

North Park Village News



Join us in the Great Pole Paint-In

... Cameron Speedie

As part of the NPNA's ongoing effort to make our great neighbourhood even better, we are engaging in putting decorative vinyl wraps on selected utility boxes.

These wraps will depict historical images of the neighbourhood as well as select art work. Not only do the wraps make the otherwise ugly boxes more attractive, they aid in the control of graffiti as they are easy to wipe clean.

Although we would like to do all the boxes in the area, our funds are limited so we have identified the most problematic boxes and will start with them. These include the infamous Bay and Quadra eyesores. We hope to continue this process and eventually have every utility box covered. You may also note that BC Hydro boxes are exempt from this process as BC

Hydro will not approve vinyl wraps for the various power vaults. We are approaching the power vaults a bit differently, as you may have seen a few decorated ones around the area.

Another project we are working on is the decoration of the various electrical and hydro poles in our area. We are going to have a "Great Pole Paint In" on Saturday May 14th. We will provide the paint (recycled!), patterns (if you are not artistically inclined), and prizes (for various themes, i.e. best team effort, best pole, best block etc.).

So come out and have some fun meeting your neighbours and making the area nicer! If you want to join in on the "Paint In" please let us know at npna@npna.ca and we will provide the details to you on where and when to meet up.



Vanessa admires the wrap around the utility box across from the arena.

What's Happening in 'The Hood'

...Alex Kerr, President NPNA

Since our last newsletter, a lot has happened at the association.

We had our AGM in October 2010 at which time one board member resigned and two new members were elected. I wish to thank Jackie Kanyuk and Paul Huxtable for their dedication and hard work during their tenure and welcome Luke Kozlowski and Linda Bain on the board.

This year we will continue our focus on membership, safety and communications, as well as promotion and branding of *North Park Village*. We continue to work with the *Good Neighbour Committee* (GNC) for 900 block Pandora St. We are seeking more involvement of our neighbours to help with community projects (utility box wraps, bike racks, murals, park

spaces, etc.) and the membership rewards program, which benefits all members of the association. I am very encouraged by the commitment of the current board to make changes and work towards our goals for this year.

The North Park Neighbourhood Association meets Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 7:30pm at St. John the Devine Church, 1611 Quadra Street, (enter from the rear parking lot) to discuss Victoria's Official Community Plan (OCP). Impacts to your neighbourhood, such as building heights, traffic flow, etc. will be important topics for discussion. The NPNA encourages you to participate, learn about the OCP, and make sure your ideas and concerns are heard at City Hall.

If you have a neighbourhood issue or question contact us and we will try to help.

Visit our website at www.npna.ca or our bulletin board at the corner of Cook and North Park for our latest news. Remember it is **your** neighbourhood, so come out and get involved!

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Welcome to the Neighbourhood ... Sharon Klein



Top: Tristan and Yoka beside their Royal Roaster from the mid 30's

Bottom: Jim and Cheryl surrounded by funky vintage treasures.

Some people may call it coincidence, but I believe it was divine intervention when four people (Yoka & Tristan and Jim & Cheryl), who knew each other for 25 years in Vancouver, now have stores next door to each other in North Park Village on Mason Street.

Unbeknownst to each other, both couples set their eyes on Victoria to enjoy a "quieter way of life".

Yoka and Tristan have **Yoka's Coffee & Honey** at #5 – 1046 Mason Street. "We love the more humane pace of life Victoria offers", states Tristan with a smile. "People take the time to say hi and have a visit." The aroma of roasted coffee fills the shop, with over 20 varieties of coffee and teas from all over the world. Plus, BC honey and Belgian chocolates. The store is open from 9am to 6pm, Tuesdays to Fridays and 9am – 5:30pm on Saturdays. A great place to visit and get to know your neighbours. www.yokascoffee.com.

Next door at **Easy Livin**, #4 – 1046 Mason Street, Jim and Cheryl enjoy the colourful neighbourhood and watching the visitors to Franklin Green Park. "We love the long history that North Park has", says Cheryl. "We find it is a close, caring neighbourhood." Their store is full of funky furniture and cool accessories – all vintage. I fell in love with the sleek, turquoise couch with chrome armrests from the 50's and was busy trying to rearrange my living room furniture in my mind to accommodate this new purchase. The store is fabulous for browsing and finding good deals. They have everything from small household items to couches, tables and dressers. Open Wednesdays – Saturdays from 11am to 6pm and on Sundays from noon to 5pm. (Check out their website) www.easylivinstyle.ca.



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**NPNA Board meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.
Open to all.**

Our Annual Festival In-The-Park Kim Persley

North Park is a neighbourhood that has a lot to offer. We have parks, athletic centres, a unique and thriving village centre as well as residential areas. It is home to people from all walks of life and cultures.

In previous years, we at the NPNA have celebrated everything that makes our neighbourhood great by holding two festivals, a cultural food and entertainment event in June and the main neighbourhood event in August.

This year, we have decided to combine these two celebrations into one larger event that will span both Saturday and Sunday on the weekend of June 18 and 19.

The festival will still be held in Franklin Green Park on Mason Street, where we have held our events in past years. This year we are planning to offer much more, so we will be expanding into the St Andrew's School field as well.

The event will feature entertainment from local musicians and dance troupes, plus international food kiosks. We already have commitments from several favorite groups from previous years to be a part of it again this year.

We also plan to incorporate a market element with an artisan craft fair and farmers offering fresh, local food. This will be something new, which we hope will draw people from all over the city to the event.

We are able to plan and enjoy these events solely because of the commitment of volunteers giving their time to plan a neighbourhood festival that we can be proud of. If you or anyone you know would like to get involved please let us know. There are plenty of ways to help out, from assisting with advance planning, helping to find vendors to sell their food or crafts at the event, or even just lending a hand over the festival weekend. The more people that get involved, the more fun and inclusive our event will become.

It's very exciting to look ahead to the biggest neighbourhood event of the year. It will be a great way for us all to get together and celebrate our neighbourhood and city. We hope to have it grow into something we can look forward to every year.

**Festival In-The-Park
June 18 & 19
Franklin Green Park**



NPNA – Safety Brief - Luke
As the Safety Chair I am pleased to report that the NPNA has been undertaking a safety audit this spring. We have been walking through the neighbourhood at different times of the day assessing traffic safety, lighting and accessibility. During this process we have identified areas where traffic lines are faded, lighting and signs are obstructed and sidewalks are too narrow or damaged. Our findings will be included in a report and key recommendations will be communicated to the City of Victoria with requests to fix problem areas or conduct further observation. If you have any safety related questions or concerns please contact us at npna@npna.ca

North Park Neighbourhood Association Sponsors

The following businesses and organizations have been active in supporting both the Neighbourhood and the NPNA. We hope you will support them as well!

- Tri Eagle Developments ★ Castle Building Supplies ★ MediChair ★ Wellburn's Market
Thai Place ★ Gazzola Tile & Design ★ Glenn Mitchell Surveying ★ Yoka's Coffee & Honey
Squash Club ★ Urbana Kitchens ★ Garside Signs & Displays ★ Houle Electric
North Park Cycle ★ Kajohl Management ★ HJM Automotive ★ Larsen's Music
City of Victoria Properties ★ Serious Coffee ★ Central Baptist Church ★ St. John Divine Church
★ First Baptist Church ★ Metropolitan Church

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Be effective against Break and Enters

... Cst. Mike Russell, Community Resource Officer, Victoria Police Department



Over the last three years VicPD, with the assistance of our community members have been able to reduce the number of break and enters into

residences by almost 12%. This progress is fantastic. However, break and entry crime is still common in our city. In order to be a less desirable target, we need your help. Take a look at your house and property and use these few key tips to help make your

property less likely to be the subject of a break and enter.

1. Lighting: increase lighting at doors and alley entrances. Bright motion lights work great for this. If all you have is a small bulb on the garage, use it! Some light is better than none.

2. Trim bushes, plants, and trees away from house and garage windows and doors. Do not leave cover for individuals skulking around.

3. Locks: Lock everything! Lock your houses and garages with dead bolts (that go at least 1" into the stud). Lock your cars in your garages, and lock your overhead door if you can.

4. Report suspicious activity. If you suspect a Break and Enter in progress call 911, if it is a suspicious person in the area call VicPD at 250-995-7654. If we don't know about it, we can't help.

5. Watch out for each other. There is nothing wrong with being nosy. The more eyes out on the streets and back alleys, the more prevention we can do. *Cst. Russell may be reached at mike.russell@vicpd.ca or 250-995-7209.*

Block Watch

Bev Stewart, Block Watch Coordinator
VicPD. 205-995-7409 blockwatch.com

Carole James, MLA
"My Community Office is open to assist you"
Tel: 250.952.4211
carole.james.mla@leg.bc.ca
1084 Fort Street (near Fort & Cook)

NPNA Calendar
May 14.....**Great Paint In**
June 18,19...**Festival In The Park**
Aug.....**Music in the Park**
Sept.....**Luminara**
Oct**AGM**
Event details at npna.ca

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Membership Form & Rewards

Name _____

Address _____

Phone #: _____ Email _____

Membership in North Park Neighbourhood Association is \$5.00/year

Membership Fee \$ 5.00 plus donation of _____ = \$ _____

Please enclose membership form and cheque (write out to North Park Neighbourhood Association) and mail to: NPNA Box 661, #185 - 911 Yates Street, Victoria, B.C., V8Y 4Y9. (Form is also available at npna.ca)

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Knotty Bean Cafe
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Have a business and want to participate in the rewards program? Please contact us