



HASTINGS SUNRISE COMMUNITY POLICING CENTRE



Photos supplied by Ian Marcuse

*Happy gardeners smile for the camera - with good reason!
Their plots are helping Pandora Park to thrive.*

Garden Perks Up Pandora Park

Just a few years ago, Pandora Park was being abused by the peddlers and users of drugs and – understandably – underutilized by neighbours.

That began to change in 2005 with a lengthy redesign and landscaping process involving community input. In May 2007, Pandora Park was officially reopened and has become a neighbourhood favorite park within Hastings Sunrise. Pandora Park's new status encourages its many neighbours to once again make use of it.

Carol Woods, and a few like-minded neighbours had the vision of creating a community garden in Pandora Park, and increasing usage of the park. Their goals were to provide growing opportunities for the community, to have a safe environment for growing, to improve the social interaction between gardeners – all neighbours -- and to improve the park's aesthetics. In early 2009, the group of neighbours completed the paperwork for the Pandora Park Community Garden Society (PPCGS). The written proposal was produced that May and presented to the Vancouver Parks Board for approval, and the rest, as they say, is history.

With 66 plots, a proposed green shed and honey bees (projects in the near future), the Pandora community garden is on track with its goals. All 66 plots have been taken, says Barry Londry, Vice President of the Garden Society. It appears the location of Pandora Park, surrounded by apartments and single family dwellings, has fulfilled a need for its community.

However, after talking to Barry, it seems the garden harvest is secondary to the social benefits of a community garden. "The work parties usually end up at a restaurant or barbecue nearby. It's a very social group with gardening as a common theme" says Barry. There are lectures and workshops on different gardening concepts such as composting and bees, provided for at a nominal fee, usually to pay for the guest speaker.

Another benefit of the community garden is to have people using Pandora Park at all times of the day. This discourages others from using the park in a manner not constructive to the park itself. In fact, on this Sunday I visited (August 22) there was a group of cyclists playing bicycle polo within the fenced tennis courts. Of course, it sounds as challenging as it looks.

The main objective is that the park is being used by its community in a constructive and friendly manner. The Garden Society does the same in a different area of Pandora Park. This is the basic idea of reducing nuisances: let everyone use the park in a manner which is acceptable, and eventually the unacceptable uses will move away.

Barry says of the garden's first summer crop that "It's really exciting for us, there are lots of beans, peas, lettuce, herbs, squash, tomatoes and some Chinese parsley being grown." During my visit, I noticed all this and much more, especially the flowers.

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Volunteering Means Everybody Wins!

How can a group of 50 people spend a day at the racetrack – and every one comes out a winner?

It's easy, if they are volunteers at the Hastings Sunrise CPC enjoying the Volunteer Appreciation Day in May at Hastings Racecourse.

First, they have all benefitted just by volunteering their time throughout the year. Studies show that people who volunteer are happier and healthier.

Second, every one came away with a door prize, thanks to the Track and generous Hastings Sunrise supporters. Many also received recognition awards ranging from pens and mugs to handsome jackets, depending on length of service.

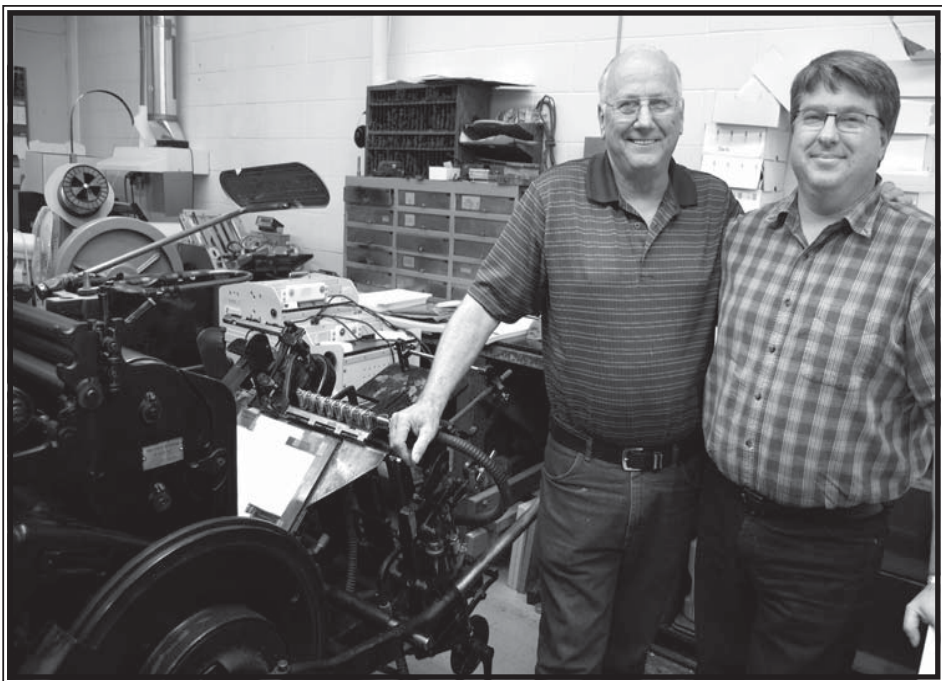
And all were heaped with praise by HSCPC executive director Clair MacGougan. "No number of events like this could ever fully show our appreciation for what our volunteers do over the year," he said. "My hope is that the volunteers do feel special to us, and that they're acknowledged for all the time and effort they're putting in."

Ten-year volunteers Susan McElgunn and Rita McCormack were given special recognition – and a gift of clocks. "We gave them time for giving us time!" said Clair. He praised them for their exceptional record of service dating back to the CPC's earliest years operating out of a small office on Wall Street.

He thanked the Vancouver Police Department for continuing to support the HSCPC's efforts to help create a safer and better community, singling out special guests Staff Sergeant Steve Eely of District 2, which includes Hastings Sunrise, and Constable Randy Inouye, the Neighbourhood Police Officer.

The event was made possible through Community Days at the Track, in which Hastings Racecourse helps community groups

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Allan Burroughs (right) with his father Douglas next to an old letter press Photo: Edmund Szutu

Westside Printer Gives Big

\$6400 and 32,000 copies of our newsletters later, Allan Burroughs of Burroughs Printing still continues his philanthropy towards keeping our East Vancouver community safe after six years. Allan has generously printed 16 four-paged newsletters each with 2000 copies at his local offset printing company at 311 West 7th Avenue.

Why might a business from across town support our neighbourhood? “Because it’s simply about helping others” and “giving back to the community,” says Allan. And that’s basically what supporting the Hastings Sunrise Community Policing Centre (HSCPC) has been about for the last several years, providing for those whenever and however possible. At the HSCPC, our community-based programs are kept afloat by the extra work hours, charitable donations and volunteer time put in by caring individuals.

Just a quick reminder that we are a small non-profit organization with the big job of keeping a large urban neighbourhood safe. We don’t have too many resources, but we do have a fantastic team of volunteers and a handful of charitable sponsors who support us in each of their own way. Allan Burroughs has graciously been providing us with the paper, ink, and labour needed to keep our newsletter running.

Burroughs Printing started post World War I, when Allan’s grandfather Henry Alfred started up the business as a partner. After a series of relocations and shifts in ownership, Allan now runs the shop after taking over for his dad, Douglas, who still helps out and works together with Allan as a team. Family is an important aspect of the business, and Allan keeps several small reminders of his two children throughout his office, including framed photos, craft projects, and an old hockey stick.

Allan still remembers that summer afternoon in 2004 when our executive director Clair MacGougan, who he had never met before, walked into the print shop looking for someone to help print the HSCPC newsletter. Allan agreed by giving his word and a handshake to support our community based organization.

Since then, Burroughs Printing has continuously been producing our newsletter, a job that would normally cost up to \$400 for each issue. Even though we’re all currently living in a tight economy, Allan Burroughs continues his much appreciated support towards our organization. The staff and volunteers at the HSCPC are very grateful for this generous contribution and for the many other donations from our own businesses and citizens in Hastings Sunrise.

◆ Edmund Szutu

Ahlaam Mahmood moves on to Medical School



Photo : Edmund Szutu

HSCPC Volunteer Ahlaam Mahmood

The Community Policing Center gives our volunteer Ahlaam Mahmood our best wishes and endeavours as Ahlaam moves on to medical school this coming semester.

Ahlaam has been volunteering with the CPC since June 2009 and her presence and contributions to the centre’s activities will be greatly missed.

Ahlaam’s passion and hard work on special projects and various community events for the past year has been invaluable. She played a significant role in organizing the HSCPC’s involvement in the Under One Umbrella initiative and the Sunrise Summer Kick-off and community shredding day events.

Her efforts and qualities will be our loss, however that will be the medical school’s gain.

We wish you well throughout your life.

◆ Michael McColl



*Cst. Dave Krenz and Leah Kelsey, Block Watch
Photo supplied by Cst. D Krenz*

12 Things a Burglar Doesn't Want You to Know... (How to Prevent a B&E)

Constable Dave Krenz, Coordinator for the Block Watch Program, offers this light hearted - but useful! - look at home security from a burglar's point of view.

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
5. If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbour to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.
6. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom - and your jewellery. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.
7. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door - understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.
8. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)
9. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.
10. Here's a helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.
11. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
12. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television.
(Find it at: <http://faketcv.com/>)

◆ Cst/ Dave Krenz

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The Pandora garden is wheelchair accessible, and the public is invited to visit. However, please leash your dog if you must bring it into the garden.

If you wish to have a plot of growing space, please go to the website at:

<http://pandoraparkgarden.wordpress.com>

or check out the temporary shed at the north entrance of the Pandora garden. Posted is an information sheet with all the details on how to get on the list for growing space for next year's growing season if there is available space.

◆ Harry Mah

Photo: Edmund Szutu



Michael McColl, Sheilagh Simpson and long time staffer Karine Lavoie enjoying the foods, mountain views, horse racing at our Volunteers Appreciation Day held at Hastings Racecourse

“Volunteering Means” from page 1

by providing use of its marquee during a race day, food and beverages and a \$5,000 donation. A Community Day in 2008 was used by the CPC as a fundraiser, but this year it was decided that it should be a special thank-you to the hundred-or-so volunteers who carry out the centre's many programs.

Clair also thanked Hastings Racecourse for the day. “We were really well looked after by staff,” he said. “We really appreciate them providing this opportunity for our volunteers. This is not the first time – they've been good to us for years.”

Even nature smiled on the event. Rain was forecast, but it waited until late in the day before tossing down just a few sprinkles. And just before the third race, two eagles circled high overhead – a symbol of the lofty spirit shown daily by those who volunteer their time and talents to help their neighbours!

◆ Chester Grant

Thank You to the Sunrise Summer Kickoff Sponsors!

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All our wonderful volunteers!

In this Issue...

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