

SEPTEMBER
2007



The Seymour Eagle

The Seymour Community Association Newsletter

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CURBS VANDALISM

By Dan Kennedy

The problem of vandalism around Dorothy Lynas Elementary School, Parkgate Community Centre and the surrounding neighbourhoods has been a problem for a number of years. In the first months of 2007, the frequency and intensity of the vandalism had increased dramatically. In the 12 months preceding June of this year, it is estimated that over \$70,000 in damage had been done to property in those areas.

In mid-May, a group of concerned citizens got together to try to address the situation in a pro-active manner. Beginning with an increased neighbourhood watch program, including "walkabouts" on weekend nights, the residents of the area around Dorothy Lynas began to take back their community. While this was happening, a core group met with other community leaders (members of the RCMP, District Council, Parkgate Youth Services, Seycove Secondary and the Seymour Community Association) to discuss other options to address this significant issue. It was agreed that a first step would be to hold a community forum for residents and the youth of the community to discuss the problems and search for solutions.

The event was held on June 14th and it was a tremendous success. Over 100 people from the community turned out to listen to talks given by Dan Kennedy, a community resident, the RCMP and Marc Keith, the Youth Services Supervisor at Parkgate. The evening discussion was moderated by Dick Burns, principal of Seycove Secondary. A lot of information was shared and input was gathered from many of the people in attendance. It was very

encouraging to see some of the youth of our community present at the meeting and their courage in speaking up and voicing their opinions on the issue added significantly to the proceedings. Also appreciated was the attendance of Superintendent Gord Tomlinson of the North Vancouver RCMP detachment. In addition to the actual event, media coverage in the North Shore News and on the CBC Evening News helped to ensure that awareness around the issue was as broad as possible.

Since the forum in June, the community activities have continued throughout the summer and are ongoing. Residents of the area would particularly like to thank Supt. Tomlinson and Sergeant Joe Arduini and the members of the North Vancouver RCMP detachment for their fantastic support of our efforts. The involvement of Dick Burns from Seycove also had a tremendous impact and for that we are grateful as well.

In closing, it is a pleasure to report that there have been no incidences of vandalism at Parkgate or Dorothy Lynas this summer. For the first time in years, there have been no broken windows in our local school. It is great to see the fruits of our labour and know that we are making a difference.

To end, it is worth considering this quote from Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

See p. 2 for photos.



The Seymour Community Association meets at the Parkgate Community Centre, Seniors' Multipurpose Centre. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 19, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.** See advertisement in this edition. All members of the community are encouraged to attend, participate in discussions of interest to the community and listen to guest speakers presenting on topics of interest.

The Seymour Eagle welcomes contributions of interest to the community. Members may place personal ads regarding goods or services. All advertisements will be screened by the Editorial Board and if deemed inappropriate will not placed.

Please Contact Del Kristalovich at (604)985-0748 or clarity2001@shaw.ca if you wish to submit an article or advertisement.



The above photos show the extent of just some of the damage done by youths during the early spring in Seymour. Even the elementary school, Dorothy Lynas, was not left unscathed and suffered an unbelievable number of broken windows. Hopefully the proactive approach taken by all concerned will see an end to this type of damage.

PARKGATE DAYS A BIG SUCCESS



On September 8, 2007 Parkgate Community Centre and Parkgate business owners hosted another Parkgate Days which proved very successful. Our own Seymour Community Association manned a table and the Members present were able to add more than 30 names to our mailing list. Welcome everyone. We hope you will enjoy the newsletter and that you will attend some of our presentation evenings and find the topics informative and useful. Our Community Association was formed to represent our unique neighborhood to the District and our mandate is to improve the quality of life in Seymour. Our meetings take the form of presentation evenings every third Wednesday at Parkgate Community Centre at 7:30 p.m. and everyone is welcome.



SEYMOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Presents

WHAT DO I NEED FOR THE NEXT DISASTER?

By Paulette Mossop

Emergency Preparedness Education Coordinator

**Do you know where to locate sources of drinking water?
Do you know how to contact loved ones outside of your area?
Do you know the disaster route signs and their meaning?
Do you keep a basic emergency kit in your home?
Learn the answers to these questions and much more.**

**Wednesday September 19, 2007
7:30 to 9:30 pm
Parkgate Community Centre
Seniors' Multipurpose Room
3625 Banff Court**

**Admission Free but numbers required for handouts
RSVP (604) 985-0748**



COMING NEXT MONTH...

Special presentation by Roberto Cobo – ARE YOU BARELY AWARE?

Wednesday October 17, 2007

7:30 to 9:30 pm

Parkgate Community Centre
Seniors' Multipurpose Room
3625 Banff Court

Armed with the information, you can make your fall days much more bearable.



DISASTERS HAPPEN....



Fire, Water, Natural Disasters, and even Mold. We take care of them all. Anytime, day or night. From Kleenup to Reconstruction. Tell your Insurance provider you prefer Angel Disaster Kleenup



604-984-7575

BEACH CLEAN UP

The recent beach cleanup on September 8 proved that the efforts of all the dedicated volunteers are paying off. There was not as much debris to be cleared off the beaches this year and the volunteers were able to complete the work earlier than expected.

Despite the improvement in the amount of refuse on the beach, there remain a large number of unused and derelict docks and boat ramps that need to be removed from the foreshore in order to make the beaches more accessible to the public.

We need to let the Vancouver Port Authority know that we want to be able to access the beach easily and without all the impediments that presently exist. Perhaps one day we will even see a seawall which will be accessible to everyone who wishes to be near the water but first, we need to ask the VPA to exercise its duty to have the unused and unwanted docks removed from the foreshore.

Send your comments to: Jennifer.Nataland@portvancouver.com