

DUNBAR

from the Dunbar Residents Association
 Box 45572, Westside R.P.O, Vancouver, BC V6S 2N5
 www.Dunbar-Vancouver.org • 604-222-9824



The Fabric of our Community

What is it that makes a neighbourhood knit together as a community? That's the question we are going to explore at the Dunbar Residents' Association 2004 Annual General Meeting. We are bringing together a panel of some of the active leaders from organizations that are important in building community here in Dunbar.

Dunbar is recognized across the city as a great place to live and to raise kids. Come meet some of the people who make it so. Doors open at 6:30 for coffee, tea and light desserts (see below!). After a quick business meeting at 7:30, we'll settle down and hear from our panel. Hope to see you there!

Dunbar Residents' Association
 2004 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 Monday, November 22nd, 2004
 St. Philip's Church Hall
 3737 West 27th Avenue

doors open 6:30 pm, meeting starts 7:30 pm

SPEAKERS:

Simon Roberts, President, Dunbar Community Centre Association

Catherine Evans, Acting President, Point Grey Secondary Parent Advisory Committee

Ian Robertson, President, Dunbar Little League

Charles Dodds, President, Dunbar Business Association

Rev. John Stephens, Rector, St. Philip's Anglican Church

BRING-ALONG REFRESHMENTS!

In the spirit of community-building, we invite everyone who can to bring along a plate of cookies to munch with our coffee and tea before the AGM. We will spread a cloth on the table to make your goodies look delectable. (Be sure to label your plate and take it home at the end of the evening!)

Letter from the President

— by Jon Ellis

In the past year, your executive board has been working diligently developing the neighbourhood involvement scheme that we outlined to you at our AGM last November. Our hope then was to take advantage of the promising statements made by the new Councillors during the 2002 election campaign to cap off a proposition that this association has been advocating for years. With your authorization, we involved as many other neighbourhoods as we could muster and commissioned a professional presentation for the Council.

To date, our efforts have failed. But we learned two things. First, Vancouver is indeed a city of neighbourhoods. Most neighbourhoods want to be effectively involved in their own development and most are

more than able to do so, given half a chance. Second, involving neighbourhoods requires a level of political commitment and leadership that, campaign statements notwithstanding, does not exist in Vancouver. I personally learned as well that Political Leadership is not an attribute that can be instilled by citizen action; it must be elected by citizen action. Leaders are born, not made – something to keep in mind as the election of 2005 approaches.

Now that the 2005 election will again be conducted on an at-large basis, the notion that ward representation would engender a higher level of neighbourhood clout has been shelved. With this question answered, the need for strong, effective neighbourhoods will be



PART OF THE FABRIC OF OUR COMMUNITY ...

The Dunbar Little League

— by Ian Robertson

Ask any boy or girl why they like playing baseball in Dunbar Little League and they'll tell you that it's either because they like playing with their friends, the cool jerseys, the great fields, fantastic coaches or the parade with the fire truck down Dunbar on Closing Day.

Dunbar Little League has the distinction of being one of the premier Little Leagues in Canada. Not just because we happen to field competitive teams but due to our primary goal of providing an outstanding baseball experience for boys and girls regardless of their level of skill.

Ask most parents why they enjoy their association with the League and they'll tell you that it's the community spirit. A spirit that exists regardless of the division their child is playing in. New families to the area are grateful because it provides them with an opportunity to meet other families and forge friendships that last a lifetime. For returning families it's an opportunity to sit in the stands, talk with friends, share a laugh and cheer on all the players regardless



Photo by George Porteous

of the uniform the player is wearing. Where else can you do this and enjoy the best cheeseburger with fried onions this city has to offer?

An exciting baseball experience for kids and a unique setting for everyone to meet and enjoy the emerging days of spring – to me, that's what makes this League very special.

Ian Robertson is President of the Dunbar Little League.

Dunbar's Artists

— by Pam Chambers

The Dunbar community has always been very rich in people working in all the arts. Musicians, including composers, as well as writers and visual artists continue to make their homes in the area. Dunbar's cultural life will be detailed in a special chapter of the book about Dunbar's history which has been in preparation since 1999 and will be published in the fall of 2005.

For the past ten years the Dunbar/Kerrisdale branch of Artists in our Midst has been a vital part of this community, organizing an annual spring reception on a Friday evening followed by two days when the public is invited to tour the open studios of the participating artists. The Dunbar artists are already working towards their next show in April 2005.

Pam Chambers is a Dunbar painter who has been a member of Artists in our Midst since 1999.





Little stories from our neighbourhood

Dunbar's gardeners

The summer drought is behind us now, but **Audrey Ostrom** hopes we all provided water during the dry season to new street trees planted by the Vancouver Parks Board in front of our houses. It is essential that the little trees be watered deeply during the summer months and the Parks Board counts on citizen support to help the trees survive. These trees will be our generation's legacy to future residents of our neighbourhood.

It is the apple harvest season. **Sharon Slack** reminds us that if we have tree fruit that we cannot harvest, we can call the Fruit Tree Hotline (604 873-1191) to be connected with people who can help harvest the fruit for community groups that need it. The Fruit Tree Project welcomes donation of pruning tools and canning jars and equipment and shares knowledge of pruning and caring for fruit trees.

Dunbar's longest street (check the map!)

The Blenheim Neighbourhood Group has been busy with community-building activities. Their Blenheim Bazaar last May ("the world's longest garage sale") was a rain-stopping success, with 35 households between 16th and 43rd Avenues participating. The street was decorated with balloons in Blenheim's trademark daffodil-yellow. People criss-crossed the normally busy street, stopping to chat and enjoy the fun and hot dogs.

During the first week of school when kids returned to Kitchener Elementary, a team of volunteer crossing guards patrolled the busy corner at 24th and Blenheim. The volunteers and the kids enjoyed their 15 seconds of fame on Global TV and the volunteers pledge to continue to work with the school to reduce traffic and speeds near the school.

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Dunbar's phantom graffiti buster

A community-spirited person who prefers to remain anonymous patrols the streets of Dunbar cleaning graffiti off the grey Canada Post boxes. He says he sometimes works alone, other times with an accomplice. Perhaps he was the inspiration for the City of Vancouver's new Graffiti Hotline: 604 873-7161. Phone this number to report graffiti or for general information about the City's program. The Phantom says "they're very nice people!"

Moving day in Dunbar

Terry Slack tells this great neighbourhood story about friends, well into their 90s, who decided after 40 good years living in Dunbar to sell their home and move on to a new life in a new city. They asked Terry for "just a little help" to get their older house in tip-top shape for the new owners: paint the porch, clip the lawns, harvest the food garden only when veggies are ready (parsnips need frost before picking) – and

find homes for the collection of household goods that won't be making the move. This last was a challenge but everything found a new home. A set of cast iron caulking tools is now with a granite cutter under the Arthur Laing Bridge and a planter recycled from an old truck tire will spend the next 40 years in another front yard in Dunbar. And of course Terry's basement is packed a little tighter with things he "could need some day". Good luck to our departing friends. Your house and lifetime's accumulation of useful items all passed on to the next generation of proud owners.


New rules encourage renovation and reconstruction of older buildings

— by Jon Ellis

We had a call from a former DRA Director about a neighbour whose 1920s-era house was damaged by fire. He was surprised to learn that he could not rebuild his house even though he had sufficient insurance to do so.

The City has long employed "trigger points" to determine the extent to which renovations – including reconstruction – must meet current zoning and safety codes. The triggers have been based on the cost of the renovation as a percentage of the assessed value of the building (not including the value of the land). These triggers have been fixed for years, but as of April 20, 2004, Council has authorized a pilot program to test different ways of setting the required level of upgrades. The new approach is intended to encourage reinvestment in existing buildings, promote the adaptive reuse of buildings and protect historic buildings throughout the City while at the same time ensuring that a reasonable level of safety is provided in buildings. Further information is available on the City's website (www.city.vancouver.bc.ca) under Community Services/Chief Building Official

If you intend to apply for a permit to renovate or reconstruct an older house, contact William M. Johnston, Code Development Engineer with the City of Vancouver. He can be reached by phone: 604-873-7515 or by email: will_johnston@city.vancouver.bc.ca



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Remembering Toni Onley

— by Lynn Onley

I grew up in Dunbar in a house on 28th & Collingwood with my dad. I have many fond memories of Dunbar and my old home. I liked drawing in the corner of my father's basement studio while he was painting on a typical Vancouver rainy day. Later on, I moved to the east side of the city and he stayed connected to Dunbar.

He bought a house on Musqueam land and lived there for the rest of his life.

Sadly, less than two weeks after he planned a father-daughter show with me at Omega Gallery, he left us. I felt my whole world had



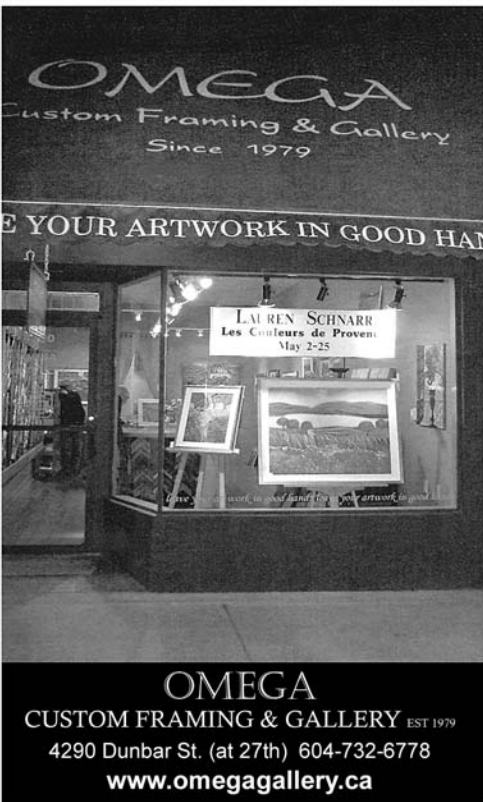
changed. I lost not only a loving father but also a mentor and close friend. Since he passed away, I have been trying to overcome my grief and continue painting to make the show possible. This will be the first time I have a collaborative show with my father. Although he can not be at the show, I know his spirit will be there and he will be so pleased to see me carrying on with the show.

What's new on the Dunbar website

— by Tom Grant, Webmaster

The Dunbar's website is constantly changing (www.dunbar-vancouver.org) as we remove services that don't get used and add new ones. The classified ads are gone, but several new features are there instead. Keep checking back to see how we've grown.

"What's New" continued next page . . .



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FALL/WINTER EXHIBITIONS

<p><u>THE ART OF PRINTMAKING</u> 5 artists from Malaspina Printmakers Society -monotype, linocut, etching, lithograph & wood engraving- Workshop: Saturday, Nov. 13, 3-5pm A casual chat with the artists about the tools and techniques of printmaking. Refreshments will be served.</p>	Nov. 1-Nov. 20
<p><u>IN LOVING MEMORY</u> Toni Onley & Lynn Onley, father & daughter show -oil, watercolour & silkscreen by Toni Onley- -watercolour by Lynn Onley-</p>	Nov. 23-Dec. 18
<p><u>CHRISTMAS DECORATION SALE</u> by Mahonia Floral Designer, Rekha Molleken</p>	Dec. 1-Dec. 22
<p><u>GROUP EXHIBITION</u> Including: Wayne Ngan's new work, Laurie Campbell's oil (from Montreal, 1st show in Van) & other local artists.</p>	Dec. 19-Jan. 24

***Avoid the rush. Get your framing projects done early for Christmas.
Make Omega your Christmas Shopping Destination.***



VPD Crime reporting and monitoring

In place of the "crime watch" function, we have installed links to two helpful online services from the Vancouver Police Department. Click **Online Reporting** to report a (non-emergency) crime incident. Click **Dunbar Crime Stats** to read crime statistics for Dunbar and other neighbourhoods.

Calling All Dunbar Amateur Photographers!

The Dunbar website has a new web-based **Photo Gallery** (see it at www.dunbar-vancouver.org/gallery/). The gallery currently boasts five photo albums with a focus on Dunbar architecture and environs. Show-off your "Dunbar" and what you like about your neighbourhood. Share your "Dunbar" with other communities. To make regular direct online contributions to the gallery you will be provided a username and password. If you have an idea for a new album and a significant number of contributing photos, we can set it up.

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Email connection with your neighbours

Dunbar’s interactive email list is a great way to communicate with your neighbours and the

Dunbar community. Join the list by visiting www.dunbar-vancouver.org/dra-aboutus.htm.

SONIA’S NOTES

Fall is certainly in the air with many of the trees changing color and the chestnuts and acorns falling. Just remember to rake and bag all those leaves as the city has unlimited pickup of leaves during Oct. Nov. Dec. and Jan.

The theme for the D.R.A.’s annual meeting is about building a better community. An excellent example of a business that does that is Stong’s Grocery Store. They sponsor more than 20 amateur sports teams in a year as well as donating many gift baskets to various neighbourhood groups and organizations.

The Dunbar Community Centre’s annual Craft Fair comes up on Saturday, November 20 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. This is also one of our big community events where one meets friends and neighbours. There is a \$2 admission fee that goes towards the Community Centre’s scholarship fund.

Please remember to renew your D.R.A. membership for the coming year. The money is mainly used to pay for the printing of the newsletter, maintaining the website and having a telephone and post office box. Everyone is welcome to join.

DRA MEMBERSHIP FORM 2004 – 2005 (October to September)

- New Member
- Renewal
- I’ll help deliver newsletters on my block

Name _____

Address _____ Postal Code _____

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Individual (\$10) _____ Household (\$15) _____ Optional Donation: _____

All members’ information is kept strictly confidential. Membership list restricted to DRA use. For more information, contact the DRA at 604 222-9824.

Please make your cheque payable to “Dunbar Residents’ Association.”

- Return it by mail to: _____ OR Drop it off at:
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Or bring it to the Annual General Meeting, November 22, 2004

St. Philip’s Church Hall, 3737 West 27th Avenue