



Spring 2015

Grand Boulevard Ridgeway Residents Association

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

Chair's Report

Fiona Walsh

We all know we are very fortunate to live in one of the most beautiful and successful regions in the world. We are consistently at the top in rankings of the most livable cities in the world. While we held the top spot in North America in 2014, our lowest score was for our infrastructure. This category looks at the quality of our road networks, public transport, and utility provision.

Our position at the top and our quality of life is threatened. Years of growth in the region have enriched the diversity of our community, but we have failed to make the necessary investments to strengthen public transportation and road infrastructure. Those of us who live on the North Shore are especially sensitive to this issue.

(cont'd on page 3)

GBRRA AGM 2015

April 19, 1:30 - 3:30pm

**St. Agnes Church Hall
530 E. 12th St.**

Come and show your support of your GBRRRA Executive, who attend public meetings and phone or write to City Hall or the North Shore News, to help keep our neighbourhood a great place to live.

If something concerns you and you just need to get more information or test the waters for support; if you want to voice your opinion; or if you want to connect with neighbours for a project that you're involved in,

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.

But we can't do it on a shoestring budget.

We need your support.

Become a GBRRRA Member
See page 3 for the membership form and who to contact.

Loutet Farm

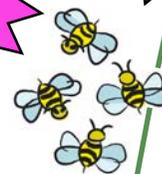
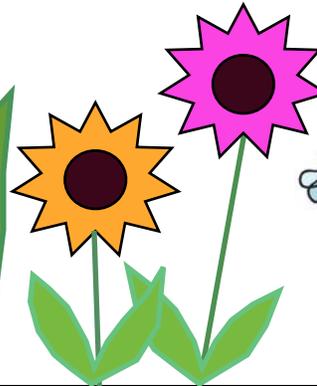
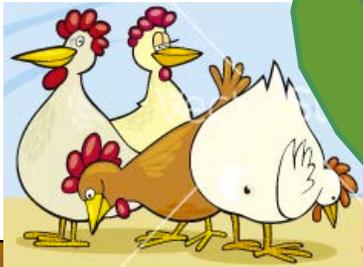
On **May 23rd, 2014**, we're hosting the GBRRRA's third **Urban Agriculture Workshop** at Loutet Farm for adults and high school students. We'll introduce you to Loutet Farm and backyard gardening. Come and learn with us! We will lead the workshop from 11:00 to 12:30. Then we'll have a lunch, with produce from the farm and Sprout Organic Market, located at 700 East 7th St. (actually on Queensbury). After lunch, we'll learn about sprouting seeds, growing mushrooms and keeping chickens or bees. We'll get our hands dirty on the farm, helping to plant or prepare beds for planting, until 3:00pm. We'll also socialize and network. The farm will supply tools, but you should bring your own gloves, boots and head gear. RSVP to fiona@gbrra.org or phone 604 980 8436 (Fiona) by May 15th. **Space is limited.**

GBRRA Urban Agriculture Workshop

May 23
11 - 3pm

Bring your
cup, bowl
and
utensils

Come
prepared to
laugh, eat &
play in the
dirt!



at Loutet Farm (east end of 14th Street)

Sutherland Schoolyard Market Garden Taking Shape - Oliver Harden

On one of the walks with her dog past North Vancouver City's organic Loutet Farm at Rufus and East 14th Street, Cynthia Bunbury, a French teacher at Sutherland Secondary School, wondered if the lawns in front of the school could be converted into a similar project. After a number of consultations, community engagement events, a successful fundraising campaign (Oct.1-Nov.10, 2014, raising \$15,259 on Indigogo.com), and months of planning, a signed legal agreement between the North Vancouver School District and the North Shore Neighbourhood House, which operates Loutet Farm via its Edible Garden Project, was in place in January, 2015. Besides being a community hub and local organic farm, it will also be home to an outdoor classroom for Cynthia Bunbury and the Sutherland Secondary students.

The site was flattened in early March and is currently being developed under guidance of the Loutet Farm team and newly-hired full-time farmer, Holly. Dozens of volunteers from local schools and corporations, as well as engaged residents, have been busy building and filling wooden planter boxes and erecting a fence around the perimeter of the garden. Construction is expected to be completed by April, with planting to commence shortly after.

Once ready for harvesting, food grown at the Sutherland Schoolyard Market Garden will be sold at Loutet Farm. For more information on market sales dates/times, volunteer opportunities and the Grand Opening date, check their website:

<http://ediblegardenproject.com/schoolyard-market-gardens/>
or on Facebook: www.facebook.com/EdibleGardenProject.



Ridgeway School Spring Fair

Saturday, May 9, 11:30 - 2:30 pm

Carole Stewart

There is something for everyone:

Carnival type games Bouncy Rides
Karaoke Booth Vendor Tables
Spring Raffle Bake Walk
Face Painting and Henna
Silent Auction of student-created baskets
Food and Beverages

If you would like to support our school by donating a silent auction item or raffle prize or to help in any other way, please contact:

Christine Grundy president@ridgewaypac.org
or Kim Jackman at exec@ridgewaypac.org

Hope everyone can come!

Chair's Report, (cont'd from page 1)

We can only really connect with the rest of the region through our two busy bridges and the Seabus. Now we are being asked to vote on a congestion tax through the Metro Vancouver Transit and Transportation Plebiscite.

In March, Elections BC will mail out ballots to registered voters. Unregistered, eligible voters may also ask for a package to be sent, anytime between March 16 and May 15, by phoning 1-800-661-8683 or going to www.elections.bc.ca. Eight Plebiscite Service Offices will be opened on April 13 and all ballots must be received by May 29 at 8pm. You can vote if you are: a Canadian citizen; 18 years or older on or before May 29, 2015; a resident of BC for at least six months on or before May 29, 2015; registered to vote in BC; and living in a Metro Vancouver municipality. However, if you recently moved to Metro Vancouver, from somewhere else in the province, you can still register to vote in the referendum until May 29, by going to one of the Service Offices, after April 13, and giving them proof of your Metro Vancouver address to get a ballot and to vote. The ballot question is: *Do you support a new 0.5% Metro Vancouver Congestion Improvement Tax, to be dedicated to the Mayors' Council transportation and transit plan?* For the complete transportation and transit plan: www.MayorsCouncil.ca. One Vancouver insider said, "You don't have to like Translink, mayors or sales taxes to know that better transit is much better for all of us. All else is noise."

We have a new business in the neighbourhood.

Jumping Bean Kids

277 East 8th St.

next door to **Andrews on 8th** coffee shop.
Claire is a registered pediatric physiotherapist, who also offers movement classes, birthday parties, playdates and Mom & Baby hatha yoga. The classes promote a lifelong love for exercise and unstructured play but, above all, are really fun. Contact Claire: info@jumpingbeankids.ca

What does \$10 buy these days? Membership in a vibrant Community Association!

To become a **member of the Grand Boulevard Ridgeway Residents Association** or to renew your membership, contact Carole Stewart at 604 984 2321, carole@gbrra.org or mail or drop off a cheque to GBRRRA at 533 East 11th Street, V7L 2H4.

GBRRRA Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

I'm renewing my membership

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Membership enclosed: \$10 cash

\$10 cheque

+ \$60 for my ad

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 carole@gbrra.org.

Grand Manor Guest House & Apartment



1617 Grand Boulevard, and 156 East 3rd St.
Phone: (604) 988-6082
www.grandmanor.ca



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