



Fall 2012

## *Grand Boulevard Ridgeway Residents Association*

The GBRRA represents the neighbourhood to the City, providing a unified voice with a mandate to improve the quality of life in the area.

### **Chair's Report** - Fiona Walsh

What a fabulous September we had this year! I was able to ride my electric-assist bike all over the place and laugh at my memories of previous Septembers, riding in the rain! ...at least, until the October downpours...! But aren't the fall colours magnificent on the Boulevard!

I hope you enjoyed the exceptional weather, as I have, and are putting your energies into plans to live a healthy, active lifestyle in our precious, Grand Boulevard neighbourhood. The City seems to be paying special attention to our neck of the woods, with uncalled-for changes to the trail crossings at 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets and paving (with asphalt) the parking lot of Boulevard Park, soon to be renamed after Senator Ray Perrault, who lived on Grand Boulevard. (To read more about him, go to: [www.cnv.org/c//data/1/99/2012%2010%2023%20-%20City%20of%20North%20Vancouver%20Honours%20Former%20Senator%20Ray%20Perrault.pdf](http://www.cnv.org/c//data/1/99/2012%2010%2023%20-%20City%20of%20North%20Vancouver%20Honours%20Former%20Senator%20Ray%20Perrault.pdf).)

Our GBRRA blog-style website, [www.gbrra.org](http://www.gbrra.org), is alive and well, thanks to **Oliver Harden!** Go to it for information on initiatives at City Hall, recent e-Bulletins in PDF format and photos; contact us directly to leave

comments or share information with fellow GBRRA residents; watch Oliver's video clips of a potluck dinner at **Loutet Farm**; learn about upcoming events. For example, **City Shaping** (the Official Community Plan 2021 revision process) is now in **Stage 3: Developing Scenarios & Policy Directions**. The third and last interactive event, called [Growth and Land Use Scenario Development](#), is scheduled for **Saturday, Jan. 19**, from 1 to 5pm in the Atrium at City Hall (NB. date & location change).

Last July, North Vancouver School District 44 sought proposals to lease or purchase 4 of the 11 school properties currently not in use. [www.nvsg44.bc.ca/~media/01C781C5053E4564B7AB9FD64A1074F3.ashx](http://www.nvsg44.bc.ca/~media/01C781C5053E4564B7AB9FD64A1074F3.ashx) "Four proponents for the re-use and redevelopment of the **Ridgeway Annex School** and site [450 East 5<sup>th</sup> St.] will be invited to present their proposals at a public meeting to be held at Ridgeway Annex, tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m.** The public meeting will provide an opportunity for early public input into the proposals and for the consideration of the Board of Education." It would be great if residents could attend, to encourage public **community use** of the Annex. We need it.

## Loutet Farm, Backyard Chickens and Bees

To all customers and surrounding community members,

**Thank you, thank you, thank you for a fabulous season!!**

This was only the second year for **Loutet Farm** and **Farmer Gavin's** first year on the farm, but we held 42 incredible **Farm Gate Sales**. There were certainly some growing pains and some early lessons learned, but what made this year such an amazing success was the remarkable support from the community. From folks chatting over the fence to line-ups at our farm gate sales (we sold out of virtually everything we could harvest), the excitement and support of the community was nothing short of inspiring. It's not hard to be motivated when you receive that kind of support from the community! We at the **Edible Garden Project** (EGP) are inspired to spend the winter building new plans, programs and infrastructure so that the 2013 season will continue to build on the successes of the previous seasons. If you haven't had a chance to visit the farm, please stop by anytime. There is a notice board on the outside of the shed where we'll leave you notes and updates on what is happening at the farm.

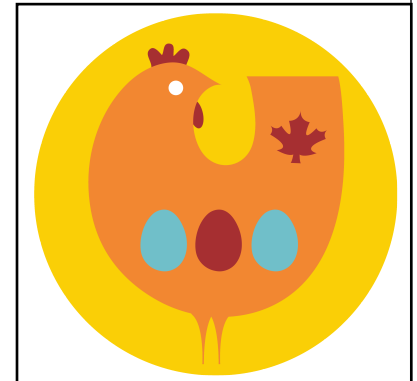


Thanks again for the support and the inspiration! Hope to see you over the winter months, and as our 2013 market season begins in April/May of next year!

Happy winter gardening! Gavin, Heather, and Emily

<http://www.ediblegardenproject.com/what-we-do/loutet-farm/>  
[www.facebook.com/ediblegardenproject](http://www.facebook.com/ediblegardenproject)

The **Canadian Liberated Urban Chicken Klub** (CLUCK) has scored a major victory! Since September 17<sup>th</sup>, it is now officially legal in the City of North Vancouver to have up to 8 hens on any property zoned for single family residence. Urban backyard farming has proven to be a successful move towards environmental sustainability, food security, education, animal welfare practices and overall community building. This has led to the rapidly growing trend of keeping backyard chickens throughout North American metropolitan cities such as Vancouver, Victoria, Burnaby, Richmond, New Westminster, Seattle, Portland and New York City. This move reflects the CNV's sustainable living and environmental mandates. For more information, click on [www.cnv.org/server.aspx?c=3&i=739](http://www.cnv.org/server.aspx?c=3&i=739).



FYI, the City of North Vancouver adopted [Hobby Bee Keeping Bylaw, 2009, No. 7985](#) on May 25, 2009, to allow hobby bee keeping in our community as a sustainability effort to help support the urban agricultural movement.



### Frances Jean Caruth

1931 - 2012

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Frances Caruth, on April 25. She was born in North Vancouver, where she received most of her schooling. She was a happy, friendly and well-loved teacher in the North Vancouver School District for many years. She lived at 15<sup>th</sup> and Sutherland and was a member of the GBRRA.

## Richardson Grain Storage Expansion Project

On October 1, Richardson International Limited, Canada's largest, privately-owned agribusiness, began community engagement with Stakeholder meetings and Open House presentations for their Vancouver Terminal Grain Storage Project, for which they expect to get approval from Port Metro Vancouver (PMV) in November. Because they are on PMV industrial land, they need permission from PMV and must abide by their requirements. The City of North Vancouver (CNV) has no real authority in this matter, though they are expected to comment on the community's concerns.

The project involves building a new concrete grain storage facility (23m wide, 170m long and 50m high, with 5m of enclosed conveyance structures on top) to the west of the present structure, that will hold 80,000 metric tonnes of grain and oilseeds -- a large increase from the current capacity of 30,000 metric tonnes. Recently, they upgraded and enhanced their rail yard and receiving system, to handle and process railcars more efficiently and reduce shunting noise. It is generally felt that they are moving quickly to capitalize on the Low Level Road Improvement Project, though they told us that they had been planning this project for a long time. Did they know something we didn't know? Read more at: [www.nsnews.com/business/OPINION+Terminal+expansion+timing+questionable/7437656/story.html](http://www.nsnews.com/business/OPINION+Terminal+expansion+timing+questionable/7437656/story.html).

The key issues for CNV citizens, who will be most affected by this project, seem to be

increased noise and dust, and loss of view. The new rail receiving system (longer strings of railcars = less shunting), the enclosed conveyors on top (a roller system) and the dust collection systems, on the south side of the terminal, are intended to mitigate the problems, but that can't hide the fact that increased capacity brings increased noise and dust. Some citizens of the South Slope Association arranged for a meeting with our MP, Andrew Saxton, and told him about their fears, their loss of quality of life and loss of property value and that Richardson said they were not obliged to compensate the citizens.

"We presented our community's opinion that the Government should be working towards getting bulk commodity shipments out of high density residential areas. But if that was not going to happen soon, then our very least demands are that Richardson build their new expansion to the south of their existing facility. This will minimize grain dust impacts and reduce diesel fumes, as they will dissipate faster without a canyon of concrete. This will not, however, reduce the overall doubling of train traffic."

To read more: [www.portmetrovancover.com/en/projects/OngoingProjects/Tenant-Led\\_Projects/RichardsonInternational.aspx](http://www.portmetrovancover.com/en/projects/OngoingProjects/Tenant-Led_Projects/RichardsonInternational.aspx) or look for the Discussion Guide (with pictures) and the Assessment Report at: [www.richardson.ca/news/vancouver-grain-terminal](http://www.richardson.ca/news/vancouver-grain-terminal) or phone 604 313 2398.

## Bits and Pieces

**North Vancouver City Voices** are a group of citizens that meets regularly to discuss major issues, such as the Official Community Plan revision process (called City Shaping). They feel that the planning process is biased and developer-driven, rather than serving the needs of the community. Read more at: <http://www.vancouver.sun.com/news/Citizens+group+confronts+city+council+rapid+growth/6733816/story.html#ixzz2BiVY3C9I>. Visit their

website: <http://nvcityvoices.wordpress.com/>

**PlaceSpeak** has an online consultation platform, designed to connect people with local issues. See [www.vancouver.sun.com/news/metro/online+survey+bridges+virtual+gaps/7450605/story.html](http://www.vancouver.sun.com/news/metro/online+survey+bridges+virtual+gaps/7450605/story.html).

TransLink's **TravelSmart** program asks: Can you take one less car trip per week? Take the TravelSmart Pledge at [www.translink.ca](http://www.translink.ca)

The GBRRRA executive would like to recognize and support local Grand Boulevard and Ridgeway business owners. Thank you to these members for supporting the GBRRRA Bulletin.



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Now's the time to become a **GBRRRA** member or to renew your \$10.00 membership.  
We really need your support!  
Contact **Carole Stewart** at 604 984 2321  
[twinbeaches2007@shaw.ca](mailto:twinbeaches2007@shaw.ca)  
or drop off a cheque for **GBRRRA**  
in her mailbox at 533 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street

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