



Spring 2013

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.

GBRRA 2013 Annual General Meeting

Sunday, May 5, 2013, 1:00 - 3:00pm
St. Agnes Church Hall
530 E. 12th St.

Chair's Report - Fiona Walsh

Happy Springtime! The cherry blossoms and magnolias are looking great! I'm feeling the warmth, even on grey days, on my bicycle. If anyone is feeling that it's about time to get out the trusty bike, go to <http://biketovote.ca/> and then cycle to your polling station on May 14th.

In case you aren't aware, the North Van citizens to the south of us are having a hard time dealing with the changes that are going to happen on the industrial lands on the waterfront. There are new developments, and new information coming to light, since the CNV Council passed a motion to support the Low Level Road project last year. **Richardson** is planning an huge expansion. **BC Hydro** plans to place a line of 69Kv (high power) hydro poles down St. David's Street to the Richardson terminal. We were not told until March, 2013.

On Lonsdale, the ONNI development on the Safeway site at 13th and Lonsdale will make that intersection unrecognizable. On March 11th and 12th, ONNI came back to Council with minor modifications to their development plans, but still managed to get approval for their project to build 344 condos in a 24-storey and an 18-storey towers, along with an 8-storey office tower and commercial units on the site. The site will have almost double the density called for in the Official Community Plan and exceed the maximum height of 180 feet.

Read more: <http://www.vancouver.sun.com/news/metro/North+Vancouver+City+gives+Onni+highrise+approval/8096128/story.html#ixzz2QHiESIPg>

The **Lonsdale Spring Celebration** is on May 11th, 11-2pm, behind Harry Jerome Rec Centre at Eastern Ave & 21st Street.

On **May 4th**, 2013, we're sponsoring our first ever free **Urban Agriculture Workshop at Loutet Farm** for adults and high school students. We'll introduce you to Loutet Farm and backyard gardening. Come and learn with us! **Farmer Gavin**, from the **Edible Garden Project**, will lead the workshop from 12:00 to 1:00. Then we'll have a lunch, provided by Sprout Organic Market, newly located at 700 East 7th St. (actually on Queensbury). After lunch, we'll get our hands dirty on the farm, helping to plant or prepare beds for planting. We'll also socialize and network. We will supply tools, but you can bring your own gardening gloves or hand tools, if you like.

RSVP to Fiona fewalsh@yahoo.com or phone 604 980 8436. Space is limited.

If a GBRRRA member would like to volunteer their back yard contact Fiona by April 26.



Thank you! to all the **volunteers** who have distributed our Bulletin over the past 12 months. We depend on you!

Doris Aitken
Kathryn Allison
Nick & Claire Arnold
Nicholas & Sheila Bartley
Elvia Belanger

Nina Campbell
Susan Conn
Ivor & Maureen Frederiksen
Oliver Harden
Craig Henderson
Carmen Hill
Isobelle Houston
Balraj Singh Hundal
Betty Lebeter
Connie McGill

Jack Morton
Rhelda Nicholson
Patty Paul
Scott & Lianne Reynolds
Sarah Robertson
Bill Stanbrook
Carole Stewart
Mary Turlas
Susan Tower
Fiona Walsh
Marilyn Watson

Richardson International Grainery Expansion

Residents of the South Slope of the City (a.k.a. Moodyville) are protesting against Richardson International's plans for grain storage expansion. In August, 2012, Richardson stunned the City Council by introducing their plans to build 28 silos (50m hgh), along 600 feet of waterfront west of the existing facilities. During the two years of talks on the Low Level Road, nothing was ever mentioned to the public or City, until the Low Level Road project was approved. Councillor Rod Clark and Pam Bookham voted against the Low Level Road project because they felt that Council was being bombarded by misinformation, lack of transparency and a complete lack of community consultation. But it passed. As Richardson pointed out at one of their public sessions in the fall, they really don't have to consult the City residents because they are on land governed by Port Metro Vancouver (PMV).

Newspaper Headlines in 1975...

"Major Explosion Rocks South Slope of the City of North Vancouver... hundreds flee and are evacuated from their homes. Explosion heard three miles away. Concrete weighing over 100 lbs. rains down on residential housing district just meters away from grain elevator. Hot embers as far away as Ridgeway Annex School."

Richardson's preferred option to build 28 silos, east of their present facilities, dramatically increases the chances of a major firestorm in the event of another multi explosion, like the

one in 1975. The other option to build on the southwest side (in water) would be safer, although they would need to do some more land reclamation. On the Richardson website is written: "Richardson has not pursued the south west in water siting... given that there is already sufficient land available for development."

One resident wondered whether, given the facts about grainery explosions and the high probability of it occurring, the Richardson expansion may now cancel, compromise or void their home owner insurance policies? "How does this affect our relationship with our landlord, the City, when they expect us to pay taxes on property and dwellings we cannot insure because of the danger zone we live in?"

Another issue for these residents is the **Neptune Coal Terminal**, which is looking to expand its capacity for the Asian market. On April 11, Global News reported on the 'black dead zone' near coal terminals (<http://globalnews.ca/video/474640/coal-dust-concerns>). The Chief Medical Health Officers from Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health Authorities have sent letters to PMV asking for a say in potential coal port expansion, due to the health risks in breathing coal dust. This week, the Metro Vancouver Environment and Parks Committee voted to push for the same right. Ask our South Slope residents. The coal dust is REAL!

GBRRA Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

I'm renewing my membership

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Membership enclosed: \$10 cash

\$10 cheque

+ \$60 for my ad

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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