

**[Publishing note: some graphics and formatting missing from this online version]**

## **IS BIGGER BETTER?**

A discussion on institutional expansion moderated by Jonathan Baker

City Planners and Engineers will be in attendance.

St George's School has applied to the City to increase its size by 89,388 sq ft. The application, which is to be heard on December 10, 2001, includes: a new auditorium, parking for an additional 103 cars, two dwelling units (one for staff and one for a caretaker) above a new maintenance building, the relocation of sports courts and the reconfiguration of playing fields.

Many residents feel that we are fortunate to have a private school of such quality as this one in our neighbourhood. The school owns ample land to allow for more buildings. Other residents feel that the school is already too large and that any increase in the size of the school will be bound to have startlingly adverse affects on our neighbourhood. Foremost among these is the aggravation of traffic problems. Is this the right location for such an expanded institution?

## **What do you think?**

## **President's Message**

Our residents' association is, as expected, made up of volunteers, and, as expected, we could always use a few more.

Some members of our Board of Directors are retiring this year, and we'll miss their ideas and energy. Thanks to Lou Lanser, Shelagh Lindsey, David Butcher, and Hana Carbert. New directors are welcome. Board meetings with flexible agendas are held at members' homes. We try to accommodate emerging issues brought up by concerned residents (renters and property owners alike) as well as our usual business, starting at 7:30 and ending by 9:30 p.m.

We try to respond, if appropriate, with representations to the City, letters of support, or, as we have done this past year, by holding special public meetings. The November AGM will examine the problems of the expansion of institutions in our residential neighbourhood and this spring we hope to hold a special meeting on seniors' housing issues.

Our budget is funded by Dunbar Residents' Association memberships. We have no grants other than a small one from the Province for the history project "Documenting Dunbar".

Donations from the CIBC and a handful of kind residents helped us with the costs and maintenance of the planting and the beautiful cedar benches (handcrafted by Jon Ellis) located outside of the library at Dunbar and 29th.

We produce this newsletter four times a year (The printing is done at a generous rate by the

Wuschkes at Waldo's Printing.) and deliver it to 5,300 homes, again paid for by DRA membership fees with support from advertising by Dunbar area business (thanks to David Yanor and the Dunbar Business Association.).

Dunbar is a pleasant place to live and the oldest intact neighbourhood in the city. We hope to preserve and enhance it. Your assistance will be appreciated. Just \$15 will buy a family membership. What a deal, eh?

P.S. Thanks go to the Parks Board and its contractor for the new grass fields at Musqueam Park. A great job to be enjoyed by generations of soccer players and strollers.

### **Becoming a Board Member**

The Dunbar Residents' Association elects members to the Board of Directors at its annual general meeting held each November. To be eligible for election, a member must both have belonged to the DRA for at least 6 months, and put in a written application. The deadline for the receipt of applications for 2001/2002 is November 28, 2001. Applications can be sent to the DRA at Box 172, 3456 Dunbar St., Vancouver V6S 2C2. Please indicate if you are interested in a particular committee.

Board meetings are held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month and are open to both members and non-members. The election of officers takes place at the first board meeting. You can find out the time and location of board meetings by leaving a message with your name and phone number on the DRA answering machine: 222-9824, or by visiting the DRA website:

<http://www.dunbar-vancouver.org>

And thank you to **Helen Speiglemen** who has volunteered to become a Board Member of the DRA for the Year 2001/2002. Helen and her family moved to Dunbar on Christmas Eve, 1987. She has served on the DRA Board in various capacities since 1995. Her favourite project is Salmonberry Days, the Dunbar neighbourhood's celebration of our natural environment.

## **THE INDEPENDENT SENIOR IN DUNBAR ,**

### **A LOOK AT OPTIONS**

"Seniors have the right to live independently in our community, even if they may be at risk," states the Seniors Information Housing Program of New Westminster. The statement is laudable, but just how risky is independent living for seniors in *our* community? What help is available and how can it be accessed? Under the auspices of the Dunbar Residents' Association, the Dunbar Seniors' Housing Committee has been formed to try to find some answers.

We are looking at such things as the kind of help seniors need and want, the numbers of seniors currently living in their own homes, the awareness and willingness of younger neighbours to offer help, the extent to which seniors help seniors and how more cooperation might be brought about. We are also interested in the roles played by Dunbar churches and the Community Centre, the availability of seniors' day care centres, and concerns about transportation and shopping.

So far we are gathering information, discovering how other communities do it, and listening to opinions and experiences within Dunbar. We have had one meeting at the Pacific Spirit Health Centre with city housing officials and community seniors workers. Over the course of many cups of tea, Dell Whelan and Julia Gibson have ended up as the committee co-chairs. Since we are both non-experts but eager to learn, we need to hear from you. This project is just starting so whether you are concerned about your own future, that of a family member or a neighbour, we welcome all and any input and assistance.

Julia Gibson 604-224-7506/jugibson@unixg.ubc.ca and  
Dell Whelan fax: 604-222-0905 (Co-chairs), or Jean Tyson 604-263-9626/mjtyson@telus.net  
(Communications)

# WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT CRIME -

## Constable Tim Fanning Drug use in our Schools

This message is not so much about supplying information on our West Side Drug Scene as it is a request for assistance. I have worked doing undercover drug work on the Granville Mall and at rock concerts. I have taken down grow operations in houses all over the city. I have investigated cases involving dead and dying drug users.

I have taken away pot from neighbourhood teenagers. But we (the police) haven't even made a dint in the proliferation of drugs. I'm tired of that outcome. I need your help in reducing the number of victims of this horrible affliction.

Last year I attempted to do some work with a sociology graduate student from UBC who was interested in studying why teens start doing drugs. He could not get grant money and the study wasn't done. We've all seen the images of our Downtown East Side - people shooting up in alleys and on street corners. It's not just a Downtown East Side problem! In one year we had over 300 people overdose in British Columbia. I know all of you have been affected by the drug use in our city either by losing a close friend or family member, or by being a victim of a drug user who stole from you to support his/her habit. (Over 80% of Vancouver's property crime is directly related to our drug problem.)

What I would like to see is a comprehensive study of our West Side High School students with regard to their attitudes on drug use. If there is anyone out there who is a local university student looking for a thesis topic please give me a call. With the study in hand I think that we could have better prevention programs put in place at our schools. I hope someone is interested and able to help. My office phone number is 604-717-3446.

## Garage Break and Enters

There have been a large number of garage break and enters over the past several years in Dunbar. Please be aware of this problem and take action to protect your property. Most garages are broken into at night and the suspects are taking away everything from bicycles to power tools. To prevent this, either move valuables into your house or beef up the security of your garage by barring windows and putting on good doors and locks. In addition, look at installing reinforcing bars across the inside panels of your big garage doors. Without bars, these panels can be broken and pushed inward allowing the suspects to enter. If you install the reinforcing bars correctly the suspects can still break the panel but not get past the bars.

## Cops For Cancer

A big thanks to Stongs, Splash and Sassy Stores for donating fantastic prizes for the Cops for Cancer fundraiser! (Congratulations to the winners: E. Joseph, T. Sortos and M. Meadows!) As well, I would like to thank all the people that supported my 600-kilometre/6 day bicycle ride. The draw along with donations helped to raise \$3,000.00 in Dunbar! The Cops for Cancer/Tour for a Friend Ride raised almost \$200,000.00 this year! The money goes to cancer research and programs for children with cancer such as Camp Goodtimes.

# RYERSON UNITED CHURCH CELEBRATES 90 YEARS !

To celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **Ryerson United Church**, the members and soloists of the Ryerson Church Choir along with the CBC Radio Orchestra are performing

## Handel's Messiah November 30<sup>th</sup> , 8 pm

The performance will be held in the church sanctuary. Tickets are \$20/adults, \$15/seniors/students and are available from Ticketmaster, or from the Church Office during the week. Ryerson is located at the corner of Yew and W. 45<sup>th</sup> Ave.

# NOTES FROM THE PACIFIC SPIRIT HEALTH CENTRE

**Flu shots** are a great idea. Here are details of upcoming flu shot clinics on the west side that are not already completely booked:

- November 7, 2:00 – 4:00 pm at the Jewish Community Centre, 950 West 41<sup>st</sup>, tel: 257-5111.
- November 7, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon at Marpole Place, 1305 West 70<sup>th</sup>, tel: 266-5301
- November 19, 9:00 - 11:30 am at Pacific Spirit Health Centre 2110 West 43rd. Ave., tel: 261-6366
- November 22, 1:30 - 4:30 pm at the Dunbar Community Centre, 4747 Dunbar St., tel: 222-6060
- November 29, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon at Kitsilano Community Centre, 2690 Larch St., tel: 257-6976
- November 30, 1:00 – 3:00 pm at Marpole Place, 1305 West 70th Ave., tel: 266-5301

## DUNBAR HISTORY PROJECT NEEDS YOU

Our history project is gaining momentum as we look forward to our publication date next year. Response from neighbourhood residents has been great as more and more people have come forward with their stories and pictures. But, we can still use lots more help to put us over the finish line.

More stories and photos will be welcome, especially if you have something showing the “stump farms” that were here before the neighbourhood became built up. There must have been dairy cows and we know there were chickens. Do you have photos? We would also like to contact anyone associated with the Ridgeway lending library before the Dunbar Branch of the VPL came into being. We would still like to find a photo of the chapel at 39<sup>th</sup> and Dunbar with the giant hand pointing upwards on the roof.

There is a constant need for good volunteer typists with the skills to transcribe our interview tapes and we can always use donations for new tapes and for the cost of reproducing historical photos. If you can help with any of these things, we will be most grateful.

The History Committee is planning an architectural tour next May as a fund-raiser. We would appreciate volunteers for phoning, planning, acting as docents; and of course, would like to hear from those with residences of architectural interest who would be willing to participate by opening their homes. Please phone Peggy Schofield at 604-263-5590 (volunteers, transcribers); Imbi Harding at 604-263-1522 (homes, tour volunteers); Pam Chambers at 604-266-2902 (lending library, the chapel); and Beryl March at 604-261-8403 (farms).

Peggy Schofield, who is just back from a much needed holiday, has asked me to remind everyone to send in their completed surveys on the use of technology. These were the yellow enclosures in the last newsletter. We need more returns to obtain a significant result. You can get another copy from Peggy at [wilfs@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:wilfs@interchange.ubc.ca) and further information on this project at our website:

<http://www.dunbar-vancouver.org>.

Pam Chambers



As part of our ongoing efforts to maintain a livable neighbourhood, the Blenheim Neighbourhood Group is working to ensure that when our street is repaved, it does not become a speedway. Residents are working with City engineering staff on a process to bring about the reclassification and traffic calming of Blenheim Street. Blenheim is one of the low volume, primarily residential, secondary arterials recommended for reclassification as a “neighbourhood collector” in the City’s Transportation Plan (1997). Our street will be used as the pilot project for the City’s Neighbourhood Collector Initiative.

The goal is to slow traffic to a speed appropriate for the street’s residential nature – without diverting traffic onto local residential streets.

The Blenheim Neighbourhood Group is committed to street and neighbourhood safety, and we believe that residents working together play the biggest part in creating a safe and livable environment. We support traffic calming initiatives throughout the Dunbar area and in all neighbourhoods, and encourage residents to become involved in making their street and community safe and livable.

**The BNG may be contacted by e-mail: [BNG@netcom.ca](mailto:BNG@netcom.ca), fax: 604-224-0988, mail: c/o 4343 Blenheim Street, V6L 2Z6.**

**BNG spokesperson Bill Yearwood may be reached at 604-267-7338.**

## ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS - from Helen Spiegelman

Here’s something

to think about. Industrial firms are closely regulated to prevent them from polluting the environment, but individual households are not. In fact, the very same polluting substances that industrial firms are prohibited from putting in their dumpsters are disposed of in unlimited quantities in household garbage cans. Even though cities would prefer that householders not dispose of toxic products in the garbage, citizens are conditioned from a century of habit to think that *‘if we put it out, they’ll take it away and manage it responsibly.’*

On the surface of it, this makes sense. A small amount of mercury, paint thinner, or dog feces is less harmful than a large quantity. The problem is that our municipal waste management system is superbly designed to transform many small problems into one huge one. Here’s how.

Every day of the week, city trucks are trolling the lanes of Vancouver emptying household garbage cans. The trucks carry their loads to the Vancouver South transfer station. At the transfer station, the individual truckloads of our household garbage are consolidated into larger tractor-trailers, which head out to the Vancouver Landfill at Burns Bog in Delta. There, our garbage is joined by garbage from UBC, Richmond, Delta and White Rock – municipalities that pay to use the Vancouver Landfill to dispose of their citizens’ household garbage.

And thus, our small household outputs of toxic waste are no longer diffused throughout the Lower Mainland in harmless doses, but are instead concentrated into a force to be reckoned with. Tiny drops of polluting substances run together into rivers of leachate (landfill juice) and clouds of methane (landfill gas).

Between our household garbage and the receiving environment stands only a fragile set of “pollution control” equipment. Our city is exposed to risk should the technology fail. The costs of clean-up are very high. In the USA, one out of every five of the contaminated sites on the environmental superfund programmes are municipal landfills. American cities and counties have faced hundreds of millions of dollars in clean-up costs under this 20-year-old program just because of polluting substances in ordinary municipal garbage.

The take-home lesson is: when you put out the garbage, picture it multiplied 5,000 times – this is the amount produced in our Dunbar neighbourhood. Picture it multiplied 90,000 times – this is the amount produced in the City of Vancouver.

The City offers us many ways to reduce our contribution to the Vancouver Landfill. The Blue Box and the Blue and Yellow bags are just the beginning. Pound-for-pound the following practices provide an even greater payback in terms of methane and leachate impacts.

- Designate up to four special containers for ‘Yard Trimmings’. Use the City’s ‘Yard Trimmings’ label to show the garbage collectors what cans should go to the composting system instead of the landfill. (Stickers are available by calling 604 323-7710). When yard trimmings are delivered to the composting site, they produce a valuable soil amendment used in our city parks. When they go to the landfill, they produce methane – a greenhouse gas 24 times more potent than carbon dioxide.
- Try backyard composting. The raw fruit and vegetable trimmings that you throw in the garbage also produce methane in the landfill (not to mention slimy and malodorous trails on the back lanes). A simple backyard composting unit from the City allows you one more way to avoid becoming part of our Global Warming problem.
- Set aside toxic products. *Unusable paint* can be delivered free-of-charge to Joe’s Bottle Depot, just east of Main Street on East 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue. *Paint thinners, pesticides* and *fuels* can be delivered free-of-charge to the East Van Bottle Depot (2605 Kaslo, near East 10<sup>th</sup> just past Van Tech). Take old *medications* back to Shopper’s Drug Mart on Dunbar Street. Anything else: save it up until a program is available – **and keep an eye out for special collections, like the drycell battery roundup during Salmonberry Days.**

## VANCOUVER LANDFILL FACTS

- our landfill is the largest landfill west of Toronto
- total area is 635 hectares – 225 have filled up since it opened in 1966
- remaining capacity is 20 million tons (40 years) by agreement with host community Delta
- in the rainy season our landfill pumps out extra leachate and extra methane – a greenhouse gas 24 times more potent than carbon dioxide
- “pollution control” systems can fail – the best solution is not to create the problem in the first place!

**HELEN SPIEGELMAN is the DRA contact on environment issues: 604-731-8464**

## KEEPING DUNBAR GREEN

There are many ways to get your hands muddy in Dunbar, and help to restore and sustain our natural environment. Here are a few recent accomplishments and ideas from Dunbar’s Salmonberry King, Terry Slack:

- Our Southlands neighbour June Binkert, author of the self-guided architectural walks during Salmonberry Days, had a great idea to help take a load off the Fraser River: use native plants to vegetate a *retention pond* to hold the runoff water from the newly renovated playing fields in Highbury Park. The plants will naturally filter the run-off water, rather than piping it into the Fraser River. Terry Slack led a team of youthful volunteers who followed through on June’s plan on BC Rivers Day, September 30<sup>th</sup> (this good-news story was covered in the Vancouver Courier). Go have a look, down below the new playing fields south of SW Marine Drive @ Highbury Street.
- Volunteers from Dunbar and other neighbourhoods worked for two hours on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> in the pouring rain to restore heavily disturbed ‘unofficial trails’ in our Pacific Spirit Park. The volunteers dug in 125 plants that were salvaged or grown at the Pacific Spirit Park nursery (another citizen led project). More volunteers are welcome for these fun outdoor projects: phone the Park Centre at 604/224-5739.
- Many of our city streets are being re-engineered to reduce traffic speeds. Both corner bulges and islands are being installed at various locations in Dunbar and elsewhere. These create a great

opportunity for neighbourhood building. Local residents can organize beautification projects in these new community spaces with the help of Vancouver's Green Streets Program. Once the paving is completed, there are many options other than grass. Interested? Call:

**Terry Dixon, GreenWays Program: 604/873-7204.**

## LIBRARY COURTYARD READY FOR PHASE II

Jon Ellis has crafted a set of two curved cedar benches next to the dogwood. The DRA wants to thank the CIBC for so generously donating the cost of one of them. A special series of photos was taken in September, and one will be posted on the Vancouver Public Library's website. The next phase in the creation of community ambience will include the placement of a third bench (really a lazyboy chair) and a mock coffee table that could be a community project. A rubbish container and more plantings are a high priority in the future plans. Peter Kendall has taken over the coordination of the project during this phase.

## ST. GEORGE'S FAIR 2002: TRAFFIC AND PARKING PLAN

We would like to inform all of the residents and merchants in the Dunbar area that our 49<sup>th</sup> Annual School Fair will be held on **Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002** at our Senior School (4175 West 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue). We will, again, be implementing a traffic and parking plan to manage the large number of cars coming into the area.

We thank you for the input that helped us to achieve the objectives of last year's plan – the primary one being, to keep the neighbourhood (bounded by Dunbar and Camosun, King Edward

and 33<sup>rd</sup>) accessible to emergency vehicles. The results led to an overwhelmingly positive response from the neighbourhood, City Hall and the Vancouver City Police.

This year we will be working in conjunction with the Dunbar Residents' Association in communicating with you about the traffic and parking plan.

We hope that you will make a note of our event on your calendar and that you will be able to join us for all of the fun and festivities!!