



North Park Neighbourhood Association Newsletter Spring 2009

Reach us at www.npna.ca info@npna.ca

It is Your Neighbourhood! Get Involved!



By Alex Kerr, President, NPNA

Since our last newsletter there have been a lot of things happening at the association.

We had our AGM in October 2008 at which time 4 of our board decided not to stand for another term. I wish to thank Kristin Atwood, Stacey Ness, Thomas Guerrero and Pauline Price for their dedication and hard work; we hope to see you return at a later date.

There were 28 people at the meeting which saw 5 new board members elected. They were Kanoux Larsen, Sue Lawson, Jackie Kanyuk, Emily Paglin and Allison Ashcroft.

At our first board meeting the following positions were filled: Alex Kerr, Chair; Kanoux Larsen, Secretary; Ed Price, Treasurer; Sue Lawson, Membership; Todd Doherty, Land Use; Joan Waller, Safety; Cameron Speedie, Communications; with Emily Paglin and Jackie Kanluk as members at large. Since that time we have had two resignations. Allison left due to time constraints of her new business and Joan left due to moving from the area and time constraints.

I would like to thank Joan for her many years of hard work for the neighbourhood during trying times.

This year we are going to put our main emphasis on membership and communications, as these are things that seem to have taken a back seat to the other more timely things that were happening in the past few years. We continue to work with the NEX Advisory Group on the needle exchange as well as with the GNA committee for 900 block Pandora St.

We are seeking more involvement of our neighbours thru community projects and membership rewards program. (More in Sue's column) I am very encouraged by the commitment of the current board to make changes and work towards our goals for this year.

Our festival this year will be new and exciting, so stay tuned for further information.

Remember to visit our website at www.npna.ca or our new 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 in making it work!

North Park Neighbourhood Association Newsletter Spring 2009

Special points of interest:

- **It is your Neighbourhood! Get involved!**
- **Membership Matters!**
- **Neighbourhood Festival 2009**
- **Land Use**
- **Tagging and What You Can do About It!**
- **Communications In North Park— Getting the Word Out**
- **Safety Report**
- **The North Park Native Plant Demonstration Garden**



Sue Lawson,
Membership Chair

Membership Matters!

If you're reading this newsletter, this particular article – then you most likely understand the importance of involvement within the issues, needs, and activities that affect your neighbourhood. If you live, work, play in our 'hood or partake of the services from the many North Park businesses, then you matter to us! The NPNA is here to serve as your voice within the broader Victoria community. You, as a member of our Association, give us the power and strength to make that voice heard.

When I was elected to the NPNA Board last October, I let it be known that membership was one of my passions within our many goals. With that, we developed Terms of Reference for the Membership Chair and the position was born! One of those points of reference is that I serve to foster relationships between the general membership and the Board. Your responses to requests for updated Membership Applications, offers to support the Board with specific needs, and your participation in our Membership Rewards are just a few of the ways you have empowered me to do this. Thank you!

My first challenge has been to update the Membership Database. As per the B.C. Societies Act, which governs our Association, we are required to maintain a membership roll stating the physical address of all members. We're getting there. If you have not sent me an updated Membership Application since March, then please go to our website at www.npna.ca, locate the application on the 'About/Membership' page, complete it including the year you began your membership, and click on 'Send'. It will come directly to me and I will let you know when I've received and updated your information. Within a few months, we will have to remove, from our Membership Database, all names that have not supplied us with updated information. So let me hear from you!!

Another exciting project I've been working on is the introduction of our Membership Rewards Program. We now have membership cards for all updated members. Drop by any Board meeting to pick yours up. When you use this card at any Mohawk/Husky, 2% of your purchase (with certain exceptions) will be given back to our Association. That's the beginning. Now – as to *your* personal rewards: we have several businesses in the neighbourhood that have signed up with offerings of savings for you! Interested in a two-fer coffee, a discount on that next hair cut or dry cleaning, a great deal on a gift for someone??? Not bad, eh? That's just the beginning. Watch our website to see new businesses signing up.

Keep an eye on the website for a bi-monthly membership newsletter – *Membership Matters*. In that, I will try to keep you up to date on what's happening with membership and other items of interest from the Association.

Don't hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any needs or suggestions as to membership with the NPNA. Take care – see you 'round the 'hood!

Be sure to visit our site for North Park Village!
www.northparkvillage.ca



Denise Savoie
 Member of Parliament for Victoria

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE:
 970 Blanshard Street
 Victoria, BC V8W 2H3

TELEPHONE: 363-3600
 E-MAIL: Savoie.d@parl.gc.ca
 ON THE WEB: www.denisesavoie.ca

Your voice in Ottawa

On May 12 re-elect
Carole James
 for Victoria-Beacon Hill

Take back your BC



Contact Carole's campaign:
 Phone: 250-386-8497
 Email: info@electcarolejames.ca
 Web: carolejames.bcndp.ca
 1515 Cook St., Victoria, BC, V8T 5E5

Home Medical Equipment Solutions
 sales • service • rentals

scooters • wheelchairs • seating systems
 incontinence supplies • bathroom safety
 lift chairs • walkers • stairlifts • vehicle lifts

MEDichair the home medical equipment specialists

Victoria - 1856 Quadra Street 250.384.8000
 Sidney - 7- 9764 Fifth Street 250.656.6228

Coming Summer 2009

Baseball At Royal Athletic Park

Catch a Victoria Seals Game!

BAY STREET

BLANSHARD STREET

NORTH PARK

NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

COOK STREET

PANDORA AVENUE

urbana
 DESIGNERS OF FINE KITCHENS

1745 BLANSHARD ST
 VICTORIA, B.C. V8W 2J8
 TEL. 250.383.2635
 FAX. 250.386.1137



same staff
same owners
 Still your local Building Centre





Alex Kerr -
Unity Committee

This event is an open celebration of the diversity of the neighbourhood

Neighbourhood Festival 2009 – Coming This Fall Help Celebrate Our 5th Annual Neighbourhood Festival!

For the past 4 years the North Park Neighbourhood Association (NPNA) has hosted a Neighbourhood Festival. This event is an open celebration of the diversity of the neighbourhood and focuses on the positive elements for the area. Participants include businesses, organizations, and neighbours in an informal festival atmosphere.

The concept evolved from the idea that we needed a positive element to counter some of the less than pleasant issues in the area. To that end the location was chosen with the intent of bringing some community spirit to some of the challenged areas.

This concept was furthered in moving the event to the current venue, Franklin Green.

Franklin Green had become marginalized over the years and a NPNA action plan was put in place in cooperation with the City to renovate and rejuvenate the park, claiming it back for the people of the area. To that end we have been very happy with the results including the children’s play area, pickle ball courts, bocce ball area and general improvements.

Now that NPNA and Fernwood have embarked on the North Park Village concept with Franklin Green being one of the gate keeper areas it made perfect sense to retain the area as our festival venue. As the Village concept spans both North Park and Fernwood we would like to welcome everyone to come out and enjoy the festival! Please join us for this fun event!

When – Early Fall 2009—Check our Website for The Announcement www.npna.ca



Todd Doherty, Land Use Committee
“economic climate has contributed to the cancellation of several multi-storey projects”

The North Park Land Use Committee 2008 -

Rezoning and development activity in the North Park Neighbourhood has been quiet as of late.

Our current economic climate has contributed to the stalling or cancellation of several multi-storey projects just outside our west boundary with downtown.

The 8 unit townhouse development, "Parkside Lane", at 920 Caledonia is nearing completion and units are currently for sale.

"Secondary Suites Grant program" - Just introduced by the City of Victoria, this grant program is designed to assist homeowners in creating new secondary suites in their home. This grant will cover 25% of construction costs, up to a maximum of \$5000.

More info at: www.victoria.ca/cityhall/departments_plnsph_hsnlgn_scndry.shtml

...continued

LARSEN Music
Bringing music to life!

Visit Larsen Music at:
1833 Cook St , Victoria V8T 3P5
Phone: 250-389-1988
Toll Free: 877-472-1907
FAX: 250-389-1983
larsenmusic.ca
info@larsenmusic.ca

The North Park Land Use Committee 2008 ... continued

Victoria Sustainability Framework - www.victoria.ca/cityhall/sstnbl.shtml

Public Notices for the City of Victoria - Many of the City's public hearings are land use related. The following link lists the public hearings scheduled for the next Council meeting:
www.victoria.ca/contentmanager/cgi/publicnotices_order.asp



By Mr. X, NPNA

*"Tagging is ugly,
plain and simple"*

Tagging and What You Can Do About It!

Tagging is ugly, plain and simple. A tagger is not unlike a dog marking every post, pole and hydrant it comes across, at least with the dog there is no lasting effect and the dog's lack of intelligence comes honestly.

Unfortunately the North Park Area is a favourite place for tagging of anything that doesn't move. Not removing tagging encourages more and generally runs the area down in looks, property value and attitude.

That being said you are empowered to improve the situation. There are several things you can do to be directly involved in the control and hopefully elimination of chronic tagging.

First off tagging should be reported to both the police and the city. The police actually keep a file on the graphics used by the tagger as each tagger has their own signature. If they get enough matches and apprehend the tagger they can prosecute the person for the destruction of property.

If the tagging is on private property it is up to the owner to promptly remove the tag as required by the City of Victoria Bylaws (or the city will do it at cost to the owner). If you don't know who to approach at a business then contact the NPNA and we can get in touch with them or the city.

If the tagging is on City property the City will respond if you call them. One unfortunate aspect is that BC Hydro does not respond to tagging unless it is very offensive or in proximity to a sensitive area, they will let people paint it out on poles and if you get their permission you can vinyl wrap other equipment. Interestingly enough the vinyl wraps are made here by a business in North Park. Other organizations do respond if their property is tagged.

..continued

WINDSOR
LAW GROUP



A FULL SERVICE LAW FIRM
PHONE: (250) 385-6004

Tagging and What You Can do About It! Continued from page 5...

Reporting Contacts:

- On public property, such as light poles, litter containers, benches, signs etc. by calling the City Graffiti Hotline at 361-0466
- On BC Hydro poles or electrical kiosks by calling BC Hydro at 1-800-BCHYDRO or 1-800-224-9376.
- On cablevision distribution boxes by calling Shaw Cablevision at 475-5655
- On telephone distribution boxes by calling TELUS at 388-8617
- On Canada Post boxes by calling Canada Post Customer Service # at 1-888-550-6333
- Private properties, other than your own, please call the Victoria Police Department at 995-7654

You should record the graffiti by taking a photo. With the advent of digital cameras you can include the picture in an email when reporting it. If you see someone in the act of tagging, get a good description (height, weight, age, hair, clothing, where they seemed to be headed) and call the police.

How to Clean Up Tagging

You can engage one of the graffiti removal services or you can tackle it yourself. To that end the NPNA has conducted extensive field research (with lots of subject material to test on). Here are some pointers:

- Taggers use spray paint, markers, chalk, wax crayons (tire marker), lumber markers, grease pencils, glass etching acid, glass cutters, and stickers to enact their stupidity – not to worry there are ways of dealing with them all
- The sooner you get to paint type tags the easier, most paint stays uncured for a while and if you hit it with solvent within a day you will have very good results with minimal effect on the underlying paint
- Grease and wax respond well to petroleum spirits
- Scratches in glass or Acid on glass (hazy mark) – this can be polished out but will require a professional service
- Acid/paint on galvanized metal shows up a black ; paint with cheap silver paint that you can give a wipe after to mute the shiny effect
- Concrete and Stucco – repeated solvent and brushing with a wire brush and pressure washing will work but take effort – you might be better ahead getting a firm in that does Soda Blasting will work on some surfaces but can be hard on the underlying finish
- Solvents – xylene (Goof Off), acetone, lacquer thinners, petroleum spirits (Varsol) are all effective depending on what was used in the paint
- Our research has found that a mix of about 50% lacquer thinners, 10% acetone, 20% xylene, 30% petroleum spirits (use gloves and be careful the mixture is highly flammable and toxic)
- Apply the solvent with a cotton rag – wipe on and let sit for a few seconds and wipe off – don't leave on painted surfaces longer than needed and be aware it will dull most paint
- We found the water based products only effective on relatively fresh paint

...continued


Community Composting

- 1 We provide you with a durable container in your yard 
- 2 You deposit your organic household & yard waste into the container 
- 3 Every 4 weeks, we empty your container and deliver the contents to the community compost. 
- 4 In exchange, every 4 weeks you receive a 20-Litre bag of composted soil 

 Call or visit us online to begin today.
CommunityComposting.ca 250-884-7645

SERIOUS COFFEE

AIR ROASTED



SERIOUS COFFEE

Lowry and Bev Burrell
Franchise Owners
seriouscoffeeblanshard@shawbiz.ca

Phone: 250-385-1100
Fax: 250-385-2110

Serious Coffee #08
#100, 1609 Blanshard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2J5

“The NPNA is looking at getting utility box wraps as well as initiating several mural projects around the area”

- Paint remover is only good on some surfaces as it needs a thicker layer of paint to get a good removal
- Graffiti removal sprays were found to be not so effective and expensive
- Tools you will need include a scraper for Stickers, a wire brush (a cheap BBQ brush combines both), work gloves, and cotton rags (old tee shirts)
- Telephone poles are best tackled with automotive asphalt based undercoating and a rag, this material repels paint and if they do manage to get a tag to stick just give it a wipe with solvent and the undercoating dissolves over top of the tag
- Mail Boxes respond really well to solvent treatment
- Nothing beats the sense of satisfaction of giving a quick wipe and sending a tagger into obscurity!

How to Deter Tagging!

- Improved Lighting - although this is only effective in well traveled areas
- Remove brush and shrubs that hide an area – again only effective in well traveled areas – addition of thorny plants may actually be an asset in preventing access
- Choose a colour that doesn't highlight tags – really light or really dark colours seem to be favourite targets as they provide the contrast taggers love
- City Camo – painting an area with a large variety of colours and patterns reduces the effectiveness of the tag and is easy to retouch
- Decorative Wraps are effective on equipment and are easy to clean
- Murals are very effective – both because it is considered disrespectful of the artist to tag and the tags don't show up
- Coatings – high tech polymers that prevent paint from sticking, plain old grease or oil on non-critical surfaces, cheap paint that can be wiped off and reapplied to hide tags

What is the NPNA doing about Tagging?

The NPNA is looking at getting utility box wraps as well as initiating several mural projects around the area. As well we will support efforts to report on and will follow up on persistent problems. We also are considering doing some guerrilla counter-tagging efforts in some of the worst affected areas (cleaning not shooting)

Communications In North Park – Getting the Word

One of the key elements of our session to set strategy last year was that the NPNA needed to both be known about and be seen as a point of contact both internal and external to the neighbourhood. To help achieve that goal the Communications Committee undertook the following tasks:

- The Website –has a fresh new look with content being added frequently
- The NPNA are also looking to use electronic means in a more effective manner
- Email is being utilizing both for contact to NPNA members and to get Newsletters and other information out—email is Greener, Quicker and lets us spend precious funds and time on other projects for the Community
- Online Membership is on our web site to make it much easier to join the NPNA
- The NPNA Bulletin board is now in on the corner of Cook and North Park
- We are escalating our contact with the Neighbourhood – both through events, information handouts and direct contact!
- We continue to tighten our procedures to ensure that we can respond quickly to emerging situations
- Newsletters are now being produced quarterly to ensure information is timely

We are here and we want to hear from you on any issue or comments! If you have a community event happening we would be happy to add it to our events calendar on the web!

Email us: Info@npna.ca Website: www.npna.ca



**Cameron Speedie,
Communications
Committee**



Alex Kerr -
Safety Committee

“All parties are at the table and seem to be intent on making this work for everyone ”

NPNA Safety Report

The board of the NPNA wishes to thank Joan Waller for her many years of service to the neighbourhood. We wish Joan all the best with her move.

The NEX Advisory Board (needle exchange) meetings continue along with no permanent site as yet located. There have been several sites brought forward but none have yet met all of the criteria. The search continues. We will keep you posted as to any developments.

The 900 Block Pandora Good Neighbour Agreement meetings continue. All parties are at the table and seem to be intent on making this work for everyone. There have been some interesting ideas brought forward and some positive steps forward have resulted. The renewal of the green area, extra lighting to be installed on the buildings, outdoor noon hour concerts by the Conservatory, activities involving the street people and the community, the city police office in the VIHA (St.John) building etc. This will be an ongoing project so that problems if any can be addressed quickly.

The shelter at St. John The Divine will close at the end of April. It has been very well utilized this year with a minimum amount of problems. This in large part is due to the work of Cool Aid and the City Police.

A meeting with City Engineering is being set up to go over problems with sidewalks, crosswalks, lighting, streets etc. If you have any suggestions please forward them to us.

We are looking for someone who is free during the day and is safety minded to attend a couple of meetings a month. If you are interested contact us online or phone 250-294-4108.

The North Park Native Plant Demonstration Garden

April 1 2009 is the day our new website went live for the **North Park Native Plant Demonstration Garden** . See the website at www.npnativeplantgarden.ca.

This website documents the creation of a, currently fledgling, native plant garden that demonstrates examples of our local natural habitats that were previously lost through many years of insensitive planning and development. You can find the native plant garden at the south west corner of Vancouver and Pembroke streets.

We are creating habitats that attract native wildlife, which require this habitat for their reintroduction and continued survival in our neighbourhoods.

Explore the history of this project, and why this project is important. As the garden and the website are in their infancy, we hope you return often to see how both projects develop. We also hope you find inspiration to take on a native plant project of your own.

This a volunteer project of North Park Neighbourhood Association (NPNA) in partnership with the Fernwood Community Association (FCA).



Todd Doherty, Unity
Committee

“native plant garden that demonstrates examples of our local natural habitats ”