UNIVERSITY HILL
Connections

Fall/Winter Issue: ***November 2016***
This newspaper is sponsored by your elected Community Advisory Council of the University Endowment Lands

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BLOCK F REZONING APPROVED

The rezoning of the 22-acre parcel of land owned by the Musqueam has been approved after a multi-year process. It will involve the construction of over 1.2 million square feet of mostly residential buildings with a small amount of commercial space. The residential buildings will include a mixture of styles, from townhouses to 18-storey towers. There will also be a 15,000 square foot community centre for all UEL citizens.

The next steps include the creation of the parcels of land and the construction of infrastructure. The lots will be sold to developers as 99-year leasehold properties. These developers will then construct the projects and market the individual homes. This is the same tenure method used by UBC on their development properties. Timing is not known, but work will likely start sometime soon.

As the University Endowment Lands is provincial, the authority issuing the approval is the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, who currently is Peter Fassbender.

The UEL community had a role in the review process through the Block F Working Group, a committee established by the Community Advisory Council. Many of the recommendations of the Working Group were listened to by the property owner, their design team and the BC government's team.

However, numerous significant concerns of the community group were not acted on, and the approval is going ahead with outstanding concerns and objections. The most significant outstanding issue is the tower height. The existing zoning allows for 4-storey buildings, and while there are benefits to building taller buildings, the Working Group felt that 12-storeys would be fine, but that 18-stories is too tall and will be out of character of the UEL and too overpowering for the surrounding environment.

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EVENTS:

All events will be held at the U Hill Community Space
Suite 300, 5755 Dalhousie Rd. Above Starbucks, University Village

CAC Regular Meeting
Monday, 21 November 2016 – 5:30pm

Save the Park
Come to the Little Australia Park Community Info Session
Monday, 28 November 2016 – 5:30pm

Annual Community Winter Social
Come have a Blitzen good time with your neighbours.
See page 5 for details
Monday, 16 November 2015
5:30pm – 7:30pm

Why is the government keeping their UEL plans secret?

by David Eby

Critical information from the provincial government about their plans for the public works yard for Pacific Spirit Park, and governance reform for the UEL community, are being kept secret. Even worse, the government is suggesting that this information, which could dramatically reshape the community, won't be released until after the May 2017 provincial election.

continued on page 3: Why is the government keeping their UEL plans secret?

Save Little Australia Park

by Pete McConnell

Metro Vancouver Parks (Metro) has been forced to develop a plan to relocate its service yard for Pacific Spirit Regional Park, presently located beside the UEL Office on Chancellor Blvd. The BC government has refused to give Metro tenure on the current site, so a replacement service yard site within Pacific Spirit Park must be found. As of early November, the Province has offered no rationale for their decision.

At this time, "Little Australia Park" is one of three sites being considered for this new service yard. The park is located in a triangular area between Chancellor Blvd and 4th Ave, west of Drummond Dr.

The park is one of only three open green spaces in Pacific Spirit Park. It is an important part of the neighbourhood and has been used by UEL and Vancouver residents for about forty years.

CAC "Save Little Australia Park Working Group"

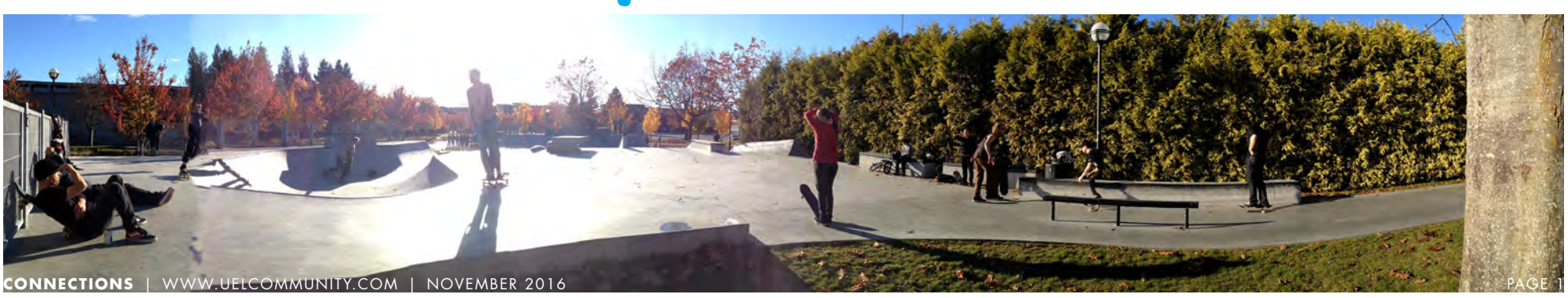
At the July 2016 UEL Community public meeting, there was unanimous support that the new service yard site for Pacific Spirit Park should not be located in Little Australia Park. Many expressed strong opinions that a works yard should not be adjacent to residential areas.

A Working Group was created to work to save our park and have the service yard located at an alternate site. The group has reviewed Metro's three proposed replacement service yard sites, and strongly rejects any site within the Little Australia Park triangle.

Proposed Service Yard Site

The site for the new service yard in Pacific Spirit Park will be about one acre in size. The yard will be used for many purposes, including the storage of materials (such as paint, gravel and trail materials, garbage, firefighting chemicals, fuel for equipment), in addition to staff and volunteer facilities.

continued on page 3: Save the Park



Roasted butternut squash soup

Autumn has arrived with its wonderful array of winter vegetables and nothing says comfort quite like a pot of soup simmering away on the stove. While I normally roast the squash while caramelizing onions separately, this recipe calls for roasting an assortment of veg together in one pan before being puréed with stock. The addition of carrots and a pepper produces a lovely deep orange colour.

Ingredients:

- 1 medium butternut squash
- 2 medium onions
- 2 carrots
- 1 red pepper
- 30ml liquid honey
- 2" piece of ginger, peeled & grated – use less or omit if desired
- 30ml olive oil
- salt, pepper

Method:

- Preheat oven to 375ºF
- Cut the butternut squash into horizontal rounds and using a regular peeler, remove outer peel. Scoop out seeds and chop into large cubes.
- Clean onions, carrots and pepper and chop into large chunks
- Place all vegetables in a plastic bag and toss with olive oil
- Roast at 375º x 45 minutes or until tender
- Remove from oven, drizzle with honey and top with grated ginger; roast another 10 minutes.
- Combine roasted veg in a large pot with approx 1.5 litres water, chicken stock, or a combination of these two
- Bring to a gentle boil, reduce heat and simmer x 20 minutes
- Cool slightly and purée, using either an immersion blender or a regular stand blender
- For a creamier soup, finish with a splash of whole milk or cream
- Season with salt and pepper to taste
- Enjoy with a loaf of crusty bread, cheese and salad

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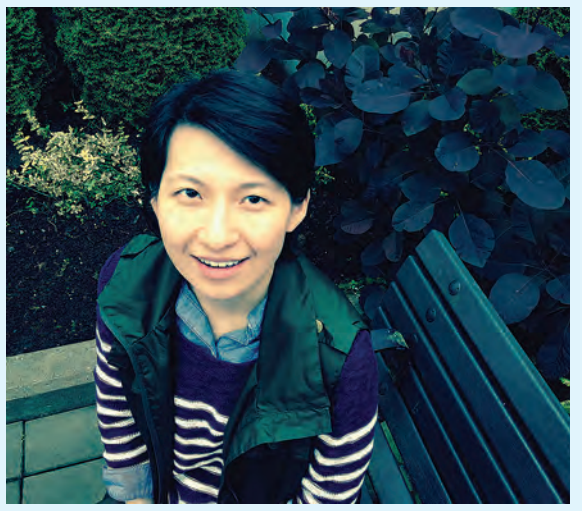
Attention Readers!

Please send us your comments, ideas for future articles, events and news we could use in *Connections*.

Send to: **uhillconnections@gmail.com**

Thank you, Catherine and Welcome, Nicole!



Catherine Yu

We will all miss Catherine tremendously. She is a wonderful person, hardworking, highly efficient and a delight to have on our team. We hope to see her back in Vancouver very soon.

Enter **Nicole So**. Nicole comes to us with a wealth of experience in working with community and volunteer groups, both local and overseas. A graduate of UBC, she is fluent in English, Mandarin and Cantonese, and a beginner in Japanese and Arabic. She has skills in film editing, data visualization and website development. Her interests are classical literature and filmmaking and we are extremely lucky to have her working with us. Welcome aboard!

Approximately three years ago, UEL Administration told the CAC that UEL staff would no longer take minutes at the monthly Community Advisory Council (CAC) meetings. This was probably a good thing: it prompted the CAC to consider the possibility of an Administrative Assistant position. Suite 300 was being booked by resident groups, new sub-committees needed minutes taken, community meetings were being held that needed organization, and the CAC's new website needed someone to oversee it.

A search committee was created with the goal of finding a candidate who would work on a contract basis as an Administrative Assistant. **Catherine Yu** was chosen for the position and she has been vital in the smooth running of the CAC and its business ever since. Unfortunately, family matters require that Catherine return to Taiwan for longer periods of time and she is unable to continue with her duties.

Nicole So

Community party in the Little Australia park: July 8, 2012

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Save the Park *by Pete McConnell* *(continued from page 1)*

It is possible that Metro would consider relocating the service yard anywhere within the triangular area of Little Australia Park, even within the treed area adjacent to the open space. Road access would be off Chancellor Blvd.

How We Benefit from Little Australia Park

Natural green space in our neighbourhood contributes to a healthy life and enhances well-being. The benefits of a nearby park range from increasing physical activity and physical health, to improving mental health.

> Metro Vancouver Parks has been forced to develop a plan to relocate its service yard for Pacific Spirit Regional Park

Little Australia Park provides a safe, quiet place for everyone to gather – for exercise, group activities, social time, or to just relax and rejuvenate close to nature. As a conflict-free zone for dogs and their owners, the park facilitates the growth of strong community ties.

We must keep this green area intact for future generations.

Impacts of a Service Yard in Little Australia Park

The Working Group has identified several potential impacts from locating the service yard in the Little Australia Park triangle area.

Spanish Bank Creek Habitat
Little Australia Park sits at the headwaters of the Spanish Bank Creek that runs through a ravine to the ocean, and is in the centre of the watershed that feeds the creek. The ravine is a sensitive fish habitat, rehabilitated in 2000, that supports salmon and trout as well as the invertebrates they feed on.

Contaminants from a service yard located in the Little Australia Park triangle area could have a devastating impact on the fragile aquatic ecosystem of Spanish Bank Creek.

Increased pollution could also affect the many plant and animal species (such as otters and mink) found in this area.

Noise
The proposed service yard site in Little Australia Park is adjacent to quiet residential neighbourhoods, and the resulting noise and activity would likely impact residents.

- As a light industrial site, activities within the yard as well as traffic to and from the yard would create significant noise levels. The yard would be active on week days, evenings, and also on weekends for various Pacific Spirit Park work parties.
- If the service yard is located in the treed area north or west of the open park space, many trees that currently act as a noise control buffer for the traffic along 4th Ave would be removed. Consequently, this would increase the traffic noise from 2 to 4 times, depending on the location and orientation of the yard.

Cyclists
The proposed entry/exit from the service yard is on Chancellor Blvd, along a heavily used cycling route to UBC that in turn, is connected to Vancouver's 8th Ave cycling route. This poses an array of potential hazards for cyclists:

- Increased traffic to and from the yard leading to vehicle/cyclist collisions.
- Spillage of materials such as gravel and sand that present tangible hazards to cyclists' abilities to maintain control, especially on rainy days.

What You Can Do

Come to the Little Australia Park Community Info Session to learn more.

When: **November 28 at 7 pm**

Location: **UEL Community Space**
Suite 300 – 5755 Dalhousie Rd, Vancouver

- Go to our website for more detailed information and links. **savelittleozpark.blogspot.ca**
- Sign the petition to Metro on our website.
- Metro will have the next Public Info Session early in 2017. It is important to let Metro know how you feel about a service yard in Little Australia before that.

Send your thoughts to Jeffrey Fitzpatrick, Division Manager, West Area, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks
regionalparks.info@metrovancouver.org

Why is the government keeping their UEL plans secret? *(continued from page 1)*

For example, any information about changes in the local government structure for the UEL will not be released until "perhaps later in 2017", according to a recent letter from current Minister Peter Fassbender.

This means that any potentially controversial details about how the UEL's local government will look in the future will not be available to you, or any voter, until after the upcoming provincial election in May of 2017.

All the information the Minister is willing to share with our community before the election is his "detailed plan on how best to share information with the community."

The Minister must be channelling former Prime Minister Kim Campbell, who famously told a reporter, "An election is no time to discuss serious issues." For him, an election year is a time to discuss his plans to discuss serious issues. After the election.

It's unfortunately the same situation for the current public works yard for Pacific Spirit Park. Metro Vancouver is scrambling to find a new location for their trucks and heavy equipment after the province refused to give them a long-term lease on the existing site.

As a result of the province's refusal to grant a long-term lease, Metro Vancouver is looking at moving the existing works yard to the Little Australia park, or, if community voices successfully push back on that suggestion, maybe they'll build a new works yard on top of land taken out of Pacific Spirit Park.

The options aren't great. So why is the works yard being forced to move anyway?

> The options aren't great. So why is the works yard being forced to move anyway?

In a letter sent on October 19, 2016, staff of the Minister responsible for selling public land in BC wrote to the Community Advisory Council of the UEL to say: "An alternate use for the current location of the current public works yard which could be of interest and value to the local community is currently under discussion."

Under discussion between what people or groups? And what are they talking about? If the alternate use would be so interesting and of so much value to our community, why is it secret?

I've filed a Freedom of Information request to try to get records about what these plans are, but I suspect the information won't be released until, you guessed it, after the election. In the words of the Minister, "perhaps later in 2017."

Because the UEL is administered directly by the province, there are a surprising number of provincial issues in this small community, which makes provincial elections particularly and disproportionately important here.

While it's almost impossible to imagine a municipal election where a Mayoral candidate would say, "I've got some interesting and valuable plans about the future of our community, I'll tell you what they are after the election," that's exactly what's happening here.

This government's secrecy is unjustifiable, inexplicable, and remarkably anti-democratic.

> why is it secret?

I have written to both Ministers to insist that they release their plans in advance of the election, so that our community has all of the information needed to assist in deciding how to vote in the May 2017 election.

If you'd like to write to the Ministers, you can reach the Minister responsible for governance reform at Peter.Fassbender.MLA@leg.bc.ca , and the Minister responsible for land sales at Steve.Thomson.MLA@leg.bc.ca.

You can always reach me at David.Eby.MLA@leg.bc.ca or (604)660-1297.

History of Pacific Spirit Regional Park

by Maria Harris,
Electoral Area A Director and Member, Metro Vancouver Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation

We are extremely fortunate to have Pacific Spirit Regional Park on our doorstep. These 874 hectares of forest and foreshore – more than double the size of Stanley Park – provide a wonderful opportunity for residents to connect with nature. The park preserves fragile ecosystems and is a habitat for wildlife.

How did the park come into being? This article gives a thumbnail history. A complete history of the park and the University Endowment Lands would fill a book.

Early Days

In 1920, approximately 1,200 hectares of land owned by the province in the western part of Point Grey were set aside to be developed, with the proceeds to provide a source of revenue for UBC. Between 1920 and 1955, a portion of this land was serviced and sold or leased, some land was transferred to UBC, a small amount of land was sold to the Society of Jesus (Jesuit Order), and 49 hectares were leased for a golf course.

The province commissioned a master plan for the UEL in 1956. The report proposed the comprehensive development of the UEL, with a projected population of 22,000. Over the next 20 years, a variety of development plans were proposed. During this period, residents and environmentalists began to lobby against further development in the UEL and sought to have a park established.

Dr. Frank Buck Memorial Park

A proposal in the 1970s by the provincial government to develop medium-density housing spurred the establishment of the Endowment Lands Regional Park Committee – a non-political, volunteer citizens' group that arose through neighbourhood groups. Their common goals: to fight threats to the UEL forest and see it preserved as a major regional park.

The committee submitted briefs to government, made representations to municipal governments throughout the region, held public meetings, lobbied MLAs, and gathered thousands of signatures in support of saving the UEL forest as a regional park.

Iva Mann at the opening of Pacific Spirit Regional Park (1989).

These efforts achieved some success. In 1975, the provincial government dedicated 432 hectares of the UEL forest between 16th Avenue and SW Marine Drive (including Camosun Bog) as the Dr. Frank Buck Memorial Park. Dr. Buck, who died in 1970, was Professor of Ornamental Horticulture in the Faculty of Agriculture from 1920 to 1949, and was the UBC Campus Landscape Architect. University Boulevard is an example of his landscaping as are many tree-lined streets in Vancouver.

A 90-hectare portion of the park was set aside as Ecological Reserve No. 74, now better known as the Pacific Spirit Park Ecological Reserve. This reserve, in the southern portion of the park, is designated for forest research and is not open to the public.

Pacific Spirit Regional Park

The creation of the Dr. Frank Buck Memorial Park was a victory, but advocates considered it a partial victory. Endowment Lands Regional Park Committee members were joined by Metro Vancouver (then known as GVRD) and the City of Vancouver in seeking to preserve the remaining woodland and shoreline.

The provincial government appointed a task force in 1976. The extensive report from that UEL Study Team recommended that the majority of the remaining UEL be set aside as a natural area for recreation, education and forest ecology research. In 1979, the provincial government asked Metro Vancouver to prepare a proposal for developing and managing a regional park.

Behind the scenes, dedicated park lovers continued lobbying and drawing others to the cause. They also engaged partner groups such as the Boy Scouts and Southlands Riding Club and did hands-on volunteer work – maintaining trails, clearing garbage and providing trail maps.

In 1980, Metro Vancouver presented a regional park proposal to the provincial government. For years, nothing happened on the official front. But community organizations and citizens groups continued to advocate for the park, and helped to preserve the trail network. The Outdoor Recreation Council of BC facilitated $300,000 in federal and provincial grants to upgrade trails, build bridges and install drainage culverts.

In 1984, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks also began to promote the UEL as a regional park with an annual "Endowment Lands Trek" along Salish Trail from SW Marine Drive to Acadia Beach.

Pressure continued to build from multiple directions – citizens groups, community organizations, municipal government, regional government, media – until finally the provincial government agreed to create an enlarged park. At the end of 1988, provincial and municipal lands were transferred to Metro Vancouver for park purposes. An official opening ceremony was held on April 23, 1989, at which the name of the park was revealed.

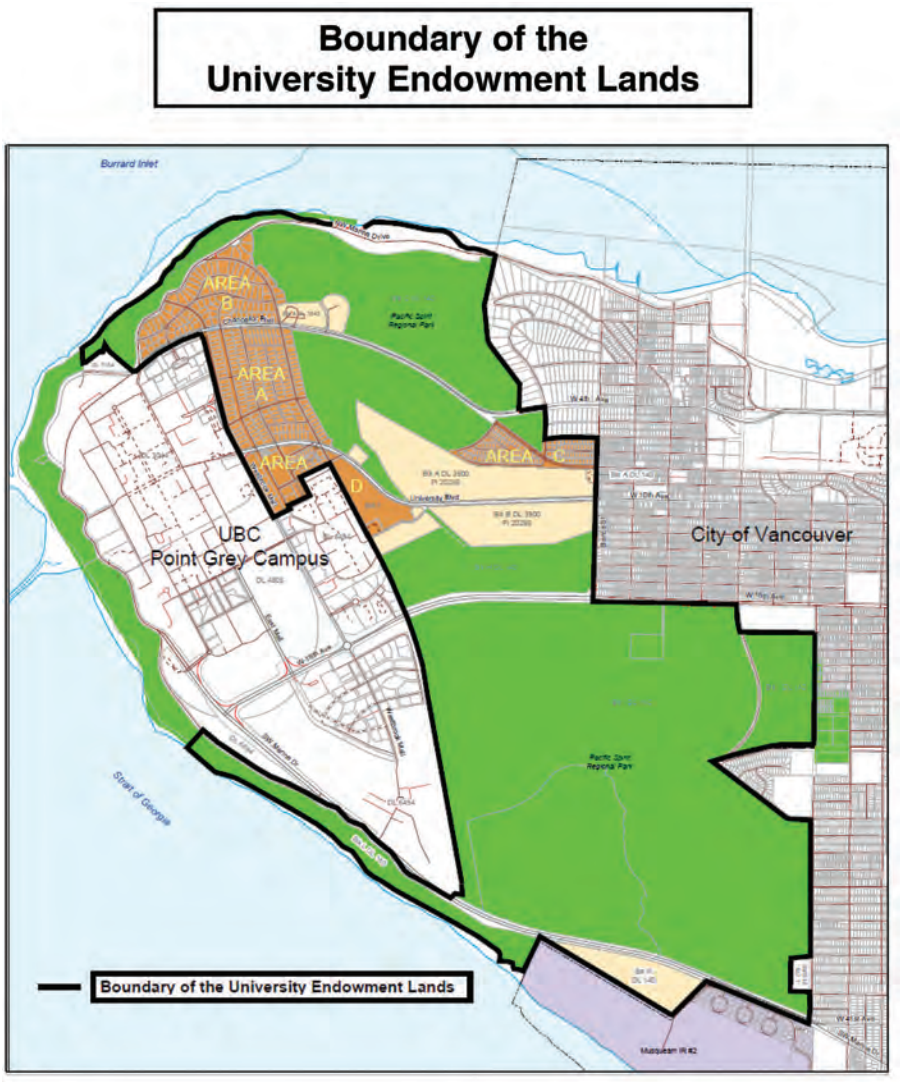
> Pacific Spirit Regional Park is 874 hectares of forest and foreshore – more than double the size of Stanley Park

Naming the Park

A province-wide competition was held to name the park, to which over 3,200 entries were submitted. The winning entry came from Richmond resident Sherry Sakamoto. She explained that the name Pacific Spirit Regional Park "was inspired by the First Nations belief in the Great Creator and their connection to Mother Earth… It is the gateway to the Pacific and a spiritual ground to becoming one with nature." A park trail that runs along the south side of West 16th Avenue is named after Sherry.

Iva Mann

I would like to acknowledge the tremendous contribution made by my predecessor, Iva Mann, towards the creation of Pacific Spirit Regional Park. A UEL resident, Iva served for 17 years – from 1976 to 1993 – as the GVRD Director for Electoral Area A. She campaigned vigorously for the establishment of the park, in the course of which she raised $750,000 of government grants and coordinated work teams who, in the 1970s, cleared the first public paths through what was then the UEL forest. "Without the determination of Director Mann and her park supporters" noted a GVRD staff report, "the establishment of Pacific Spirit would not have been possible or might have been much less." In recognition of the pivotal role she played in the establishment of Pacific Spirit Regional Park, a series of trails were officially designated in 1993 as the Iva Mann Walk.



Minister says government is getting ready to talk to the UEL community

Four years after a formal request for a study to look at incorporating the UEL as a normal community, the BC government may be getting ready to engage with UEL residents, and yes, taxpayers. In a letter to CAC President Dave Forsyth, Minister Peter Fassbender writes that his staff has prepared a plan for engagement and that he expects to be able to share the plan with the CAC sometime in the fall of 2016.

After so many years with a complete lack of meaningful communication on the part of the government, Mr. Forsyth says he is not sure what to make of this latest letter. He says he would like to believe that something substantial and useful will be happening soon, but he maintains a healthy skepticism based on the long history of stonewalling and delay from this government.

One concern Mr. Forsyth expressed is that although the Minister's letter refers a number of times to many anonymous government bodies and persons with "direct and indirect interests" in UEL governance, the most important group of all has had no consultations whatsoever: the citizens of the UEL and their elected Council.

Like many others, Mr. Forsyth strongly believes that those who are most affected by the UEL's haphazard governance structure should have been part of the process from the very beginning.

Another meeting with the Minister is scheduled to take place shortly after *Connections* goes to press. Stay tuned to the UEL community website for updates: http://uelcommunity.com/

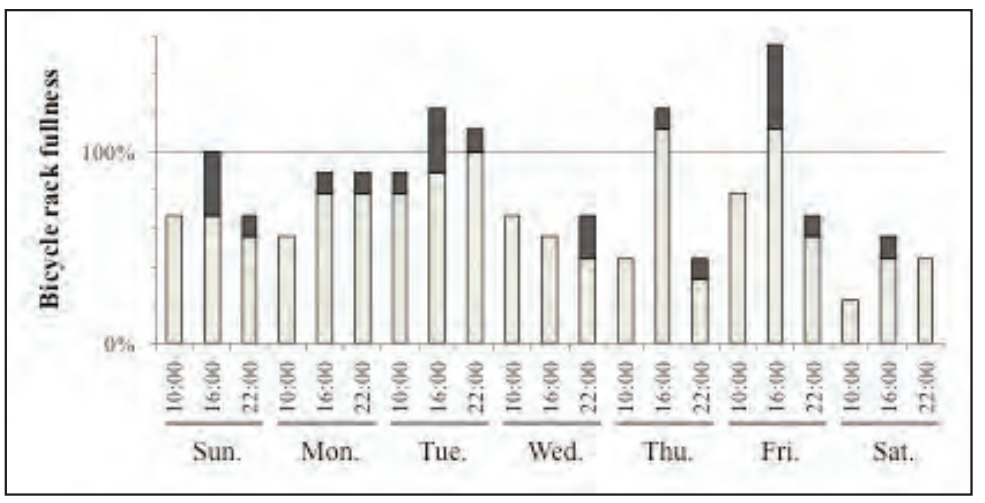
Bicycle parking and storage in University Village not meeting demand

by Justin LeBlanc

Cycling is becoming ever more popular, a trend observed in but not unique to our community. A study of major North American cities over the past couple of decades has shown universal increases in the percentage of workers who commute by bicycle, with Vancouver being among the leaders. Indeed, local residents have noticed a jump in bicycle traffic, particularly in University Village (Area D) of the University Endowment Lands. The Community Advisory Council (CAC) heard from residents this summer about two issues facing cyclists: **(i)** difficulties finding bicycle parking when visiting the commercial center in University Village, and **(ii)** a lack of indoor storage and outdoor parking for bicycles in and around multifamily residential buildings. A CAC subcommittee (of Lynne Pomfret and me) was formed to explore these issues further.

In order to get an accurate measure of the maximum demand for bicycle parking around the commercial center, usage of the bike racks was monitored during a sunny week in September after UBC was back at full capacity. Daily data collected in the mornings, afternoons, and evenings pointed to a problem area on the sidewalks in front of the north-facing businesses along University Blvd. Whereas the bike racks on all other sides of the block of businesses and at the bus stop in Jim Everett Memorial Park were well used (and I don't use this term lightly), they could handle the current volume. However, on three days that week, the number of bikes parked on the north side of the commercial center overwhelmed the three small racks there. The CAC subcommittee recommended that more bike racks to serve visitors should be installed on the western half of this block since the present racks were situated on the eastern half only. The UEL Manager, Jonn Braman, was satisfied by the data and has since informed us that three additional bike racks will be installed to alleviate the current parking crunch there. Thank you Jonn for your swift response!

Another noteworthy finding was that bicycle abandonment was not responsible for the coziness at bike racks around the commercial center: only 2 bicycles remained unmoved in the bike racks over the course of the entire week, representing just 4 % of the average number of bikes parked there at any given time.



Number of bicycles parked on the north side of the commercial center of University Village, in the racks (gray bars) and outside the racks but in the vicinity (black bars).

These results reflect effective management by UEL staff, as, unfortunately, bikes are abandoned at these racks, especially at the end of the school year. Signs prohibiting long-term parking at these bike racks help to keep parking space open for visitors.

ERIN EASDOWN

Cyclists have difficulty parking in the bike racks when there are none.

For the residents of University Village, bicycle-related infrastructure should be guided by our Official Community Plan, which encourages "bicycle use through requiring new multi-family developments to provide a safe, secure and convenient storage area in conjunction with exterior visitor bicycle racks." Building managers and knowledgeable residents in University Village were interviewed to determine how well our community is abiding by the vision of this planning document. We found that most of the multifamily residences have sufficient indoor bicycle storage, although several buildings provide either no indoor bicycle storage rooms or insufficient space to meet the demand. Surprisingly, some of the buildings that do not provide sufficient indoor bicycle storage were built after our Official Community Plan was adopted in 2005. Outdoor bicycle racks were scarce amid the multifamily residences: none were found at the majority of buildings.

At present, residents of some multifamily buildings in our community lack proper access to indoor bicycle storage that is secure and sheltered from the elements. Also, University Village is generally not a very friendly place for residents or their visitors who need temporary parking spots for their bikes. There are blocks of multifamily buildings that lack even a single outdoor bike rack. And when cyclists go to nearby signposts or railings, they are met with discouraging stickers or signage prohibiting parking.

Removing these obstacles to greater participation in cycling will help our community lower the environmental impact of how we get around the city. Part of the solution will be for residents and UEL management to encourage building owners to improve indoor storage and outdoor parking for bikes. In the meantime, when residents lack other options, UEL Administration and building owners should allow bicycle parking to signposts and railings by removing the offending stickers and signage. In my opinion, the benefits of promoting sustainable transportation and active lifestyles greatly outweigh the slight inconveniences caused by the presence of these bicycles (assuming, of course, that building accessibility is not unduly compromised).

1. Pucher, J., Buehler, R. & and Seinen, M. Bicycling renaissance in North America? An update and re-appraisal of cycling trends and policies. Transportation Research Part A 45, 451–475 (2011).

Come have a Blitzen good time at the
4th Annual UEL Holiday Party
Tuesday December 6th.

Enjoy an evening with your neighbours, over wine, cheese and other treats.

WHEN: Tuesday 6 December 2016 – 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

WHERE: UEL Community Space, suite 300 – 5755 Dalhousie Rd

Please bring a non-perishable food item for our food bank box.

Note: this event is for UEL residents only.

社區聖誕派對

日期：12月6日 晚上五时班至七时半
地址： UEL社区活动室 – Suite #300 – 5755 Dalhousie Road.

UBC's Game Plan could be a game changer

by Jaymie Ho

UBC is midway through a complex strategic planning process to bring its athletic and recreational facilities up to par with those at SFU, UVic, and other Canadian universities.

Prime considerations are the demolition and replacement of two heritage buildings: the War Memorial Gym (across from UEL Area A), and Thunderbird Stadium north of Hawthorn Place. UBC's Campus and Community Planning believes that demolition will enable UBC to better meet its player, spectator, and development revenue priorities, but is also exploring options to upgrade and expand existing structures.

The 12 80-foot-high concrete supports are topped with concrete thunderbirds created by First Nations artist Bill Reid.

Representatives from Campus and Community Planning say that the planning process started in 2015 has received over 8,000 responses from students, plus targeted alumni, staff and faculty members. UBC's Board of Governors subsequently adopted a set of "Six Guiding Principles" to guide the development of the Game Plan strategy: (1) Align with UBC's core academic mission, (2) Promote the health and wellbeing of students, faculty, staff and residents, (3) Foster varsity excellence, (4) Embrace UBC's history, (5) Build a sound business case, and (6) Explore land use and housing revenue opportunities.

The UEL was not a participant in the 2015 survey and our interests as an affected community are not recognised in the Guiding Principles.

The UEL was not a participant in the 2015 survey and our interests as an affected community are not recognised in the Guiding Principles. Nor is the UEL considered a stakeholder in a major campus reorganization that will undoubtedly affect many UEL residents.

At the September CAC meeting, much concern was expressed regarding the loss of historical buildings, increased traffic congestion, and the noise and light impacts of the facilities' operations, particularly rooftop mechanicals; these will only exacerbate problems arising from increased density along Wesbrook Mall and University Boulevard.

The historic 1967 Thunderbird Stadium was designed by award-winning architect Vladimir Plavsic.

Dave Forsyth, CAC Chair, emphasized that UBC has a long history of seeking consultation only to ignore neighborhood interests. In particular, he noted that several new UBC buildings have already caused health issues for nearby residents and that noise impact studies should address the adjacent UEL neighborhood, instead of stopping in the middle of Wesbrook Mall.

The CAC strongly encouraged UBC to expand their Guiding Principles to include directly affected residents from the UEL, Hampton Place and Hawthorn Place, many of whom have already begun to protest.

Residents of Hampton Place and Hawthorn Place have expressed frustration that they were not made sufficiently aware of the importance of attending four Open Houses held by UBC in October to discuss the future of recreation and athletics facilities on campus. "We were not given notice that plans to improve athletic fitness and spectator facilities might mean that the Thunderbird Stadium might be demolished and rebuilt in our own backyards," explained David Van Blarcom, a long-term resident of Thames Court since 1992.

"We were not given notice that plans to improve athletic fitness and spectator facilities might mean that the Thunderbird Stadium might be demolished and rebuilt in our own backyards," explained David Van Blarcom

"The notice that was sent out about the public consultation was a kind of Trojan Horse. It only referred to improved athletic facilities. Who doesn't want better athletic facilities? It is one thing to say, 'We are going to provide students, faculty, staff and residents with more recreational facilities,' quite another to say, 'We are going to build a stadium across the street from your home and build a whole new neighborhood of market housing.' The negative impact on our neighbourhood from the stadium will be enormous, in terms of traffic, safety, parking and noise issues," said Mr. Van Blarcom.

"The consultation process has been fundamentally flawed by inadequate notification and consultation," affirms Joleen Haupt, President of Thames Court. She explained, "While UBC and the University Neighborhood Association (UNA) insist that adequate notice was sent to all affected residents, I don't recall being notified nor do many other strata counsel presidents. We were stunned to learn how various options under the 'Gameplan' development strategy could drastically harm our neighborhoods and possibly pit one neighborhood against another. We should have been contacted much earlier with more details and are shocked to find out that UBC intends to make a decision by next spring that could have such a negative impact on our residents."

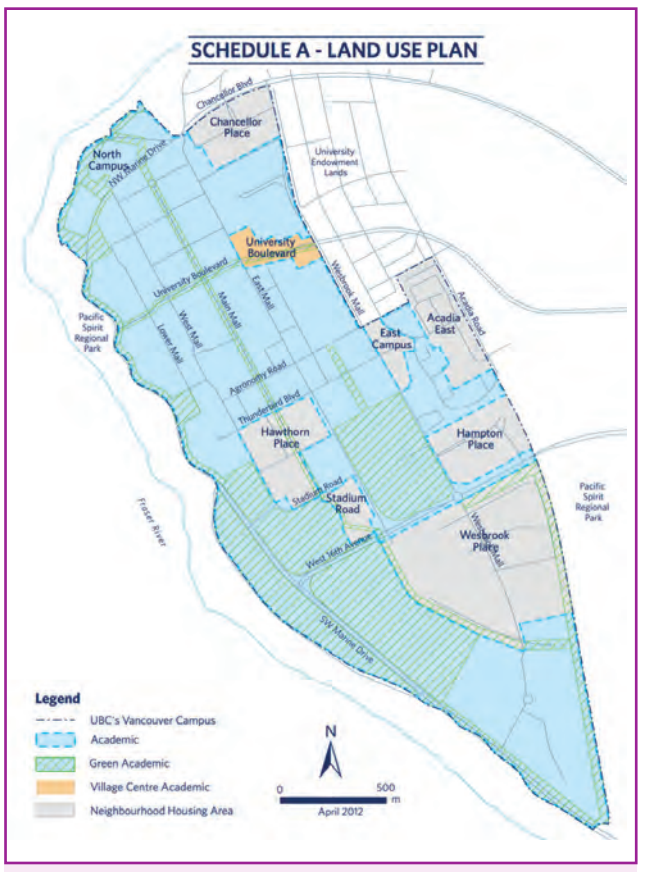
Some residents expressed worries that the UNA may not strongly advocate in favour of their interests in the strategic planning process. The UNA has typically collaborated closely with UBC and supported UBC decisions. The UNA was created as a governance mechanism to represent residents on service delivery, UNA membership eligibility, levy revenues, and regulation.

The UNA Board is of limited independence: two of its eight board members are UBC appointees, while a third is appointed from UBC's student organization, the AMS (Alma Mater Society). In Richard Alexander's recent close re-election as UNA chair, two of the major campaign issues were the UNA's support of provincial fire service taxes and the need for more transparent and direct communication with residents. Mr. Alexander defeated resident Ying Zhou by a vote of four to three, thanks to support from the two UBC-appointed directors: Carole Jolly, Director of Community Development for UBC Campus & Community Planning, responsible for the "strategic priority of making [UBC] more vibrant," and Michael Shakespeare, Executive Director, Finance and Operations for UBC's Faculty of Medicine. The AMS-appointed board member, Kathleen Simpson, was not present.

Richard Alexander advised, "UNA's first steps will be to wait for the summary of concerns that arise from the Open Houses and the online questionnaire. There were 2,000 submissions. The UNA will then consider both the community's responses and any adjustments that UBC might propose. For example, the list of five options might be reduced in response to community concerns."

Strata councils have organized independently of the UNA to appeal directly to the new university President, Santa Ono, the UBC Board, and major donors such as Rashpal Dhillon, to express their opposition to the demolition of the Thunderbird Stadium. Hampton Place stratas have contacted Hawthorn Place stratas to organize neighbourhood meetings opposing the relocation of Thunderbird Stadium. Residents have been encouraged to contact Ms. Gabrielle Armstrong, Senior Manager, Public Engagement, Campus and Community Planning, and the Board of Governors, to register their objections to Options 3 and 4. Dozens of Thames Court residents recently signed a petition opposing the construction of a

Where form meets function: The stadium's thunderbird-topped pillars support a meshwork of cables from which the roof is suspended.



UBC's mind-numbing array of options

Option 1
Seismic upgrade of Thunderbird Stadium ($10M) or full renovation and expansion of stadium ($75M, including $25M for stadium and $50M for new Athletic Centre)

Option 2
Demolish Thunderbird Stadium, relocate to Whit Matthew Field and build new Athletic Center ($80M). Use existing stadium site for larger Stadium Residential Neighborhood development (Development revenue potential not identified)

Option 3
Demolish Thunderbird Stadium and relocate stadium and athletic centre to Rashpal Dhillon Track and Field Oval. Relocate track on Whit Matthew Field. (No cost estimate provided)

Option 4
Demolish Thunderbird Stadium and relocate to Osborne Centre site, demolishing two existing buildings, tennis bubble and Skatepark and Basketball Court. Close Thunderbird Road between Wesbrook Mall and East Mall. ($105M) Use stadium and Witt Matthews sites for an even larger Stadium Residential Neighborhood development. (Development revenue potential not identified)

Option 5
Combination of Options 2 and 4: Demolish stadium and relocate to Whit Matthews Field. Demolish tennis bubble and build new athletic center on tennis site. Rebuild Tennis Bubble. ($75M, including $30M for stadium and $50M for new Athletic Center) Use Thunderbird site for large Stadium Residential Neighborhood development. (Development revenue potential not identified)

A link to UBC's GamePlan: http://tinyurl.com/h5d6k4q

War Memorial Gymnasium can hold up to 4 volleyball courts and a main basketball court.

new stadium. Following these actions, UBC's Campus and Community Planning has offered to meet with residents again to hear their concerns.

Dating from 1992, Hampton Place was UBC's first residential community and consists of 11 buildings, 957 residential units, and over 2,000 residents. Hawthorn Place was UBC's second residential neighborhood, built between 2001 and 2007, north of Thunderbird Stadium between East and West Mall. It includes faculty and staff co-developments, faculty and staff rental housing, and a range of market housing from condos to single-family homes. It has about 1500 residents, many of whom are children.

Campus and Community Planning are drafting their summary of the 2,000 Open House responses to present to the UBC board in December as a preliminary report. When preferred development options have been identified, there will be additional stakeholder consultation before board approval in early spring 2017. UBC will then undertake a neighborhood planning process for the existing or expanded Stadium Road neighborhood area, including any necessary changes to the UBC Land Use Plan. The process will likely take 12 – 18 months to complete.

War Memorial Gymnasium is located in the centre of the UBC Point Grey campus.

UBC's 15th president, Santa Ono, nicknamed "the healer" may not have arrived a minute too soon. The charismatic Ono faces enormous challenges meeting the needs of 60,000 students, 15,000 faculty and staff, and 11,000 residents. He has promised to lead UBC on a visioning process to develop a new strategic plan. How the UBC Gameplan is orchestrated will be a test of his consultative and team-building capabilities.

The lobby area at the War Memorial Gymnasium is over 3,200 sq ft.

North America's first campus skatepark opened at UBC in 2013. On any pleasant day the three year-old park is very busy with riders.

A Fond Farewell

Catherine Anna Gourley Pears
1947 – 2016

The UEL community mourns one its strongest supporters, Catherine Anna Gourley Pears, who died on August 8, 2016 after a courageous 15-month battle with pancreatic cancer. She was 68.

Cathie was the beloved wife and collaborator of Ron Pears, former President of the UEL Community Advisory Council (CAC). In almost 30 years as a UEL resident, Cathie was zealous in her efforts to help build community by organizing early block parties, attending development meetings, and supporting efforts to save historic properties such as the Heritage Firehall on Acadia Road. When presented with a diagnosis of cancer, Cathie responded with uncommon grace, courage and vitality as she continued to live a rich active life focused on family, friends and community.

A professional journalist, Cathie worked for dailies in Winnipeg and Vancouver, as well as the Financial Post, specializing in business and finance. Cathie volunteered her considerable journalistic skills toward the launching of *U Hill Connections*, shared her love of art and history by writing numerous articles about artists, and voiced strong opinions about important concerns affecting our community. She also authored *Island in the Creek*, a book about the history of False Creek.

Cathie enjoyed golf, tennis, skiing, world travel, dancing to old rock and roll and she had a passion for collecting art. But according to her family she was happiest at home and at the cottage at Buccaneer Bay, where she enjoyed daily walks and treasured times with those closest to her.

She was truly a *"Sweetie Pie"* from start to finish and we will miss her straight talk, intelligent perspective, and mischievous sense of humour. In addition to Ron, Cathie is survived by her daughters Mia and Georgia, and granddaughter, Willa. Thank you Cathie for all your efforts to help make the UEL a better place.

Notes from a late-season garden

by Jennifer Buckland

I woke up on October 10th to see frost on the roofs and even some on my lawn. I don't remember ever seeing frost so early – some of the hellebores were still flowering. The average date for a frost is usually around November 5th. It reminded me that it was time to get out into the garden and start planting the bulbs I had bought and conveniently forgotten. Don't forget that digging a particularly deep hole for the tulips to deter the squirrels is important.

People talk about putting a garden to bed but everyone has their own version of this. I generally leave perennials with seed heads standing after noticing a group of bush tits feeding on the tall stalks of verbena. I rake the leaves off the lawn but leave them lying on the beds as this amends the soil and leaves a protective blanket for more delicate plants. It also won't disturb beneficial insects. I spread a little compost around the trees and shrubs as a natural fertilizer.

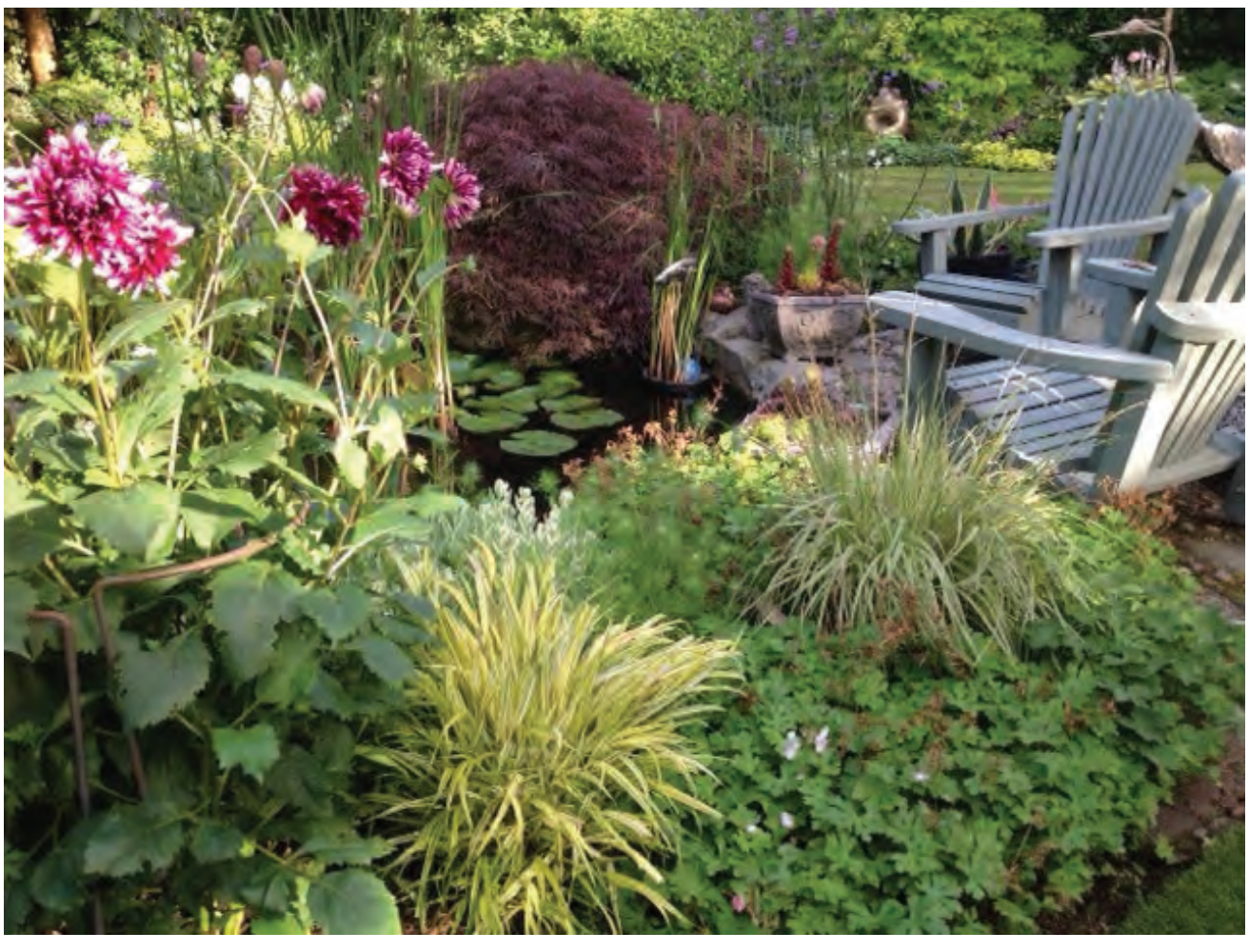
The annuals are still looking remarkably good, in particular the Mexican cigar plant that attracted hummingbirds all summer long, sometimes two or three at a time. This was a $1.69 annual that grew into a small shrub that amazed me with its tubular flowers that never even had to be deadheaded. Even at the end of October it is still flowering. I always find an amazing assortment of annuals at the greenhouses in Burnaby on "nursery row" on the old Marine Dr. This year I took photos of the ones that were workhorses and favourites to plan for next year's containers and beds.

The pond will have to be cleaned out. Better in the fall so as not to disturb the beneficial insects and damsel flies that will be ready to hatch in the early summer. The pond debris can be left on the side of the pond for a few days to allow insects to find their way back into the water. The spent water lilies are added to the compost pile.

Fall is also a great time to take hardwood cuttings. I have had success with hydrangeas and roses. Take a foot-long cutting of healthy-looking wood and dip into rooting hormone. Find a corner of your garden and press the cuttings in, forming the soil around the cutting. Place them a few inches apart. It's helpful to know whether there is good drainage or not; if necessary, some sand can be added. By next fall the cutting should have rooted. In a mild winter it will be even sooner. This is a great way to increase the numbers of favourite or special plants.

Winter is a great time to take a break from gardening. Browse through seed catalogues and dream of the spring. Maybe even grow some indoor narcissus – it's a lovely way to bring the garden inside.

The gorgeous cigar plant, *Cuphea*.



Storm Triggers Electrical Attack: Acadia Road Homes at Risk

by Ron Pears

On October 6th a number of houses on Acadia Road were hit with a 12,500-volt attack to their house wiring. One house caught fire. All those affected suffered serious damage to their electrical systems and appliances.

This is not the first time a wind storm has caused a tree to fall on the high voltage lines running behind the houses along the edge of Pacific Spirit Park, bringing these dangerous wires down onto the wires that feed a row of houses.

The problem is actually not the wires coming down. This just puts everybody in the dark. The falling wires also cause BC Hydro circuit breakers, located at a distant pole or in a substation, to trip, so the wires are usually dead by the time they land on the ground. If this happens everybody is still safe, although without power.

Fire damage at 1962 Acadia Road.

The problem is BC Hydro's policy of automatically resetting their breakers after five minutes or so without checking first if there is a safety issue. They do this because often the initial short circuit is cause by a twig that is vaporized in an instant, without bringing down the high-tension lines. BC Hydro therefore resets the circuit without looking for a problem, as sometimes there is no problem. They are willing to take the risk of causing harm or injury when they re-energize the lines because it makes business sense to do that.

> The problem is BC Hydro's policy of automatically resetting their breakers after five minutes or so without checking first if there is a safety issue

Two years ago I filed a legal suit against Hydro after an attack caused by a falling tree caused almost $40,000 damage to my house. It seems that the BC Utilities Act absolves Hydro of any responsibility. If homes are damaged, and this is not unusual, homeowners are expected to claim insurance or otherwise look after damage to their homes themselves. Engineers and electricians have looked at a way to protect the whole house, but the amount of energy involved is so big there are no surge protectors or breakers that can protect a whole house.

The trees in Pacific Spirit Park behind the houses on Acadia Road are the problem. They are 60-year old alders and cottonwoods. This is the normal lifespan of these weak and short-lived species. They have been falling regularly in that area of the park and in the next few years they all can be expected to come down, with some of them bound to fall on the power lines.

Anyone who lives in a house on the east side of Acadia Road between Chancellor and University Boulevard should be very concerned about this situation. A group of residents whose houses have already been damaged, or are at risk, has been formed to press BC Hydro and Pacific Spirit Park to remove any dangerous trees and replant them with long-lived conifers.

What happens when 12,500 volts hit an iPhone charger.

BC's Climate Plan

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

I am privileged to be part of a government that shares my commitment to tackling climate change. As British Columbia's Environment Minister (2001–2004) I set the foundation for our province's ground-breaking Climate Plan launched a few years later. Helping Canada transition to a sustainable society with a cleaner environment for our grandchildren has been my top priority as your Member of Parliament.

Hosting MP policy cafe this summer in climate change.

Last month our government acted. Under a new pan-Canadian approach, all Canadian jurisdictions will have pricing for carbon pollution in place by 2018 – either through a cap-and-trade system or a direct price like B.C.'s carbon tax – or the federal government will do it for them. The minimum price of $10 per tonne in 2018 must rise by $10 each year, to $50 in 2022. Progress will be reviewed in 2022 to confirm the path forward, including continued increases in price.

> The provinces and territories will keep the revenues to use as they see fit

The provinces and territories will keep the revenues to use as they see fit – whether to give back to consumers, support their workers and their families, help the vulnerable – including communities in the North, or support businesses that innovate and create good jobs for the middle class.

Pricing carbon pollution will give Canada an edge in building a clean-growth economy; will make Canadian businesses more innovative and competitive; will bring new and exciting job prospects for middle-class Canadians; and will reduce the pollution that threatens our clean air and oceans, as well as Canadians.

The federal government will continue to work closely with the provinces and territories – as well as with Indigenous peoples – to finalize our climate plan and meet or exceed our climate change targets.

The federal government is also taking a critical and constructive look at our own operational footprint and making concerted efforts to reduce it. In early November it was my pleasure to attend Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Conference and announce our plan to reduce federal government greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030. Furthermore, the Centre for Greening Government is being created in the Treasury Board Secretariat to track our emissions centrally, coordinate efforts across government, and drive results to makes sure we meet our objectives.

Progress towards this reduction will be achieved through a range of measures including strategic investments in infrastructure and vehicle fleets, green procurement, and support for clean technology. Already, the Government announced $2.1 billion in Budget 2016 towards repairs and retrofits to a wide range of government buildings, and for the greening of government operations.

We will immediately begin by aligning the way we measure greenhouse gas emissions with international standards to provide an accurate picture to measure the Government's progress. While the target is set for 2030, the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, along with federal departments and agencies, aspires to achieve this 40% reduction as early as 2025. By that date, Public Services and Procurement Canada – the Government's principal landlord, will be purchasing 100% of its electricity from clean energy sources, and the National Defence facilities in Alberta will be served by renewable power.

This Greening Government initiative is a project I have been working on for months in my capacity as Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Treasury Board and I am proud that it has become official Government policy. Furthermore, I was able to broaden the greening government conversation by working with my colleagues in the United States government to have this important topic included as part of a tri-lateral meeting between Canada, the United States and Mexico. I will continue working to encourage change from within the Government to promote our leadership globally and encourage other jurisdiction's efforts to tackle climate change. Reducing emissions saves money and creates jobs!

To the many Vancouver Quadra leaders, organizations and residents who have offered counsel and encouragement – thank you! We have made progress and there is still a long way to go. With your support I will continue doing my utmost on the climate file and help Canada transition to a sustainable society with a cleaner environment for our grandchildren.

Warm regards,

MP Joyce Murray

Kids helping kids: U Hill's Peer Helper and Big Buddy programs

Sabrina:

Did you know that being an older buddy is a big responsibility? My name is Sabrina and I am a grade 5 student at University Hill Elementary School. This year is my fourth year at UHill and I have the opportunity to be a leader at school. One way I am a leader is by having a Kindergarten buddy.

My buddy is an enthusiastic girl who constantly has a smile. She really looks up to me as a big buddy which makes my role as a leader much more fun and exciting.

Every Friday after lunch I go to her Kindergarten class to read stories with her and assist her with arts and crafts. When I help her with arts and crafts I guide her with cutting and gluing so she can learn and be safe.

Being the youngest in my family I enjoy the opportunity to be a leader at my school. I love being with my little buddy and doing things with her. It reminds me of when I was her age. One day at recess my little buddy ran up to me and gave me a hug. I really love being a buddy at UHill Elementary.

Anusheh:

Do you know what a peer helper is? Hi! I'm Anusheh and I would like to tell you about being a peer helper at University Hill Elementary School. Being a peer helper is a great example of leadership. Peer helpers wear a special red jacket and go around the school making sure everyone is following the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is Be Kind, Be Safe, and Be Respectful.

We had to do some training before we started, like acting out scenarios that could occur during recess and lunch, for example if a younger student needs help or gets hurt. I think being a peer helper is a lot of responsibility because you have to give up some of your recess and lunchtime. I wanted to be a peer helper because it makes me feel responsible. I enjoy being a peer helper because I like to solve problems.

As always, thanks to UHill's wonderful Grade 4/5 teacher, Melody Ludski, for facilitating Connections' collaboration with UHill School students.

Our Cub Reporters enjoy a quiet moment off-duty.

The Vancouver Institute

Free Saturday Evening Lectures at UBC – Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 *(please clip for future reference)*

2016: remaining lectures

November 19: Professor Gage Averill, Dean of Arts and Professor Music, UBC, speaking on barbershop quartets (with demonstrations by a barbershop quartet)

November 26: Professor Deborah Campbell, Creative Writing, UBC, speaking on the war in Iraq and Syria

December 3: Professor Mark Winston, Department of Biological Sciences, SFU, speaking on bees and the significance of Colony Collapse Disorder

2017:

January 28: Dr. Kevin Patterson, Medical doctor and author, speaking on a military doctor in Afghanistan

February 4: Ms. Masha Gesssen, Russian/American journalist and author, speaking on Putin's Russia

February 11: Mr. Andy Yan, Director, The City Program, Simon Fraser University, speaking on the demographics of the Vancouver real estate market

February 25: Professor Bob Hancock, Professor UBC Department of Microbiology and Immunology, speaking on antibiotic resistance

March 4: Professor Denise Lievesley, Principal, Green Templeton College, Oxford, speaking on measuring the world: should we trust statistics?

March 11: Professor Ian Stirling, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, speaking on polar bears

March 18: Mr. James Hansen, Head, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, speaking on climate change

March 25: Professor Jennifer Welsh, International Relations, Oxford, and Fellow, Somerville College, speaking on the return of history: geopolitics in the 21st century

April 1: Mr. Lawrence Hill, Distinguished Canadian Author, speaking on refugees in the world and in the imagination

All Institute lectures are held on Saturdays at 8:15 p.m. in Lecture Hall #2 of the Instructional Resources Centre at UBC. Admission to lectures is free. Call 822 8660 for a program or visit our new website at vancouverinstitute.ca or https://www.facebook.com/TheVancouverInstitute/

GREEN COLLEGE | UBC

BARRICK

Facing north at the corner of Wesbrook Crescent and Campus Road.

Trench used to access residential connections.

A work in progress: Wesbrook Crescent, facing north.

Big enough to drive a truck through it: unfortunately, several mature conifers at the north (cul-de-sac) end of Wesbrook Crescent were removed.

A necessary mess: water and sewer repairs continue

UEL Manager Jonn Braman reports that work is progressing well on this year's infrastructure upgrades to a series of storm sewer pipelines in Area A.

Working in stages, crews replaced a water line in the 2000-block of Western Parkway, followed by the installation of a new storm pipe on Wesbrook Crescent. After updating the main connection under Chancellor Blvd, the contractor will move to the 1800-block on Allison Rd. The final stage will see crews returning to the 2000-block of Western Parkway to install a new storm sewer.

Along the way, new connections have been made to each of the older homes that previously funnelled both storm water and sanitary into a combined sewer. Separating these systems makes sense, both for homeowners and for the environment.

To date, Connections has had no reports of unsightly water similar to what plagued many Little Australia residents last year.

The Vancouver Challenge: Finding Belonging and Community

by Brent Holmes, Resident Member

If I were to tell you my experiences thus far were completely by skill, I'd be lying. I've lucked out on so much in my life, by no more than being in the right place at the right time. Coming to Green College was an exercise in luck.

A bit about me: I'm a wise-cracking journalist whose general hobbies include scotch and tea sipping (but not at the same time), critiquing movies, and wearing tweed and a deer-stalker. I basically try to channel as much Sherlock Holmes as I can. Add in a sword-hilted umbrella, a TARDIS mug, and fanatical love of The Tragically Hip, and you have the makings of a full on weirdo.

I had the great opportunity of working full-time for my student newspaper during the previous year and knew I would have to do a Masters if I wanted to continue in journalism. I knew UBC's journalism program was the best in the country but, like Moses before a burning bush, I had to come up with every conceivable reason not to go.

A very "Greenie" welcome

The biggest challenge I had to overcome was the quintessential Vancouver question of where to live. At this point in time it seems like the only things that could bring down Vancouver housing costs are decent government policy or that overdue earthquake – and the latter is way more likely to happen sooner than the former. But moving also includes the hassle of finding furniture, buying food and the 20-or-so other items you forget to pack. Then after all of that, you're going to be isolated in a strange new place.

I was fortunate enough to not have to jump into that abyss uninformed. Two of my friends from the student newspaper I worked at had gone to UBC and lived at Green College. Looking over those Facebook conversations, it's amazing how little convincing it took. Green College sealed the deal on coming to UBC. I probably owe them both a lifetime supply of scotch because coming here ended up being one of the best decisions I've made thus far.

I don't think the scope of the whole thing hit me until I got there. Green College really lives up to the name. The viridian-coloured buildings are organized in a V-shape with the administrative building and meal hall at the end of each arm. In the middle is an open green area with a kitchen for residents and trees bigger than any I had seen. Four towers lead up to a terrace where the upper floor rooms are and the terrace is protected by a wooden rail. In short, Green College does not look like a residence – it looks like a resort.

It was incredibly welcoming. A Greenie (as we call ourselves) introduced herself quickly and escorted me to the Dining Hall. In a completely Brent way, I ended up arriving just in time for a steak dinner.

We ended up sitting across from the visiting faculty member for UBC Journalism, Steve Woodward. Steve was a wealth of knowledge and his help on multiple project I did over the year was invaluable. He was one of the cohort's favourite instructors. I was somehow lucky enough to be able to bump into him during meal times and get his advice on the latest story I was doing.

After dinner a bunch of the residents went on an impromptu skip to Koerner's, the on-campus pub about a block from the College and right across from the journalism building. Many a Greenie can be found there and I'm pretty sure I left a sizeable amount of my student loan there as well.

The right place

If that wasn't enough to speak to the social atmosphere in the first month here I ended up going on several mountain climbs, birding, doing walking tours of downtown Vancouver and campus. Toss in a few concerts and films at the Vancouver International Film Festival and I was pretty sure I was living in some kind of paradise.

That's not to say I didn't do work while I was here. It was a very busy year. For most of it I was writing stories, learning how to create data visualizations and figuring out how to use social media in my journalistic work.

But the second I was done, I would find myself playing board games with other Greenies in Graham House, rehearsing for the Green College Players' spring performance, going on hikes or concocting coma-inducing breakfast burrito recipes.

Thinking back on it, I'm not sure how I managed to get back to my room on that first night here. Before I collapsed onto my bed due to a combination of travel exhaustion and the night's libations, I can remember somehow knowing I was in the right place. While I've changed a lot over the past year living at Green, that thought has always remained the truth.

Brent and Resident Members at the 2015 Green College Holiday Gala.

Little Australia: Parks are Essential

For any of us who suffer and have suffered from health issues, living in a noisy bustling city creates its challenges. I moved eight times in eight years, finding a home that would offer me some respite from the chaos. There are several challenges I didn't expect would become an issue like airplane noise or an opera singer practicing their craft that influenced my decisions to relocate.

While many have benefited by buying real estate along busy primary road networks that have been redeveloped into multi-family buildings, I made my choice based on my need for a more serene environment.

My understanding is that the Province of BC is forcing Metro Vancouver to consider putting an industrial development in the park nearby my home. This would ruin the peaceful environment. While other choices that do not seem to affect anyone are available, I find it mean spirited that our well-being is not seen as important.

Surely with all the green space on the west side of Vancouver that the government is dealing away for redevelopment – such as the UBC Golf Course, Jericho Lands, Block F, Jericho Youth Hostel, lands adjacent to St. George School, and others we are probably not aware of – the diminishing amount of park space will become more and more essential to everyone's health.

Little Australia park should be kept as it is!

Menno Mulholland

Changes to Wesbrook Crescent

We have recently been advised of a CAC meeting at which "Changes to Wesbrook Crescent", the four houses on Wesbrook Mall, a bike lane on Wesbrook crescent, and the future of the hedge separating our community from UBC, were all discussed. Unfortunately we were unable to attend this meeting due to work commitments However we are extremely concerned to learn of these proposals.

We have been permanent residents on Wesbrook Crescent since 1979 and thus have extensive knowledge of the history of this area. Our primary concern is that of SAFETY.

CURRENT DANGERS INCLUDE:

1. The exit from Wesbrook crescent on to Chancellor Boulevard. This is already a very dangerous junction with traffic arriving from three different areas: Wesbrook Mall, west from Chancellor Boulevard, and from the north lower Wesbrook crescent. We have walked past this intersection on a daily basis for the past 30 years and note that traffic from Wesbrook Mall mostly accelerates round the curve with drivers checking for traffic to their left. This puts all pedestrians attempting to cross Chancellor Blvd.at risk. We have personally witnessed the death of three dogs at this junction and have often rescued children trying to cross en route to UHill school. High speed buses and trucks are of particular concern.

2. Wesbrook Crescent is already a very narrow street and barely accommodates two car widths. Cars and SUV's are frequently parked on the east side of the street. They belong to residents, visitors, construction workers and students. Although there are rules restricting the parking, this has not been enforced for many years.

In addition, over the last few years, many houses have been constantly under construction, requiring the parking of trucks, disposal bins and portable toilets also on the east side of the street. This unrestricted parking makes it very difficult for residents to drive out safely from their properties since field of vision is markedly restricted. Empty houses with overgrown hedges further add to the problem.

3. Pedestians: Over the past few years, at all times of the day, Wesbrook Crescent is now used as a pedestrian walkway. On many occasions, people will turn in response to car noise and seem surprised that there is vehicular traffic on the road. This makes the situation especially dangerous for residents exiting their driveways. The very poor state of repair of the foot paths have of course contributed to this problem – they are unsafe to walk on and impossible for a baby buggy or for disabled people.

4. Adding a bike lane to this already over-crowded street would be dangerous for pedestrians, bikers and drivers.

THE HEDGE:

The hedge separating Wesbrook Crescent from Wesbrook Mall was planted many years ago in response to a very serious motor vehicle accident. Young twins on Wesbrook Crescent were struck by a speeding UBC vehicle. One of them suffered a serious head injury which resulted in that child living a life with major neurological deficit. That was before the massive increase in traffic flow which grew out of the UBC residential development. Speeding bicycles in a poor visibility zone are extremely dangerous.

UBC has created this problem with their massive residential for profit development. They should address it within their own road system. There is a notice on Chancellor Boulevard at the entrance to Western Parkway proclaiming that the street is for "local traffic only". This notice is designed to protect the safety and privacy of the local residential population. Why should this sentiment not also apply to the residents of Wesbrook Crescent?

EXTENDING WESBROOK TO INCLUDE THE 4 HOUSES ON WESBROOK MALL:

These houses were built on Wesbrook Mall and were never a part of Wesbrook Crescent. Their lot sitings and borders do not conform with the houses on Wesbrook Crescent. They abut a part of Wesbrook Mall which is extremely wide and totally unlike the very narrow restricted roadway that runs beside Wesbrook crescent. Extending Wesbrook crescent to try and incorporate these houses makes absolutely no sense.

In summary, the addition of a bike lane to a street that is already congested with parked vehicles, pedestrians and road traffic is a formula for danger and disaster.

UBC needs to accept responsibilty for its own problems and not burden our small community.

Dr Michael Goldberger / Joanne McBrinn

Your Editor is Listening! Please Write

Got a comment on something you see in this issue of *Connections*? Like it? Don't like it? Got a gripe about something? Got a story idea you want to pass on? Got a news item or notice about an upcoming event you want to share?

We like to get mail. Write us at: **uhillconnections@gmail.com**

What a difference a hedge makes: on one side, water & sewer repairs on Wesbrook Crescent…

… while on the other side, UBC residents and traffic are protected by the established, healthy hedge.

GREEN COLLEGE | UBC

Save the date for the following free public lectures at Green College

Monday, November 21 from 5:00-6:30 pm in the Coach House
Anosh Irani reads from his novel *The Parcel*, runner-up for a Governor General's 2016 Literary Award and currently shortlisted for the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize

Tuesday, November 22 from 5:00-6:30 pm in the Coach House
Early Music Vancouver presents an intimate performance of "Toque of the Town" by Parisian ensemble "Fuoco e Cenere"

Wednesday, November 23 from 5:00-6:30 pm in the Coach House
Join us for a talk on "**Access to Justice and Indigenous Issues"** with Val Napoleon (Aboriginal Justice and Governance, Law, University of Victoria) and Hadley Friedland (Law, University of Alberta), part of our **Access to Justice Series**

Tuesday, November 29 from 5:00-6:30 pm in the Coach House
The Green College Leading Scholars' Series presents a talk by Robinder Bedi (Educational and Counselling Psychology and Special Education) and David Morton (History) on Conversations Across Disciplines and Cultures in India and Mozambique

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