



The Bulletin

www.gbrra.org

Summer 2014

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

Well, we're getting into summer and the birds are getting vocal. I hope you are enjoying the beautiful Grand Boulevard colours and sounds, which we are so lucky to have.

We need to prepare for the fall municipal election. We need to be thinking of the people who will stand for election. Gerry Scott, one of our members, has some ideas and I know there are many others who would like to talk about what's happening in the city. Don't be afraid to ask one of us, go to our website, write an article for our Bulletin or just write a letter to the North Shore News, expressing your ideas. There is no right way or right time to get involved. Do it gradually, learning about the issues, or dive right in and help a candidate. Your efforts will trickle down and help your family, friends and neighbours.

Think about it. Do it now.

Canada Day Parade

East on 13th from Grand Boulevard to Lonsdale, north to 17th and then east to Jones

Look for the Executive of the GBRRA at the registration table at 13th and the boulevard after 8 am. This is our second year volunteering with the parade. In March of 2013, Celebrate North Shore Society, which had organized the parade for many years, had to back away from it. That's when Ernie Hubbard of the Royal Canadian Legion, North Vancouver Branch 118, took charge. This year, Peter Gibson is in charge of organizing 85 entries and almost as many volunteers. At 7:30 am, the Lynn Valley Lions Club will start their fundraiser pancake breakfast on the boulevard. After the parade the Legion is having an open house and barbeque, at 123 West 15th.

For more information, go to:

www.canadadaynorthshore.org

One Resident's Opinion

(A message to GBRRA residents who are unhappy with the city densification.)

I hear lots of complaints from city residents about what is happening to our city. For example, parking problems, traffic gridlock, replacement of rental units with pricy, high-rise condos, loss of green space, selling of school properties, massive future expenditures for hospital expansion, public transit and other costly infrastructure that will be required as a direct result of densification. Do you know who makes the decisions concerning these issues? It's the Mayor and Council, that's who. And do you know what percentage of the city residents voted at the last municipal election? 22%, that's how many. Sadly, 78% of the residents found reasons to not bother to get out and vote.

(continued on page 2)

So if you are really unhappy with the excessive densification and all that comes with it, you need to start thinking about what you, the residents, can do to change the decision-making at City Hall. You will have a chance on November 15th to elect at least four members of council who oppose what has been going on at City Hall for the past 6 years. If you don't take action to make that change, then the high-rise condos will continue to rise, the traffic gridlocks will continue to grow and our quality of life will continue to deteriorate.

If you look at the voting record of the present seven incumbents, six of whom have indicated they will seek re-election, it is quite easy to determine that there are only two councillors who have consistently voted against the excessive densification policies. So to make a change at City Hall, we need to re-elect those

two along with at least two other like-minded candidates. As the election campaign gets underway, I encourage you all to make yourselves aware of the anti-densification candidates and do your part to end the control of city council by the developers, who make large political donations to finance the development-friendly council members in their election campaigns. The anti-development candidates will likewise need your encouragement and support.

Only you can take back control of City Hall from the developers. Make sure you vote and encourage your friends, family, and neighbours to also vote. And remember, voting is the civic duty and responsibility of all of us. Collectively, you have the power in your vote to stop the excessive densification of our city.

Gerry Scott

GBRRA Annual General Meeting - April 27, 2014

At our AGM, we heard from Kerry Morris, a resident of the Grand Boulevard area, who plans to run for City Mayor in the upcoming Municipal Election. He has been very involved in municipal issues and raised many questions about the OCP process and land development in the city. Go to his website to become more conversant on the issues or to help with his campaign:

www.kerrymorris.ca.

Following Kerry, Ric Erickson from the non-profit Bee Friendly Society gave a very interesting and informative talk. He talked about ways that we can protect native bees, such as leaving untouched some areas of our gardens, where the bees over-winter in the ground. He introduced us to many different native plants which provide food for the bees and other pollinators. The GBRRA Executive decided to invest in our future gardens by buying one Bee Box, which will be installed in our area, like the boxes on the boulevard at Keith Road -- go see them.

Ric's website is www.beefriendly.ca. You'll find a list of ten things you can do to create a bee-friendly garden, an extensive list of native plants and descriptions of many of our native bees.

Urban Agriculture Workshop

May 10th was a fun day! Emily Jubenvill, from the Edible Garden Project, gave a workshop, and answered many questions about composting and growing vegetables. She also demonstrated how to tell whether soil needs to be amended with organic matter or sand and explained the use of cover crops to protect and enrich the soil.

After the workshop, the attendees were treated to a healthy lunch courtesy of Loutet Farm, [Sprout Organic Market](http://www.sproutorganicmarket.com) and GBRRA's own Fiona Walsh, who talked about sprouting seeds and shared an assortment of her home-made kombucha teas. Fiona explained that kombucha starts out as sugary tea, which ferments with the help of a 'SCOBY'. She showed us, and gave away, a few SCOBY's as part of her demo. Every time you make kombucha, a new SCOBY develops at the top of the liquid, so you give them away to friends who want to start making their own kombucha. To find out what SCOBY stands for and for instructions on how to make your own kombucha, please go to www.gbrra.org. Kombucha, and other fermented foods, can help with digestive system issues.

For Oliver Harden's photos from this workshop, check out our website: www.gbrra.org

Loutet Farm Gate Sales Schedule: Wednesdays 4pm-6pm and Saturdays 10am-12pm



**GRAND BOULEVARD RIDGEWAY
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DRAFT OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

On Wednesday, at 6:00 pm, June 18, 2014, I went to a public meeting held at City Hall for the Draft OCP. The chamber was full and it was standing-room-only outside the glass doors. The majority of the 90 or so speakers, who had signed up as early as 4:30 that afternoon, came to tell the Mayor and Council that they disagreed with the proposed densification of the East Third Street area. The Mayor reminded the audience that the public meeting was to hear their concerns, not to make a decision about the Draft OCP, but it was obvious that the people were afraid that the decision had already been made.

A few suggestions:

1. That the proposal to including both coach houses and secondary suites in single family zoning be removed from the OCP, at this time, and added to the ballot in an upcoming election, so that everyone will be well informed.

2. That Cloverly and Lucas School sites not be placed into a "Special Study" designation that would take them out of the present zoning, as public lands. These lands then can be looked at separately making sure all present and future community needs are a priority before liquidating public lands.

3. That the OCP have clear goals, with defined dates as it progresses to serve the present residents. This would mean that resident density can increase only when certain requirements, such as infrastructure, the Lions Gate waste water treatment plant, rec centre

sites, Lions Gate Hospital improvements, traffic mitigation and public transit, are in place.

4. That the proposed 'incremental intensification' on East Third Street and the surrounding neighbourhood be discussed with all of the City's residents, in a timely manner, presenting all the options, so that this 'living document' can grow out of a well-run citizens' dialogue.

Simply put, the quality of life for those already here needs to be a serious concern before new residents are added. The number of residential developments which have already been approved -- which will be built in the near future -- have been left out of the population numbers. This hides the fact that the city has already allowed for more density to come -- we just can't see it at this time.

At the public meeting, there were some challenges to the way the process had been conducted. Some residents of the Third Street area had gone door-to-door to alert whole blocks of residents about what the city was planning for their neighbourhood. Many residents didn't know anything about it and were opposed to the proposed changes. This was the main focus for many of the 90 people who signed up to speak. -- this change should never have been part of this OCP without considerably better and more consultation.

The meeting took about 4 hours. Many, who has signed up to speak, never got a chance because they couldn't stay that long. Pity.

Fiona Walsh

Loutet Farm Fundraiser

Farm to Feast

Thursday, August 7, 2014

Set in Loutet Farm's fields (E.14th & Rufus) during the heart of our harvest season, this unforgettable evening will feature a three course menu, tours through the farm and a silent auction.

Whole Foods Market chefs will present a menu of fresh, seasonal fare, and wine pairings.

For more information go to :

www.ediblegardenproject.ca or click [here](#).

Calling for Volunteers

Would you like to be part of an engaging and actively engaged group of people who deliver this Bulletin? Think of taking a walk around your own block, delivering from 25 to 40 bulletins to your neighbours in less than 30 minutes.

Over the years we've had many helpers, but we are always looking for more concerned citizens who can help the Executive to get the word out to you. Now's the time to get out there, and get active on your own time, at your own speed.

Contact Fiona (604 980 8436) or an executive member, or go to our website: www.gbrra.org

The GBRRA Executive would like to recognize and support local Grand Boulevard, Ridgeway and Queensbury business owners. Thank you to these members for supporting the GBRRA Bulletin. Contact Carole Stewart at 984 2321 or twinceaches2007@shaw.ca.



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