



WEST PANORAMA RIDGE
RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2013 Newsletter

In This Edition

WPRRA meets with the Mayor and head of RCMP to address crime issues on Panorama Ridge. The RCMP will be available to discuss concerns at the AGM April 24th.

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City crews install street lighting and cameras on Colebrook Road

Block Watch Captain and citizens foil thieves with RCMP support!

Recently a couple of individuals have been riding around our community to steal metal and other items from our garages. One particular home under construction was hit multiple times. A dog across the street barked to alert its owner that something was outside the norm. The neighbour called the owner of the house under construction through their Blockwatch contacts and the RCMP was alerted.... The thieves were caught red handed with a van full of stolen items. Luckily many of the stolen items were returned to the owners, who in some cases had not even been aware that they were robbed...

Joining your neighbourhood BlockWatch program often pays off!

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WPRRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
April 24th, 2013 7:30 PM
Colebrook United Church

Website

www.panoramaridge.org

Email

panoramaridge@shaw.ca

President's Message

Our usually tranquil community has recently had more than its share of media attention, due to criminals using our isolated roads for their crimes. The RCMP are quick to point out that most of these crimes are not committed in Panorama Ridge but that information provides our community with little comfort as these individuals obviously still travel through our streets.

The executive of the West Panorama Ridge Ratepayers Association ("WPRRA") recently requested a meeting with Mayor Dianne Watts to discuss the criminal activities on Colebrook Road and in our Panorama Ridge community. The Mayor responded with an invitation to meet us within a few hours that same day. Not only was she present, she invited her head of the Surrey RCMP and his senior staff to listen to our concerns and discuss potential solutions. We asked that they not only address the immediate problem of Colebrook Road, but also other issues on the Ridge including derelict homes, drug dealing, and other criminal activities that are impacting our community on a daily basis. Some of these solutions were implemented within days with additional solutions to be fine tuned. The Mayor went further by setting up a committee that includes all her senior managers, our WPRRA executive and herself to come up with long lasting solutions. The WPRRA has no control over criminal activity but with the help of our city's resources we can minimize opportunities for these criminals.

Your WPRRA was formed to provide the residents with a greater voice in dealing with local issues and to improve our community, by making it a safer better place to live and raise our families. We believe that with the plans that are on the table now we can look forward to an improved level of safety and welcome your input in this process.

The WPRRA was initiated in the early 1950's and has functioned very effectively for the past 60 years. We often meet with local politicians and managers of the City of Surrey to discuss and address local issues affecting our community. We volunteer our time and efforts to help bring local events to the area, for the benefit of all residents in Panorama Ridge.

We have provided opportunities for residents to meet and address candidates in elections at the Federal, Provincial and Municipal levels of Government and intend to have an All Candidates meeting before the next Provincial election to make the candidates aware of our local issues (i.e. additional train traffic below the Ridge with added levels of coal dust. noise etc...)



Taking back the street - Colebrook Road

In an effort to keep the membership informed of current events, we issue periodic updates via email, publish a newsletter twice a year and maintain a website (www.panoramaridge.org). These efforts are being put forward by very few individuals. It is only through their dedication and efforts that this Association has continued to function on your behalf.

Your WPRRA seeks your interest and involvement. In today's society it is only through collective efforts (such as community groups and organizations) that your voice and that of your neighbours can be heard for the betterment of all residents.

We, as a collective group, are better prepared to look out for the best interests of our community. Please fill in your membership form at the end of this newsletter, today. The annual fee is \$10.00 per household or \$25.00 for three years and \$100 for a lifetime membership. Soon you will be able to pay your dues through "Pay-Pal"!

I encourage all of you to attend our **Annual General Meeting, Wednesday, April 24 at 7:30 PM** in the Colebrook Church Hall. We have invited a senior officer of the RCMP to the AGM to provide us with further information on the efforts put forward to make our community safe again and answer your questions regarding policing concerns. The WPRRA Board of Directors and I thank you for allowing us to represent you and hope to see you April 24!

Arnie van Hattem
President, West Panorama Ridge Ratepayers Association



Panorama Ridge with a North Shore mountain backdrop

Seventh Annual Neighbourhood Cleanup - April 21st!

Another year gone and the garbage still persists! Tammy and Joe invite you out to another glamorous day of picking up garbage followed by a “THANK-YOU” barbecue at their home.

We will be going out once again in force on Sunday April 21st, at 10:00 a.m. to celebrate Earth Day as we give back to this Community! We provide the Bags...you bring the pickers and gloves!

Please meet at the Colebrook United Church/Colebrook Elementary area with or without vehicles... there is a large area to cover!

Look forward to seeing all the regulars and maybe a few unfamiliar faces....

Delta View Park Beautification Continues!

The WPRRA was just informed that our recent City of Surrey Beautification Grant application was successful! We will receive another small grant from the City to continue the beautification of Delta View Park. This will be Phase 3 of this project.

For those unfamiliar with this park, it is located on the south side of the street, very near the junction of 120th Street and New McLellan. This “park” has never had any improvement; it became a blackberry infested, garbage strewn, unsightly area that most ridge residents drive by every day.

For Phase 1 we received a beautification grant. A community organized work party cleared blackberries and garbage, planted native trees and shrubs, and spread bark mulch. Phase 2 was organized by the WPRRA, and last fall, another work party braved the rain to clear more blackberries and garbage.

Phase 3, supported by the new grant will allow us to finish clearing the entire road interface of the park, plant native shrubs and trees, and to do some maintenance of Phase 1.

We don't yet have a date for the Phase 3 work, we will send out a notice when we do and we would encourage all residents to come out and help with this very rewarding project. Participate and every time you drive by this area, you will know that you helped to make the ridge a better place.



Delta View Park - Looking Good!

Development

General economic conditions and the real estate market downturn have slowed development on the ridge. One controversial development that is still proceeding is located at 13924 56th Avenue. This development proposes to subdivide a large, 4.7 acre property into seven smaller lots. This development will have a dramatic impact on the adjacent residents. These residents are in contact with the City to attempt to ameliorate the impacts of this development. The WPRRA is supporting these residents in their discussions with the City.

A resident recently wrote to the WPRRA indicating that they thought the association was anti-development. Nothing could be farther from the truth. At least in the last 25 years, the WPRRA has never requested that a development that meets all zoning requirements be refused. Where we have intervened, is when developers demand zoning changes and relaxations, variances etc for their developments, all to the detriment of the community.

Through our efforts, the City has not approved a large number of these inappropriate developments. Generally all these developments have eventually proceeded, but in a manner consistent with existing zoning, all to the overall benefit of the broader community and specifically to adjacent homeowners.

Best Gardening Practices

Spring has sprung and we have been fortunate to have had a mild winter. Hopefully your yard and garden have wintered well and you have signs of plants showing their buds and leaves and some early color. Sooner than you can say summer we will be watering and perhaps overwatering ! While water is essential for lawns and plants to survive, too much water can be deadly. Plants roots need to have air pockets so they don't become susceptible to rot. When watering your lawn, remember many factors need to be taken into consideration...wind, heat, evaporation and shade, the length of the grass as well as the type of soil. You can learn more about watering, lawns, the new Pesticide by-laws and managing weeds naturally by going to the City of Surrey website. Learn about pesky invasive plants and how to dispose of them properly.

DO NOT DUMP on City or other people's property! Do your research and be a good neighbour!

We look forward to presenting the first Annual "BEST GARDENS" awards at Ridge Days in September. A panel of judges will be covertly active all summer long. Did we mention PRIZES?

One last suggestion. It's Friday evening after a long week at work. It is the first real day of Spring and its time to relax in your lovely backyard (part of the reason you chose to live on the Ridge). You have just fired up the barbacue and are sitting back enjoying your favorite beverage, and... the next door neighbour decides it's time to power up the lawnmower, leaf blower, weed wacker or the power washer. So much for waiting 6 months for one of the few days to relax in your backyard. If you are that next door neighbour, please be considerate about what time of day you decide to do your gas powered yard maintenance.

Crime Prevention Tip - Break And Enter

In most cases, the entry point of a break and enter is the front door. Suspects will knock on the door. If they receive no answer, they will then, as it is called: "Kick in the Door". Most of the time the door remains intact. The interior door jamb on the lock side gives way and splits. These jambs are usually made of softwood and in most cases are only about 3 inches wide and 3/4 of an inch thick. The metal or brass striker plates affixed to the jamb and into which the lock and dead bolts go are normally held in place by only two screws, approximately no more than one inch long. This is the weakest point of the door and frame assembly and the part most likely to fail when external pressure such as a kick is applied to the door.

For extra security and peace of mind, it is recommended that a heavy duty striker plate be installed in place of the existing one.

These plates are longer and stronger than the normal ones and come with either two or four screws that can be up to 3 inches in length which screw not only into the door jamb but into the 2" X 4" framing behind the jamb.

For an outlay of about \$10 to \$15 dollars these striker plates can be purchased at any hardware store. With these plates installed it takes considerable more force and time to breach the door or frame. Of course nothing is 100% effective, but after repeated kicks the suspects may give up and leave without gaining entry into your home.

Colebrook Road Extension Ahead of Schedule

The extension of Colebrook Road along the north side of the rail tracks is ahead of schedule. The final lift of pre-load is in place and is now scheduled to be removed in July. The pre-load compresses the soft underlying earth so when the new road is eventually in place, it will have less tendency to sink and heave. Paving should start immediately after the pre-load is removed and the City believes all paving will be finished in early fall. The paving contract includes completing the upgrades to the rail intersection at 127A Street that will allow train whistles to cease. A set of "box" crossing gates will be installed at this crossing. Assuming the appropriate liability insurance can be put in place, we should see whistling cease by late fall this year! Keep your fingers crossed, but if everything goes to plan, for the first time in at least 50 years, there will be no train whistles below Panorama Ridge!



New Colebrook Road Pre-load

Nature on the Ridge

We live in a beautiful neighborhood and I think our lives are so busy that we sometimes forget to stand still and notice nature around us; the soaring eagles above us, the song sparrow claiming his territory by singing loudly from the tree branches and the humming birds chattering in the bushes warning us not to get close.

Today the first bumblebee clumsily flew into my greenhouse and could not find his way out without my help, the morning cloak, probably just emerged from its cocoon flew against the window trying to get out into the garden from the greenhouse and the ants busily carrying my food crumbs into their tunnels.

In January this year I spotted a male snowy owl close to the trestle bridge here at Mud Bay Park and the second time I saw him was on the other side of the bridge. They usually are seen at Boundary Bay airport!

In February this year I saw a pair of eagles sitting on branches above the nest at the dead end of Colebrook Road, a good chance they will occupy the nest this spring!!

February also is the month to await the Rufus hummingbirds' arrival from Mexico. There is a good chance if you have had your feeders out last year that they will remember and come back. They will have to compete with the Anna's hummingbird that frequents our area all winter.

In March, we will have to say our goodbyes to the Trumpeter Swans that will be gradually returning to their nesting grounds. They have been recently spotted along number 10 Highway just before West Way Feeds. The first flowering plants to see this month are Pussy willows, Indian Plum, Elderberry and even the first flowers on the salmonberry bush are a favorite of both hummingbirds and bees!

In April we can forage for wild asparagus, miner's lettuce, dandelion greens and young stinging nettle.



Trumpeter Swans



The Hummingbirds will soon be here

For those of you interested in Nature on the Ridge I encourage you to visit the "WPRRA West Panorama Ridge" Facebook page where you can submit your nature related photos, ask questions, or for newcomers on the Ridge where to walk or bike around here and surrounding areas to find wildlife. I also intend to post links to local web cams and nature related websites.

Boulevard Trees

Did you know that there are 70,000 street trees in Surrey and that every year the City plants an additional 4,500? (There is a 12% mortality rate for new trees) These trees are planted for esthetic values, water retention, shade generation and general environmental benefits including climate change mitigation. The City calculates that these trees generate about \$11M in benefit each year.

25% of boulevard trees are maples versus western red cedar, the most popular park tree. Boulevard trees are generally of smaller stature because they are planted in areas where they have limited space for root and canopy growth. Especially when they are young, there is a large amount of maintenance involved. The City waters 25,000 trees each summer and encourages residents to water trees on or near their boulevards. The City also prunes the tree canopies and roots, monitors and controls pests, and replaces dead trees. Most trees die from a lack of water, vandalism, mower damage or soil conditions, mostly issues that can be avoided!

Don't even think about cutting down or damaging a City boulevard tree! The City's policy is to fine anyone caught damaging a boulevard tree the value of the mature tree, not the replacement cost! They might value a 15 year old maple tree at \$10,000, where the replacement cost for a sapling might be \$250.

Boulevard trees enhance the ridge and everyone's property and we encourage residents to protect and care for them. You may also request the planting of boulevard trees in front of your property.

Join a Block Watch

Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility – do your part to prevent crime. Join a BlockWatch in your area, by simply getting to know your area around you, you'll be able to recognize and report suspicious activities going on. Creating safer communities through neighborhood crime prevention programs is one of the best ways to disturb this negative feedback circle that weakens communities. 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



**Boulevard trees planted on 55 Ave.
Only 1 of 2 have survived 5 years.**

Spring Update From Colebrook United Church

COLEBROOK UNITED CHURCH is a place of care, dialogue and conversation about the wellbeing of our community. We have recently welcomed all our neighbors to look at sustainability, cross-cultural conversation and senior care. We are now looking to the future and ask you what issues you want to talk about? What is important in your lives that we at Colebrook can address?

We invite you to come into the conversation at any of our events. As part of a caring community we offer everyone counseling and support. Call our minister, Reverend Daniel, @ 604 596-2412.

Upcoming and Ongoing Events

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Spring Yard Sale | Sat. April 20, 9-2 |
| International Dessert Night | Friday, May 10, 7-9 p.m. Family event for all ages |
| Yoga | Mondays 9:30-10:30 and Thursdays 3:30-4:30 Cost: \$40/8 session |
| Pickleball | Wednesdays 3-5 Cost: \$4/session |

Please call the church @ 604 596-2412 for further details.

PANORAMA RIDGE INTERNATIONAL DESSERT NIGHT – Friday, May 10th.

Everyone living on the Ridge is invited to an informal gathering where we can meet new neighbors, re-connect with others and enjoy desserts and beverages. Play a few games and win prizes. All ages are welcome from 7 to 9p.m. You are encouraged to bring a dessert for sharing. Note the date so you don't forget! Sponsored by Panorama Ridge Ratepayers Association and Colebrook United Church.



A local resident anxiously awaiting spring

Longtime Resident Remembers Life on Endersby Hill - a few decades ago!

Walter and Sarah Endersby moved to B. C. in the late 1890s. They first lived in New West but logged the heavily forested areas of Panorama Ridge and Sunshine Hills. The logs were skidded down the hill through log chutes which the family greased. Horses then pulled the logs through a ditch to Mud Bay where they were barged away at high tide. There was a forest fire on the Ridge around 1920. My grandparents eventually settled on the Delta side of Scott Road.

Charles (Charlie) Endersby, started school at age 3 as there were a minimum number of students required to start Strawberry Hills School. In 1911 he was lost for 3 days while hunting in Burns Bog. Charlie married Alice in 1924. They lived in White Rock and Vancouver where my father worked at various mills. My aunt, Anna Endersby Archibald, opened a store at the southwest corner of Scott Road and New McLellan in the 1930s. Our family moved here in 1948 and mom enjoyed running Endersby Hill store from 1948 to about 1955. She loved her job so much that a second storey was added to the building and became their home. The only phone in the area and the bus stop for trips to New West and Vancouver were located there. Hwy. 10 didn't exist then and the road to Ladner Trunk Road (Hwy.10) went downhill beside their property. There was a motorcycle hill climb on a nearby hill. A gas station was run on the Surrey side by Laurent Denis and a small restaurant operated there for a while in the 50s and 60s. Colebrook United Church was a very active place for the entire community.

I moved here from S. Vancouver at age 18 and very proudly drove my maroon 1938 Chevy to work in New West every day. Not many 19 year old girls had their own car in those days! I married in 1954 and we purchased 1 acre of land on 53 Ave. for \$2500. Everyone told us we were crazy to live in the middle of nowhere. My husband built our house and garage by himself. We lived in the garage while he built the house. He only lived in our new house for 6 weeks as he unfortunately died in 1967 at age 38.

My marriage to my present husband took place in 1969. I became the family matriarch and proud mother of 4 step children. Descendants of Walter and Sarah still enjoy living on Panorama Ridge. Many changes have made life easier but I think the greatest change on the Ridge is the diversity of ethnicity as so many people discover our wonderful neighborhood.



Mud Bay at Low Tide

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!

We will be sending out an e-mail to everyone at the end of December to let you know whether or not your membership is up for renewal.

Your Directors

| | | | |
|------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Arnie van Hattem | President 604-572-8302 | Bruce Davie | 778-578-1441 |
| Bob Campbell | Past President, Development Committee Chair 604-596-6578 | Tom Dent | 604-671-5755 |
| Tammy Ritchie | Vice President, Chairperson, Keep Clean/Neighbourhood Safety 604-596-6237 | Bob Dhaliwal | 604-596-7079 |
| Susan Williams | Treasurer 604-594-7510 | Travis Endersby | 604-594-4200 |
| Joan Mayhew | Secretary 604-597-5002 | Bruce Fraser | 604-594-6644 |
| Mike Glas | Coordinator, Panorama Ridge Citizens Patrol 604-591-6598 | 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 |

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 completing our membership application form and make a difference!

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

Susan Williams
WPRRA Treasurer
12479 – 57A Avenue,
Surrey BC, V3X 2S6,

or drop your completed membership form off at the home of any Director. Receipts will be sent to the address listed below. The WPRRA keeps all membership information completely confidential.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ E-Mail address: _____