West Panorama Ridge Ratepayers Association

Promoting and assuring 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.

Fall 2012 Newsletter

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

President's Message

Our West Panorama Ridge Ratepayers Association ("WPRRA") is often told that our community is changing. Our community association strives to achieve a balance such that residents that have lived here for a long time and those that just moved here have their ideas and requests equally represented. It should be noted that our community association does NOT approve or reject development. We provide the City with our opinion as to, if the development being considered is of benefit to the community or not. The City makes all decisions with respect to the approval or rejection of developments.

Most people that move to our community did so because of our unique environment. Located adjacent to a much higher density community to the north, our properties are by comparison larger and this extra space allows us to enjoy privacy, grow vegetables and fruit in our own garden and our (grand) children have lots of room to play. We can breathe (mostly) fresh air due to the large stand of trees that remain in our community. We have equestrian centres within walking distance and some of the most beautiful parks in Surrey. Most of us are proud of the homes that we have chosen for ourselves and our children. This shows because we spend money and effort to keep our homes looking as well as our budgets allow. Our community is unique in that a very large percentage of the residents choose to become involved in the betterment of the area by joining our community association, taking time to pick up litter, maintain or enhance parks, join a block watch etc. This is what makes us a community, not a collection of houses.

Some of our infrastructure is now showing its age and requires upgrades or re-engineering. Many of you have advised us that the sidewalk along New McLellan / 56th Avenue does not meet today's standards. Our Association intends to lobby for an upgraded sidewalk along this major artery of Panorama Ridge. You may have noticed that the City on our request have cut back grass that was over growing the 56th Avenue sidewalk, removed gravel and cut back bushes and trees that were preventing normal use of this sidewalk.

October 21 Mud Bay Sunset

Another change that is being contemplated and will have an effect on our community is a second terminal at Roberts Bank. The terminal will result in at least double the train traffic that currently passes Panorama Ridge, over the next ten years. Initial changes to accommodate this expansion are being made today. An additional road north of the train track is being constructed now. This additional train traffic will likely be rail cars transporting containers but we may also see additional coal being transported as this commodity is making a comeback and is used extensively in China.

Some disturbing news reached us and should be a warning to all of us. Recently, a female was waiting for the bus around 123rd and New McLellan when she was approached by a black sedan with two younger Indo-Canadian men. One of the men grabbed the woman and tried pushing her into the car.... Luckily, she was able to pull away and run to safety.... To the best of our knowledge these individuals have not been apprehended yet. A request for more RCMP patrols has been made, but we encourage all to be extra cautious...

We look forward to your comments and suggestions to help improve our community; we can be reached by email @ panoramaridge@shaw.ca.

Arnie van Hattem, President, West Panorama Ridge Ratepayers Association

Delta View Park Beautification

A hardy group of community volunteers came out on a rainy Saturday to continue the beautification of Delta View Park. Our community, organized by the WPRRA, has taken on the project of cleaning up what was a completely undeveloped park that was covered in blackberries, garbage and weeds. The project started this spring, when a portion of the park was cleaned up, native trees and shrubs planted, and bark mulch spread. The result was amazing! A derelict area that most of us drive by everyday was transformed. This last Saturday, the community effort continued with the removal of the remainder of the blackberries along the road.

Next spring, watch for the announcement of the next phase in the beautification of this park, when we hope to plant native shrubs and mulch the area we cleaned Saturday. If we have enough volunteers, we will clean up more of the park. Come out and join us!

A recent rainy Saturday morning at Deta View Park (New McLellan Road and 121st).

WPRRA Ridge Day

The second annual Ridge Day was held at Colebrook United Church and the Panorama Riding Club riding club rings on Saturday September 22, under sunny skies with fantastic attendance. Great food, games, face painting, hair beading, honey and produce vendors, horseback riding and most importantly, everyone out meeting their neighbours! A big thank-you to all who donated their time, their delicious home-made foods, and the community who came out to support this wonderful FREE event! We look forward to seeing you next year. For more information, contact Tammy Ritchie at t.richie@shaw.ca.

Images from Ridge Day - September 22, 2012

Block Watch! Safe Homes, Safe Communities

Block Watch is the hottest tool in the fight against crime. A successful Block Watch depends on neighbors caring about each other's safety. A cohesive group that focuses on crime prevention will make everyone's neighborhood feel safer. Block Watch is a program to help neighbors watch out for neighbors. It aims to get citizens involved in discouraging and preventing crime at the local level. The ultimate success of Block Watch depends largely on a commitment to cooperate between area residents and the police – and more importantly, between residents themselves creating a safer community, one block at a time. Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility – do your part to prevent crime. By simply getting to know your area around you, you'll be able to recognize something suspicious.

As part of the Program, you can learn:

- How to prevent auto crime;
- How to increase your personal safety;
- How to make your home less inviting as a target for thieves;
- How to recognize and report suspicious activity in your neighborhood;
- Know what's happening in your community through organized communication and newsletters;

When communities and citizens work together, they can combat crime in their area the most effective way – before it starts. At least four Block Watch programs are active in Panorama Ridge.

1. The section of 56th Avenue from 125A to 128th. This program is designated #3-310
2. The section of 128 and 128A, south of Highway 10, and a section of 56th.
3. The section of 129th Street south of 56th Avenue.
4. The section 136B Street to 140th Street. This program is designated #3-387

Thank you to these residents for organizing and running these local crime prevention programs. To get involved in an existing Block Watch or if you have any safety concerns in your area please contact:

Leeanne Kelly
Surrey RCMP - District 3 Crime Prevention Coordinator
Email: leeanne.kelly@rcmp-grc.gc.ca
7235 137th Street
Surrey, BC V3W 1A4
Phone (604)502-6560

Development Update

Temporary roads are the new panhandle driveways.

We have now had a large number of development applications requesting “temporary” roads. These roads allow a developer to subdivide a lot where road access to the rear parcels is planned, but not yet available. In virtually every way, these “temporary” roads are panhandled lots and it seems that some in the development community believe calling it a temporary road gives it a better chance of approval than calling it a panhandle. These roads are temporary in name only. They could be in place for 10, 20 30 years, there is no limit as to when they need to be removed. Often, it is proposed to run services along the temporary road. Obviously, when the proper, planned road is available, there is a good chance that the developer is long gone and the residents who purchased the lots have no intention of changing the orientation of their driveways etc for the new road. In most cases, the WPRRA has opposed these temporary roads.

Trains - Colebrook Road Extension - Port Expansion!

Check out the sign!! Yes, it is the PANORAMA RIDGE WHISTLE CESSATION PROJECT and hopefully when complete, eliminates all whistles below Panorama Ridge! After 17 years of effort, and starting from 13 uncontrolled crossings where trains whistled, this will be a major accomplishment! We are told that they are putting down pre-load this fall, with construction of the extension of Colebrook Road, and the upgrades to the crossing at 127A Street occurring next year. When these upgrades are complete, whistling should cease!

Despite the success described above, recently many residents have complained about train noise. Not just whistles, but engine and wheel noise and coal dust. In the past we have put forward the position that non-whistle train noise could be dramatically reduced during the night if trains simply slowed down. As you may have noticed, when trains travel slowly past the ridge, they make little noise.

As you may have heard, Port Metro Vancouver is proposing to double the size of the port at Roberts Bank! This will result in even more trains below the ridge. We are following the approval and consultation process closely, but in the past, the Port has always been willing to listen, but has never offered any assistance of any kind in any of our efforts to reduce the impacts of port expansion on the residents of Panorama Ridge. It seems that to the Port, the public consultation process is conducted merely to tick the box indicating public consultation has occurred.

See: http://www.robertsbankrailcorridor.ca for more information.

Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project

This article provides information on the proposed new manmade island and container terminal proposed to be built at Roberts Bank. This terminal will add significant additional rail traffic below Panorama Ridge and therefore of importance to our community.

The Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project is a proposed new multi-berth container terminal at Roberts Bank in Delta, B.C. that would provide 2.4 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent unit containers) of container capacity. The project is part of Port Metro Vancouver's Container Capacity Improvement Program, a long-term strategy to deliver projects to meet anticipated growth in demand for container capacity to 2030.

An artist's rendering of the proposed Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project, adjacent to the existing Roberts Bank terminals.

Planning Now for Canada's Trade Future

Large infrastructure projects like the proposed Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project require a long lead time, and that is why Port Metro Vancouver is planning now to make sure that there is enough capacity to meet future demand for containerized trade.

In 2011, Port Metro Vancouver moved 2.5 million TEUs, and forecasts show that container traffic is expected to double over the next 10 to 15 years, and triple by 2030. Even with recent and current improvements at Port Metro Vancouver's terminals, and planned investments at the Fairview Terminal in Prince Rupert, the west coast of Canada will still need more container capacity by the mid-2020s. Based on the current project schedule, and subject to regulatory approvals, the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project could be fully operational by 2024.

Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project Components

Terminal 2 would be located west of the existing Roberts Bank terminal facilities, approximately 5.5 kilometres offshore from the mainland. The project would include the following components:

- A three-berth marine container terminal on newly created land
- A container storage yard
- An intermodal yard (where containers are moved to and from trains)
- A truck gate complex to control truck entry and exit
- Administrative buildings and employee parking areas
- Equipment maintenance workshops and facilities
- Equipment required to operate a container terminal, including:
  - » Ship-to-shore gantry cranes
  - » Stacking cranes (rail-mounted or rubber-tired)
  - » Rail yard rail-mounted gantry cranes
  - » Transfer equipment (such as shuttle carriers, automated guided vehicles, and/or tractor trailers)
- Causeway widening and improvements to road and rail infrastructure along the Roberts Bank causeway

Source: www.portmetrovancouver.com/Libraries/PROJECTS_CCIP/Roberts_Bank_Terminal_2_Project_-_Project_Overview_October_2012.sflb.ashx

Don't Allow Yourself to be a Victim of Crime

For every crime, there are victim(s) and to some degree everyone has some control whether they may become a victim or not. Often, it's using awareness and common sense to keep one safe.

Property Crimes.

- Avoid allowing strangers into your home or closed living space.
- If someone knocks on your door and asks to use the phone, do not let them in. Tell them that you will make the call for them if they give you the phone number to dial.
- Spend a little extra money on home security.

Don't be careless with valuables.

- Keep valuables like expensive jewelry under lock and key when not in use. Be skeptical of your home-assistants. Try and use a reputable agency to locate these people. Check credentials and references. Many thefts and armed robberies, once investigated, point straight to the home-assistant.
- If leaving the house, leave the radio on and have several lights set on a timer.
- If you're working in the back yard, don't leave your front garage door open.

Christmas season will soon be here and this is an opportune time for thieve to become active in house break and enters.

- Keep your valuables locked up in a Bank Safety Deposit Box or at minimum a home safe that is secured to the house and difficult to break into or take away.
- Take advantage of neighbor-hood watch or Citizen Patrol. Thieves will often rather bother the suburb next door that doesn't have these inconveniences. Note: Panorama Ridge has both of these programs.
- Avoid walking alone at night or in potentially unsafe areas and always be aware of your surroundings. This is viewed as a high risk and due precaution should be exercised. There is an element of safety in numbers and to deny this is foolishness.
- Be aware of petty theft opportunities. The basics like holding tightly on to your handbag in public places, being aware of potential pickpockets, not flashing cash in public or not leaving your cell phone or handbag on the car seat next to you or in public view whilst driving always apply.

Motor Vehicle Victims of Crime:

- Don't let another motorist egg you on into getting into a confrontation on the road.
- If someone is tailgating you, let them pass. Don't take bad drivers personally.
- Avoid eye contact with an obviously aggressive driver to avoid more trouble.
- Don't make obscene gestures. Use your horn sparingly, as a warning, not as an expression of anger.
- Avoid verbal or physical confrontations.
- Make sure you give yourself plenty of time to get where you are going. Being stressed because you are running late can make you an aggressive driver.
- If you see someone driving aggressively, stay out of their way and contact police.
- Carry a cellular phone in your car to contact police in the event of an encounter with an aggressive driver.
- Dial 9-1-1 in an emergency and memorize the police department's non-emergency phone number for your city or town.

Avoid being a Cyber Crime Victim
Criminals are relentless when it comes to trying to access your personal information, credit and bank accounts.

Telltale sign 1:
You find unexplained charges or suspicious activity on one or more of your financial accounts.

What to do:
Contact your financial institutions immediately and report the crime to law enforcement agencies. If you find the transaction was fraudulent, consider placing a fraud alert on your accounts with the three credit reporting agencies.

How to keep it from happening to you:
Cybercriminals are incredibly savvy at creating legitimate looking Web sites, including sties requiring financial information. This is called "Fishing" and NEVER log into a site sent to you in an email asking to give your account numbers and passwords. Financial institutions will never ask you to do this.

Telltale sign 2:
Your computer suddenly slows down and/or you start seeing numerous pop-up ads.

What to do:
Sudden changes in your computer's performance can be a sign that it's infected with spyware, viruses and other forms of malicious software. Install and update your computer security software.

How to keep it from happening to you:
Make sure the subscription to your security software is current, and you have adequate protection. As cybercriminals evolve their tricks, you can rest assured that you're safe.

Telltale sign 3:
You responded to an e-mail or Web site request for personal information and now think it might have been a scam.

What to do:
It's possible you are now the victim of an online fraud that uses e-mails and Web sites looking like legitimate businesses to solicit personal or account information. Check your financial accounts. If you notice unusual activity, notify the appropriate financial institutions.

How to keep it from happening to you:
Never follow links in e-mails from businesses or people that you do not know.

Colebrook United Church

One of the important parts of being a community is in the ways we welcome each other into the community. Having a place where we can meet, talk with others about what concerns us in our community, and learn from each other, are important to the well-being of the whole community. Colebrook United Church seeks to be a place for these conversations and meetings. One of the ways we hope to help promote these conversations is by hosting a series of dialogues about various aspects of being a community.

Beyond this, the vision that we have of ourselves as a community within this community, is to be a place open to you and of support to you. All of our existing programs are open to you and we hope you will feel welcome to come and speak with us. The beauty of this place, the great and diverse lives of the people who live together here, are things we wish to hold up and to deepen. If there are ways we can support you in your lives in this community let us know. We are a community that seeks to promote the well-being of the whole community and the place we live in.

On Friday February 22nd 2013 at 7:00 the third in the Community Dialogue series will be presented in the church hall. It will be the presenting of a Documentary Film produced by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Called "The Remaining Light" on care for seniors in British Columbia. This documentary film journeys through an often invisible part of Canada's health care system -- the community-based services that provide care to seniors as they age and die. All are invited to view this film which is set in B.C.

Upcoming Events at Colebrook United Church:

November 11, 10am, REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

December 1, 10am-3:30pm, CRAFT FAIR

February 22,2013- 7pm, Dialogue 3: Caring for Our Seniors. "The Remaining Light" – A film about how we care for seniors & a Dialogue about Alternatives. Free public forum with Shannon Daub & Marcy Cohen of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Ongoing Happenings at Colebrook United Church:

Yoga – Mondays from 9:30-10:30am and/or Thursdays from 3:30-4:30pm

Pickleball – Wednesdays from 3-5pm

Youth Group – for youth from grades 4-7, alternating Fridays from 6:30-8pm

Zumba – Mondays from 7-8pm and/or Wednesdays from 7-8pm

Poop Alert

Most ridge horse enthusiasts are careful not to ride on the sidewalks (it's illegal!), and to remove any manure that their horses happen to deposit. This effort is supported by the Panorama Ridge riding club and local stables. This picture illustrates the result of a large horse poop dropped just steps from Colebrook Elementary and smack in the middle of the sidewalk. This sidewalk is used by students, parents and teachers to get to and from the school. Residents have expressed concern about the increased level of horse manure on sidewalks. If you ride a horse on the ridge, please do not ride on the sidewalks and please remove any manure your horse leaves behind!

Watch your step

Lifetime Membership

Residents of West Panorama Ridge may now purchase a $100 “lifetime membership” in our community association. This membership is offered in addition to the single year ($10) and three year memberships ($25). Lifetime membership is equivalent in cost to 10 single year memberships and 4 three year memberships.

More than a money saving idea, this membership level was created around the concept of encouraging residents to become sustaining members of our community association. We plan to use funds collected to create sustainable funding for the activities of the community association. An added benefit is that lifetime members never need to ask “Did I pay this year??” and we the volunteers of the community association can reduce our efforts to remind members when their membership has lapsed and coordinate payment.

A number of residents have become “lifetime members”, illustrating their dedication to our community. Please consider joining them!

Your Directors

Arnie van Hattem	President 604-572-8302
Bob Campbell	Past President, Development Committee Chair 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
Bruce Davie	778-578-1441
Tom Dent	604-671-5755
Bob Dhaliwal	604-596-7079
Travis Endersby	604-594-4200
Bruce Fraser	604-594-6644
Herb Hawson	604-597-1641
Lauren Kunimoto	778-565-7637
Edwina Nazareth	604-543-8523
Alan Holmes	604-591-1481

Directors without voting rights

Gurjinder Bhurji	604-572-9223
Darryn Langstaff	604-599-0995

Ridge Day Barbecue

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 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! If you are not already a member, join now by completeing our membership application form and make a difference!

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