**April 2010**
**Spring Edition**

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# WEST PANORAMA RIDGE
RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

**Website** www.panoramaridge.org
**Email** panoramaridge@shaw.ca

## WPRRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

April 24th, 2010 7:30 PM
Colebrook United Church

### ABOUT OUR ASSOCIATION

The purpose of the West Panorama Ridge Ratepayers Association is to promote and assure the well being of the residents of the West Panorama Ridge area by protecting the semi-rural character and quality of life of the area.

Volunteer Directors are elected by its members at the Annual General Meeting held each Spring.

**We're on the Web!**
*See us at:*
**www.panoramaridge.org**

### 2010 MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE!

Your membership fees make it possible for us to continue to provide you with these informative newsletters and maintain our website.

For a small fee of $10 per year, you are also demonstrating your support for the issues we share in our community. The larger the membership, the greater the influence we carry in our message and in our actions.

We welcome our new members and wish to thank all of those who continue to support our Association. See Page 12 for membership details.

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I want to start this message by thanking the dedicated group of residents that help to keep our community and parks more or less free from garbage. Some roads are more of a challenge to keep clean than others but Colebrook Road is by far the worst. On two occasions an entire truckload of garbage dumped on Colebrook Road was inspected and traced back to the owners. The owners in these cases had no idea that the trash collector that they paid to dump the garbage in the landfill would instead dump their garbage on a public road. The trash collection contractors were contacted and charged for the cleanup plus fined by the City of Surrey by-law department. Please report illegal dumping and if possible pick up garbage in the area around your house and plan to bring your friends and neighbours to our "Earth Day", April 24. Last year approximately 65 residents showed up to help clean up our community at Colebrook Church, we hope to see more people this year (bring your children)...

Caught in the act with a forgotten packing slip

Our Association has received a number of comments that the stretch of road between 132A and 136th Street on 55A Avenue has been the scene of some very close accidents.... This is a dangerous portion of road due to the fact that the road winds and has very poor visibility (parking in this "S" curve makes it even more dangerous). Since children play on the road and pedestrians use it to make their way home, it is very important that drivers keep their speed down to prevent potential serious accidents. It is noted that most of the traffic on this road is local; it is residents of this street who are creating these hazardous conditions.

Wednesday, April 28 @7:30PM the West Panorama Ridge Ratepayer's Association will hold their Annual General Meeting in Colebrook Church hall. This is the time that residents can elect and direct their Board of Directors about issues that they wish to have addressed. This is also the time that you as an individual can stand up and allow to be entered as a candidate for a Board member position. If you have an interest in taking part of improving our community, I urge you to either e-mail us at panoramaridge@shaw.ca or make us aware at the AGM that you wish to run for a Board position. Our Board of Directors work on a large variety of issues and represent the truest form of democracy. A community association represents the majority of their residents and provides the position forwarded by their members to the City. An example is: people that moved to West Panorama Ridge moved here for the semi-rural

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE (Continued)

character of our community. The majority of these residents provided us with their view to keep this character and preserve as many trees as possible, through "beefed up" tree by-laws and look for development options that minimizes the loss of trees. Other issues that our Association gets involved in are: security of our community, train whistling / speed, reduction of railway-traffic crossings, residential development proposals, issue two newsletters per year, maintain a web site, work with the City to develop three parks, maintain a log of break-ins to advise the community of certain problems. This all takes a lot of time that a small group of volunteers does in their spare time. Volunteers providing assistance will find that this work is very rewarding and you get to know your community better!

The daily Amtrak to the US

Please plan to attend the Annual General Meeting (April 28) to receive updates on the following:

- Changes that the railways are considering for Colebrook Road.
- Changes to Joe Brown Park and Delta View Park.
- Large number of proposed Developments in our community.
- City of Surrey will provide us with an overview of the Emergency evacuation plans for our community and what programs are available to better prepare ourselves in case of a disaster. Our community is located between a provincial highway and railways that allow shipments of chemicals that once leak out of their containers may necessitate the evacuation of our homes. The possibility of an earthquake and or other natural disaster requires a plan to be in place that needs to be communicated to the residents. Please plan to attend this meeting.

As always our Association welcomes your comments / concerns at panoramaridge@shaw.ca.

Sincerely,
Arnie van Hattem
President, West Panorama Ratepayers Association

Local wildlife

# WHERE IS THE LARGEST FIR TREE ON THE RIDGE?

According to the City of Surrey, Surrey, (including the ridge), was logged about 100 years ago and thus the entire City has no old growth trees. A walk through Joe Brown Park, especially the path to the north of the entrance road, will reveal a few old growth stumps, clearly large trees have been here.

The good news is that the ridge still has some pretty big trees, all generally about 100+ years old, including a few that we have been told are some of the largest in Surrey. But which is the largest? We went on a mission to find out. All trees had their circumference measured five feet from the ground. Here are the candidates.

1. Joe Brown Park is home to a number of large fir trees. Most we measured were about 10 feet in circumference. (That's over 3 feet in diameter, five feet up!) There is one very tall tree on the north side of the creek that measured 11 feet 6 inches.

2. The Pelley tree is on the property of Mark Johnson and Sandy Pelley and is at the end of 55A Avenue. (It's on private property) This tree measured a very large 13 feet 3 inches in circumference!

Mark leaning on his tree

3. The Panorama Giant is also located on 55A avenue, right near the road. You can drive up to this tree. The WPRRA saved this tree from the chain saw when this area was developed. The "Giant" measures an enormous 14 feet 2 1/2 inches! We have been told that the Giant is one of the ten largest fir trees in Surrey.

Individual caught hugging the Panorama Giant

## WHERE IS THE LARGEST FIR TREE ON THE RIDGE (Continued)

4. But the winner is, the Trebra tree on the property of Mrs. Katherine von Trebra. Her property is located at the foot bridge to Joe Brown Park at 123rd avenue.

Her tree is also on private property, don't trespass! The Trebra tree just edged out the Giant with a measurement of 14 feet 3 1/2 inches. (that's a diameter of 54.5 inches five feet up!)

We tried to measure as accurately as possible, but admit we could have some error in the numbers. The Trebra tree in on a slope, so we did have to estimate where the five foot high mark was.

Do you have a large fir tree on your property, or do you know where one is located on the ridge? Let us know! These beautiful trees, all at least 100 years old, form part of the rural nature here on the ridge.

Thumbs up to the biggest tree on the Ridge

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

The Panorama Ridge Classical Music Society Is holding its spring concert on Saturday, May 8th. which will feature soprano Carole Woolams. The evening begins at 7 p.m. at St. Michaels Millenium Church Hall, 12996 – 60 Ave. The ticket price of $18 includes the concert as well as refreshments and an art show. For more information, or to purchase tickets, please phone one of the following: Bob Cannon- 604 594-5829, Karen Enns-590-1157, Angela Smith-594-5271 or Louise Ralston- 591-3753.

## LARGE HOMES AND SECONDARY SUITES

You've probably read the controversy in the newspaper around the RF zoning changes proposed for Surrey. It is proposed to allow larger homes on RF zoned lots. Any changes to the RF zone will have little impact on Panorama Ridge as we have only a handful of lots with this designation. One of the key concerns associated with the proposed changes is the issue of revenue generating secondary suites. The logic is that if you allow larger homes, some people will use this extra space to create secondary suites.

It is estimated that Surrey currently has 30,000 to 40,000 illegal secondary suites. A very small number pay a Surrey "utility" tax, but most are completely below the tax radar. One consequence of this is burgeoning school enrollments with no corresponding school taxes paid. Surrey is currently considering how to address these existing illegal suites and what future policy they should adopt regarding suites.

Panorama Ridge is zoned single family residential, secondary suites are illegal. The WPRRA has conducted numerous surveys of ridge residents regarding secondary suites. The consistent response is that ridge residents want the ability to have a "family" suite, but overall are opposed to "revenue" suites. The definition of family suite is pretty loose, but in general it is a suite to support an elderly parent or relative, disabled family member, nanny etc. The WPRRA can consistently informed City Council of the position of our community.

Bob Campbell, a WPRRA Director is currently part of a small group selected by the Mayor to discuss the issue of secondary suites and RF zoning changes.

## ZUMBA FITNESS AT COLEBROOK CHURCH

Zumba is a dance-based fitness program that combines latin/international music with basic latin dance steps, such as merengue, salsa, cumbia and reggaeton. This high-energy dance party is like no other class, and will have you sweating and smiling in no time- and you won't even realize you're working out! So come and see for yourself! No dance experience necessary. Appropriate for all fitness levels.

Please contact Daniela Endersby at danielaendersby@shaw.ca or 778-945-1294 for further information.

## TRAINS

In the Fall 2009 newsletter we reported on a major proposal to create an uninterrupted stretch of dual track railway beside Colebrook Road below the Ridge. To achieve this, the northern portion of Colebrook Road was to be extended and travel through what is now Colebrook Park to the King George highway overpass. Originally we were told that this proposal would eliminate the controlled crossings at 127A and 131A Street and that the only access to Mud Bay Park will be from the east, near King George Highway.

BNSF train traffic

This proposal is still active, in fact we have been told that it is very close to becoming reality. There have been some changes; the current plan leaves the 127A Street crossing to Mud Bay Park active. This is worrisome, as this crossing is one of the last crossings below the Ridge where trains still whistle. The WPRRA has been working for nearly 15 years to eliminate whistles below Panorama Ridge. We are being assured that after the implementation of these changes whistling will stop, but in our opinion, the same conditions that caused whistling to continue after this crossing was upgraded about five years ago will still exist.

We have brought this issue to the attention of City of Surrey senior engineering management, and they have agreed that it needs to be addressed.

The potential upside of these changes is the elimination of whistles below the Ridge. We have also been told that some monies will be made available to build a public path through Colebrook Park. The downside is Colebrook Park will have a road through it and these tracks will carry longer and more frequent trains. We continue to work on this issue to ensure the best possible outcome for Panorama Ridge.

Multi-times daily freight train

## PANORAMA RIDGE CITIZEN PATROL ("PRCP")

The PRCP was introduced last fall with high interest from the community and enough volunteers signed up to launch this program. To date there have been regular patrols with excellent results! These patrols are making our community safer by observing and noting behaviour not consistent with the norm and thereby making it uncomfortable for "visitors" that have no particular purpose for being in our neighbourhood...

Further training and other volunteer projects that are being offered to Citizen's Patrol are: "Speed Watch" and Detour Guide Training.

The Patrol can use more volunteers and another call is going out to the residents of West Panorama Ridge to become involved. If you are able to contribute 4-6 hours once or twice per month (week days or weekend evenings) and wish to learn more about the program, please contact the coordinator Mike Glas at (604) 591-6598.

This is our neighborhood and it's everyone's business to keep it safe!

We post all of the crimes reported to us on our website at www.panoramaridge.org.
If you wish to report a crime, follow the link on the website and we will list it.

## TRAILS AND PATHS ON THE RIDGE

Unless you are an avid Ridge walker, bet you didn't know of all the trails and walking short cuts on the Ridge. The red lines on the map indicate paths that connect the streets on the Ridge.

## EARTH DAY REMINDER

We would like to invite all those interested, motivated and dedicated citizens on the Ridge to join us in our 4th Annual Earth Day Celebration and Clean Up.

If you or your family are interested, please meet at Colebrook Elementary on Saturday, April 24th at 10:00 a.m. where we will distribute the necessary bags.

Please bring your own gloves or tools ( pickers).
This event goes rain or shine and all participants are invited back to Tammy and Joe's for a Bar-B-Q lunch!
For more information contact Tammy at t.richie@shaw.ca

Its more fun then it looks

## RECYCLING

Last summer, the City switched to a "single stream" recycling system. The biggest issue with this new system is the amount of inappropriate material deposited in recycling boxes. The WPRRA is working with the City of Surrey to try and improve the quality of material our community puts into their recycling boxes. The City has done a survey of how much contamination is currently in Panorama Ridge blue boxes and the challenge is to improve the quality of our recycling materials.
Here are some simple rules to help ensure your recycling is easily converted to new products:
1. Check your recycling guide as to what is allowed (www.surrey.ca).
Not sure? Don't put in the blue box!
2. Don't bag your recyclables. These bags cannot be opened during processing and in most cases the entire content of the bag becomes garbage.
3. Remove tops off of plastic jars, cans etc and throw them in your garbage. In most cases the jar and the top are made of different plastics and the tops are not recyclable. Rinse jars and cans! Remember #1, #2, #4 and #5 plastics are the only ones that you can recycle.
4. Separate! Anything that has any combination of paper, plastic and metal is garbage unless you can separate the items! A plastic bag with a metal zipper is garbage unless you cut the zipper out. Plastic packages with cardboard inserts must be separated. Plastic windows attached to cardboard should be removed.
5. Paper and cardboard items that have plastic, foil, or wax coatings or that are covered with food waste are garbage!
6. Plastic bags and Styrofoam are not accepted!!
7. Use the Encorp facilities at Save-On-Foods and elsewhere when possible. These facilities produce the highest quality recyclables.

# NEIGHBOURHOOD EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

The City of Surrey in combination with the Surrey Emergency Program, the Surrey Fire Department, Search and Rescue, Emergency Social Services and the Surrey Emergency Program Amateur Radio group have created a program to take emergency preparedness into the area where it will be most effective - our City, communities, neighbourhoods and homes. This will be accomplished by communities identifying their skills and resources and organize them to be used in case of a disaster. The goal is to prepare each neighbourhood to be self sufficient for at least 72 hours after disaster strikes.

The program that is provided includes training for the following:

Phase One - Personal Preparedness:

- Minimize existing hazards in the home.
- Acquire and store supplies required in an emergency.
- Act quickly and appropriately in an emergency.
- Prepare for evacuation from home or neighbourhood.

Phase - Two - Neighbourhood Preparedness

- Team Leadership.
- First Aid.
- Utilities and Fire Suppression.
- Light Urban Search and Rescue.
- Communication and Transportation.
- Shelter and Care Giving.
- Damage Assessment.

Once these training programs have been completed the City of Surrey intends to keep the knowledge alive by conducting annual events.

To learn more please attend our Annual General Meeting at April 24 starting at 7:30 PM.

## YOUR DIRECTORS

| | |
|---|---|
| Arnie van Hattem | President 604-572-8302<br>Fax 604-595-7785 |
| David Ho | Vice President;<br>Chairperson, Communication Committee 604-543-8789 |
| Bob Campbell | Immediate Past President;<br>Chairperson, Development Committee 604-596-6578 |
| Susan Williams | Treasurer 604-594-7510 |
| Joan Mayhew | Secretary 604-597-5002 |
| John Poley | Chairperson, Constitutions and Elections 604-596-3980 |
| Tammy Ritchie | Chairperson, Keep Clean /Neighbourhood Safety 604-596-6237 |
| Mike Glas | Coordinator, Panorama Ridge Citizens Patrol 604-591-6598 |
| Tom Dent | |
| Bob Dhaliwal | 604 617-7763 |
| Travis Endersby | 604-594-4200 |
| Bruce Fraser | |
| Ken Martin | 604-543-0039 |

## COLEBROOK UNITED CHURCH

The church is holding its annual Spring Yard Sale on Saturday, April 24th. between 9 and 2. Do drop by to check the great assortment of " treasures" that are available. Any items you may wish to donate for the sale will be welcomed at the church on April 22nd. and 23rd. The bake sale, book selection and food concession are always popular features.

Many of the church groups will enjoy a summer break but remember to check the church signs for the date of the Strawberry Tea.

## MEMBERSHIP INVOICE

Membership to the West Panorama Ridge Ratepayers Association

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| One-year membership | from January 01, 2010 to December 31, 2010 | $10.00 |
| or | | |
| Three-year membership | from January 01, 2010 to December 31, 2012 | $25.00 |

Thank you for choosing to support the WPRRA with your membership. We are only as strong as our membership. The fee is nominal ($10 per year or $25 for three years) but your membership gives us the credibility to continue to represent the residents of West Panorama Ridge on issues of importance to our community.

Your membership contribution will be used to publish the newsletter, maintain our website and help improve our community. Your Board of Directors are resident volunteers and receive no pay for their time or contributions.

Please remit your cheque or cash to:
Susan Williams
WPRRA Treasurer
12479 – 57A Avenue
Surrey BC V3X 2S6
or drop your payment of at any Board of Director. Receipts will be sent to the address listed below. The WPRRA keeps all membership information completely confidential.

www.panoramaridge.org

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