West Panorama Ridge Ratepayers Association

Spring 2011 Newsletter

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Annual General Meeting

April 27th, 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.

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

Presidents Message

West Panorama Ridge has been fortunate to have many residents that care very much what happens in their community. We have a large group of individuals that are committing countless hours to improve or sometimes maintain our quality of life. Some people take time out of their day to pick up garbage, some spend time to make sure that our community is improved with developments that make sense and maximizes tree retention, others provide security patrols to minimize property loss and provide for a safer neighbourhood etc. All these tasks are performed on a voluntary basis completely without benefit to these individuals other than the satisfaction that they can be proud of the community that they live in. Most of these tasks are coordinated through the West Panorama Ridge Ratepayers Association, ("WPRRA") whose Directors are chosen by the members at their Annual General Meeting ("AGM").

The next AGM will be held Wednesday April 27 and if you are interested in your community and want to help make a difference by getting involved, I urge you to forward your name to run for a Directorship in the WPRRA. At a minimum please fill in the membership form at the end of this newsletter and either re-new your membership or sign up as a new member.

Another Ridge Resident

We have been told by many different sources that our Association is the strongest and best organized in the Lower Mainland however our "voice" at Surrey City Hall is only as strong as our membership is. A WPRRA membership is still only $10 per annum or $25 for three years. At the risk of blowing our own trumpet, this is likely the best investment you can make to help your community.

Please send in your membership fee or let us know what we can do to earn your trust.

Recently we have received a number of emails regarding dogs that have escaped out of their fenced yards and are making it difficult for pedestrians, with or without dogs to enjoy their walks. Some of these dogs are quite aggressive and I have been asked to remind dog owners to be more attentive.

I hope to see the residents of Panorama Ridge at our next Annual General Meeting, April 27.

Best regards,

Arnie van Hattem,
President WPRRA

Development

We've had another busy year dealing with development applications. First, some good news! Working with adjacent residents, the WPRRA was able to persuade Council to vote against an inappropriate panhandle development application on 53rd Avenue. We have been working on this file for three years and hundreds of hours have been spent on this fight! The worry was that if this panhandle development was approved, many lots on this street would be purchased by developers looking to use panhandles to subdivide the properties. The result would have been pretty disastrous for the neighborhood and the community.

We have also been working with a large group of residents on 56th avenue near 120th Street who are opposing a proposed development on their south side. This development would eliminate a large number of mature trees and place two houses orthogonally to the existing houses on 56th. People who now look out their back windows and see a forest, will now see the side of a large home. In addition, this development is proposing to use a "temporary" road for access off New McLellan, despite the fact that a dedicated road access intended to support development is only one lot away. Residents and the WPRRA are asking that the development use the dedicated road ROW and that the area behind the 56th Avenue residents not be down zoned.

The very contentious panhandle development on 54Ath Avenue that was previously denied by the City has been resurrected in the form of a new application with the exact same configuration and layout as previously submitted. Both the WPRRA and most of the residents from the area remain opposed to this development.

The WPRRA worked hard to save a large number of trees the proposed six lot development on the east side of 132 street just north of 57th Avenue. Initially the developer proposed to basically clear cut the lot indicating that "lots without trees sell faster and for more money". Nice try! For development purposes, buy a heavily forested piece of property on Panorama Ridge believing that clear lots sell for more and then try and clear all the trees. A lot of trees will still be cut, but through our efforts, at least 50 will be saved.

What we are trying to avoid.

A great deal of development activity is under way in one of the last big undeveloped portions of Panorama Ridge. This area stretches from 128th to 132nd Street and from New McLellan to Highway #10. Developers have purchased many of the parcels along New McLellan; some of these parcels extend all the way to Highway #10. The WPRRA has already secured a City of Surrey commitment for a new park in the middle of this area that will preserve some of the mature trees. A current development application involves the extension of Coulthard Road. This developer has requested RF-G zoning, a density we do not have on the Ridge and that the WPRRA is opposing. Look for a lot more activity in this area over the next few years.

Neighbourhool Emergency Preparedness (NEPP)

In light of recent events in Japan and around the world, it is important we remember that we too are vulnerable here on the West Coast of B.C.

A few members and Directors of the WPRRA recently attended a NEPP seminar and became informed.

We hope to impart what we learned over the next few months and urge all residents of the Ridge to take the necessary steps to be prepared in the event of an Earthquake or other natural disaster. We are told to prepare for at the least 3 days and up to 7 days...to have your own Grab and Go kit ready, in an accessible place in your home and don't forget to have the same In your car. BE PREPARED! Get your neighbours involved! Be proactive!

We will have more information at the AGM on April 27th as well as a sample Grab and Go kit.

For more information, please go to any one of several sites on the Internet.

Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) www.pep.bc.ca
Red Cross www.redcross.ca
City of Surrey www.surrey.ca (Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness)
BC Earthquake Alliance www.ShakeOutBC.ca

Block Watch

What is Block Watch?

Block Watch is a program to help neighbours watch out for neighbours. By simply getting to know the neighbours around you, you'll be able to recognize someone or something that's suspicious. When neighbours work together, they can combat crime in their area the most effective way - before it starts. Block Watch encourages active participation in crime prevention.

How does it work?

Each Block Watch requires a Block Captain to set up communication between neighbours and to serve as the link between Block Watch participants and the Block Watch office. Some Block Watches have Co-Captains as well, depending on the size of the Block Watch. Before becoming a Captain or Co-Captain, you must undergo a security check. Once you have been security cleared, you will attend a two hour training session and are provided with written materials to provide to each participant in your Block Watch. NOTE: Block Watch does not require a lot of time or major responsibility. It is easy to organize.

To get involved in an existing Block Watch in your area, or if you are interested in starting a Block Watch in your area, contact your local Crime Prevention Coordinator at the Community Police Office in your District.

If anyone needs help setting up Block Watch please Call Bob Dhaliwal 604 617-7763

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Citizen Patrol

The Panorama Ridge Citizen Patrol was started in the fall of 2009 with immediate Tactical Repositioning (Verbal Judo) Training and have proven to be dedicated community-minded volunteers. Some of the patrollers participated in foot patrols at Holland Park during the RCMP Musical Ride Performances for the 2010 Winter Olympics.

The Patrol is not designed to replace the local police but are secondary eyes and ears which allows them to direct their focus on other areas of potential crime and criminal activity. This patrol allows our neighbourhood to have additional security over and above what we can expect from the local police force who are one of the busiest in Canada.

The Panorama Ridge Citizen Patrol presently has nine members and is continually striving to recruit more. The patrols are usually scheduled to operate during week days Monday to Friday.

To become a Citizen on Patrol Volunteer you must:

* Be 19 years of age or older;

* Be a resident of Surrey;

* Complete a Criminal Record and Enhanced Security Clearance Check;

* Be Committed to the program for one year;

* Be a Team Player;

* Successfully complete the training for Citizens on Patrol

* Completion of a Volunteer Application Form If you would like to join our friendly team of volunteers please call Mike Glas at (604) 591-6598 or speak to him or one of our volunteers at the AGM on April 27th. You can learn more about what you can do to prevent crime in your community.

* Application and other relevant forms will be available at the AGM.

Trains

Ok, so after 15 years I am starting to sound like a bit of a broken record and unfortunately for at least another year, I cannot tell citizens of Panorama Ridge that we have finally resolved the train whistling issue. But we did make progress this year by working with the City to have the second last uncontrolled crossing closed. We started with 13 uncontrolled crossings where trains whistled and we now have ONE CROSSING TO GO AND WHISTLING WILL BE ELIMINATED! We do have an agreement with the City that will halt whistling at this last crossing. This agreement is part of a larger plan to double track below the ridge and at this moment, we are waiting for final approval from the rail operating companies.

Ridge Resident Stories

by Kalyn Chalupa

Kalyn training an ex racehorse

Twenty years, two decades, a fifth of a century..no matter how you say it, it's a long time! It's also the number of years that I have been riding at Panorama Ridge Riding Club in beautiful Joe Brown Park. Many of my fondest childhood memories took place here; Pony Club camps, jumper shows, Prince Phillip Games and just goofing around with my friends and our ponies through seemingly endless summer vacations. As I grew older my mounts changed from ponies to horses and my sights became centered on competing at upper levels, memories of my high school years are not land marked by dances or exams but rather by various competitions with my reliable horse, Oscar. At the tender age of 17 I graduated early and took off to Ocala, Florida to improve my riding skills with Kyle Carter, a member of the Canadian Olympic team. After several years in Florida packed with education and experiences (good, bad and ugly!) my work with horses once again led me to travel. For 3 years I exercised racehorses in Ireland and then Australia before finally returning home to beautiful British Columbia. Eight long years I was away and yet every visit home included a trip to Panorama Ridge to hop on a friends horse and go for a trip down memory lane.

My goals have somewhat changed in the last two decades, rather than competing I am focusing my energies on retraining and rehoming ex-racehorses with a non-profit organization called New Stride. Audrey and Tony Pease have kindly allowed me to use (and often ravage!) their wonderful property to house the ''foster children'' until a perfect home can be found for them.

When these race-weary horses come to the Peases property they have never walked down a road or through a trail, never seen a riding ring or a jump. When they leave they are worldly, confident partners who are safe for nearly anyone to ride. The people at New Stride have Panorama Ridge to thank for the success of their graduates, for nowhere else in the lower mainland can a ''green'' horse be exposed to so much; trails, riding rings, the Delta watershed, the Boundary Bay dyke system; after seeing all this any horse will develop a ''been-there-done-that'' attitude that increases their chances of adoption by tenfold.

I can clearly recall a time when I would have to time a ride perfectly in order to avoid ''traffic'' in the rings and trails of Joe Brown park, now days more often than not I have the facilities all to myself! While being convenient in my efforts to train horses, these solitary rides often leave me with a feeling of nostalgia and longing for the days of fighting for a spot in the crowded riding arenas! There are certainly fewer horses on Panorama Ridge than in my youth, but through the continued efforts of our small riding club and its dedicated board of directors we remain a wonderful, often under-appreciated haven to participate in equestrian activities and I hope we continue to do so for many years to come.

WPRRA History

The first major meeting of what is now the WPRRA. This photo was taken in the early sixties.

RESIDENTS FORM ORGANIZATION

More than 150 people packed Colebrook United Church Hall, Monday, as Panorama Ridge residents combined to fight subdivision plans for their area. From the gathering emerged the newly formed Panorama Ridge - Colebrook Ratepayers Association with resident Bob Bose elected chairman.

Recognize anyone in this photo? Please email us if you do. panoramaridge@shaw.ca

Colebrook Church

The church will be hosting the following spring events and welcome everyone to attend.

Spring Yard Sale - Saturday, April 16, 9-a.m. to 2 p.m. features plants, books, concessions, bake sale, kitchen items, yard tools, boutique and more! Donations of your gently used items would be appreciated.

Easter Sunday Worship Service - Sunday, April 24, 10 a.m.

The Lyric Singers & Colebrook United Church present : GLORIA: heavenly music and less featuring the Vivaldi Gloria and new composition by Diane Louie, a musical supervisor for the Tonight Show. Tickets @ $15/20 may be purchased from Shirley, 604 313-2265, Pat, 604 535-0498 or call 604 340-4353. Tickets available at the door.

Strawberry Tea - Saturday, June 22, 1-3:30 P.M. offers the perfect opportunity to join friends and neighbors as the community gathers to enjoy this delicious annual tradition.

Fifth Annual Earth Day Cleanup

Saturday April 30th

Once again, time to clean up your neighbourhood. We are organizing the 5th annual Earth Day on the Ridge at 10:00 a.m., Saturday April 30th starting at Colebrook Elementary. All those keen and dedicated to keeping the Ridge garbage free (for at least a day!) are invited to attend. We will distribute the bags and provide a Free-Participant-only BBQ lunch back at Tammy and Joe's when the work is done! It's fun and very rewarding when you see the pile of garbage that is collected in just a few hours!

Last year's haul

The after cleanup BBQ

Rain or shine, bring your own gloves and pickers tools if you require them.

For more information, contact Tammy at t.richie@shaw.ca

Recycling

There is still quite a bit of inappropriate material being placed in recycling bins. Remember to separate items that have paper and plastic and/or metal components. There is no machine on the other end that does this. Don't put your recyclables in a plastic bag and then in your blue box, doing this turns everything in the bag to garbage! Only #1,2,4 and 5 plastics are acceptable. If in doubt, throw it out! There is no person on the other end who is going to examine your recycling and make this decision.

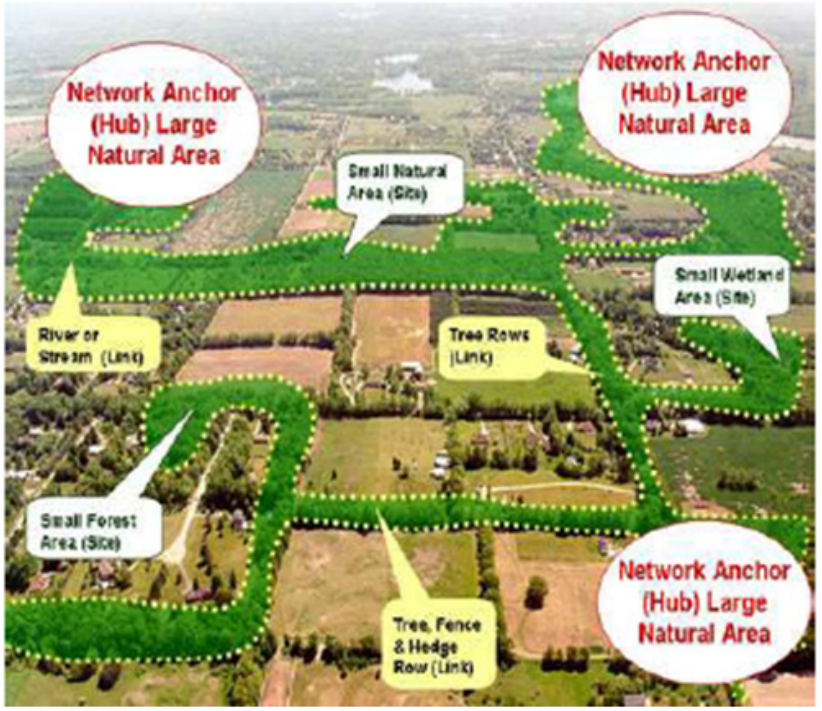
Recycling used products into new products only works when the appropriate recycling materials are placed in the blue bins. Do your part! The City of Surrey website (www.surrey.ca) provides an excellent reference on how and what to recycle.

Boulevards

Your boulevard represents the face of your home and property to the community. Please help to keep our community beautiful by maintaining the grass or trees on the boulevard and cleaning up any litter that may have been thrown there. Many residents have done wonderful jobs of enhancing their boulevards with flowers, shrubs etc, all to the general benefit of the community. Nothing looks worse than a gravel boulevard covered with weeds and litter.

Surrey's Ecosystem Management Study

The city is undertaking an exciting study to better understand the various ecosystem values within the city. The key element of the study is to identify the various "hubs", "sites" and the "corridors" that connect them creating a "Green Infrastructure Network" across the city.



Hubs: >10ha in size, provide "anchors" to the network

Sites: <10ha in size, provide "stepping stones" on the network

Corridors: connections between hubs and sites that allow for movement

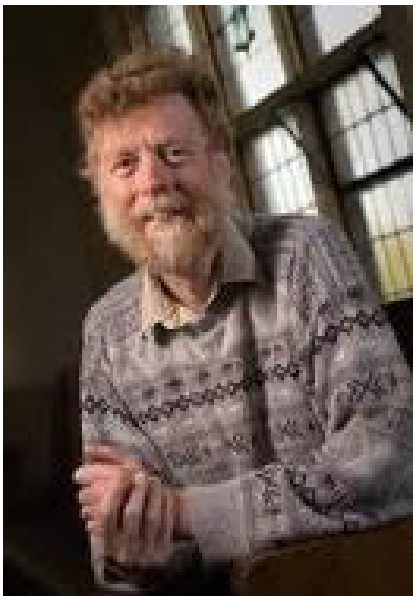
By recognizing the dynamic nature of ecosystems and taking a holistic management approach the City's ultimate goal is to have "preservation and development planned in harmony, not in opposition".

So what does this mean to the Ridge?

Firstly, as can be seen in the image below, the Ridge has a significant number of hubs (dark green), important sites (light green) and corridors (dashed lines). But what it means in terms of development and preservation is still uncertain as the study is still in draft form. The next step is for Council to approve the study so that the Green Infrastructure Network can be incorporated in the Official Community Plan and guidelines for development & management can be produced. So stay tuned.

Colebrook United Church Minister Interview

Reverend Daniel Bogert-O'Brien



Reverend Daniel Bogert-O'Brien

Tell me a little about your experience and or background. I started out thinking I would do Special Education and worked with mentally and physically challenged adults and children. I also worked with children who suffered abuse and were in care. I got interested in theology and world religions in my early twenties and returned to the United Church. After theological School, some at Vancouver School of Theology and finishing at the Claremont School of Theology, I did two years as a Student Minister in Winnipeg at John Black United Church while Loretta did her Master's Degree. I was ordained after that by BC Conference of the United Church of Canada in Victoria BC and then went to Flores Island and the First Nation's Fishing Village of Ahousaht, 14 miles by sea from Tofino. From there we went to Quadra Island, to the First Nation's community of Cape Mudge. The First Nations people taught me a great deal about the Spiritual depths of the Natural World and the meaning of being a community. They also taught me about fishing, clamming and respect for all creation and people. We went from this coast to Edmonton where I served as one member of the interfaith chaplaincy team at the U of A andtaught some graduate and undergraduate courses in theology and Hebrew Scripture for 8 years. I started my PhD there. My wife was offere a position at Nortel in Ottawa and so we moved to Ottawa where I stayed at home with my children while finishing my PhD. I later taught at the U of O as a "sessional" and did some interim work in various churches in the Ottawa region. We stayed there for nine years, until Nortel started its slide and then moved to Squamish where I was the minister to the United Church. There I was a member of the Social Planning Council, became involved in various community actions and initiated an interfaith conversation.

Do you have any future aspirations about the church and community? I hope the community can continue to feel that we are place that cares and is open to the whole community. We will continue and hope to expand our role as a place of dialog and welcome, and be open to all members of the community.

How do you see the church and the community association working together for the benefit of the parish and the community? The church and the community can work together to include everyone in the future dialog about the nature of the community and well being of all its members. Our facility is open for use and has and will continue to welcome all. As church people we hope to serve and be involved in our community.

What do you feel is the main or primary purpose of the Church Here? We hope to be a place that has a compassionate ear for all and an openness to see the Holy as working not just in the church but in the wider community to bring compassion, reconciliation, care for creation and justice for the whole community. We as a worshipping community are open to all and are developing a vision that calls us to a deep caring for the whole community and this place.

Is the Church a specific denomination? It is a congregation of the United Church of Canada

Your Directors

Arnie van Hattem	President	604-572-8302
Bob Campbell	Immediate Past President; Chairperson, Development Committee	604-596-6578
Tammy Ritchie	Vice President Chairperson, Keep Clean /Neighbourhood Safety	604-596-6237
Susan Williams	Treasurer	604-594-7510
Joan Mayhew	Secretary	604-597-5002
Mike Glas	Coordinator, Panorama Ridge Citizens Patrol	604-591-6598

Tom Dent	604-671-5755
Bob Dhaliwal	604 617-7763
Travis Endersby	604-594-4200
Bruce Fraser	604-599-1973
Ken Martin	604-543-0039

Volunteer Board Members in Training

Lauren Kunimoto	778-565-7637
Edwina Nazareth	604-543-8523
Audrey Pease	604-590-8411

Mud Bay Beach

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.

Issues raised at Annual General Meetings are addressed by the BOD throughout the year, this includes train whistling, property security, and land development. We also act on issues that arise during the year that are conveyed to us via e-mail, phone or direct contact with Directors.

The community website 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 $25 investment (for a three year membership) you can make in your community! ($10 for a one year membership) Attached is our membership application form. Fill it out and make a difference!

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