want to complete the survey on-line, send your answers by email to "panoramaridge@shaw.ca"

If you don't join, or renew, your WPRRA membership in a given year, is this primarily because:

- ☐ You missed the Annual General Meeting
- ☐ You just forgot
- ☐ You don't support the WPRRA because you don't believe it's of value to the community
- ☐ You don't support the WPRRA because you don't believe it helps you.
- ☐ You don't know how to join/renew or how much it costs

or other reason _____

The current membership fee is $10 per year. This fee has not changed for at least 15 years. Please indicate the highest annual fee you would be willing to pay:

☐ The current fee, $10 ☐ $12.50 ☐ $15 ☐ $20 ☐ $25

or, what is your suggestion for an appropriate fee? _____