

Your ARCCA committee is working hard on your behalf! We meet monthly at one of our homes; we attend the ARKS (Arbutus Ridge/Kerrisdale/Shaugnessy) City Plan meetings; we represent you at the NSV (Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver) sessions; and we try to stay on top of everything that affects our community.

The Latest on the Arbutus Shopping Centre Redevelopment. We know that many of you attended the November 17th Rezoning Open House. We just recently received the summary of the comments given by the attendees at the event. 68% of the visitors opposed the Plan and 21% were undecided. That pretty well mirrors the comments we hear from the neighbourhood. The City Planner on this application is Dwayne Drobot. He is apparently very busy with other developments including Concord Pacific issues and Exhibition Park. So, we still do not know when the Planning Dept. will present its recommendations to Council. There are two stages to the Council process: the first is a regular Council meeting. We may attend this meeting but we are not allowed to speak. If Council accepts Planning's proposal, a Public Hearing is scheduled. Because there so few dates for Public Hearings, especially when they are dragged out for days, like the Casino hearing, it may be many weeks or months before our Shopping Centre redevelopment is scheduled. During the period between the regular meeting and the hearing, we are not allowed to discuss the plans with Council. We have been given permission to attach an appendage to Planning's submission to Council. ARKS (Arbutus Ridge/Kerrisdale/Shaugnessy) will also attach its report to Council.

As soon as we get a firm date for the Council meeting, we will let you know. Even though we cannot speak, we would like to have a strong ARCCA attendance at the Council meeting – wearing *Save our Shopping Centre* buttons! I'll be there to hand them out.

Our Petition and our Compromise Plan. Our original position with the shopping centre redevelopment was commercial redevelopment only, - no residential. The petition that we circulated called for commercial only. When we were told by Dwayne Drobot to “forget that – there will be residential”, your committee decided to offer a compromise. Two professionals helped us with the plan. We circulated it to you several months ago and it is still on our website. It has about 200 residences but a lot more open space and is definitely more in character with the neighbourhood. Larco, the developer, refused to view our plan! Now, we still have the petition with 6700 signatures which we will submit to Council soon.

Welcome New Neighbour Package. There are a lot of new neighbours moving into our community. I have formatted a welcome letter and enclosed an ARCCA membership form with the most recent newsletter. If you have new neighbours and would like to welcome them to ARCCA, let me know and I will deliver the package to you. The first paragraph of the letter could be personalized but I will have to e-mail it to you if you wish to add a personal note.

Prince of Wales “Litterers”. If you had walked down Eddington or Yew Street by PW when school was in session, you surely would have noticed the litter along the sidewalk? Pop cans, coffee cups, chicken bones, plastic bags, paper of all kinds. The neighbours were complaining so we sent a letter to the PW principal to ask if students could clean up regularly. Some of the neighbours try to keep it clean but what better place to teach anti-litter than in school! The principal did acknowledge the letter and said they would try harder to be neater. There is noticeable improvement.

Our Annual General Meeting. Record the date! May 24th at the Hellenic Centre, Arbutus and Valley Drive. We have a very special evening prepared for you with guest panelists Patrick Condon, a UBC School of Architecture professor, Ned Jacobs, spokesperson for Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver, and Lewis Villegas, an urban design specialist. They will be discussing community involvement in planning our City. More details soon.

ARCCA - a Registered Society? I raised the question at the last meeting that instead of an informal group as we are now, we should register as a society. The cost is about \$150. The advantage is that we have to adopt some formal rules – most of which we have already, e.g. have an annual meeting, elect directors, and report annually. The reason for my recommendation is that we are not a one-issue organization. While a lot of our energy has been directed to our shopping centre redevelopment, there are other issues that we must monitor: housing along the Arbutus Corridor, laneway housing, the transfer of density policy that has the potential to increase the scale of density in many redevelopments but without the inclusion of other amenities. I really think we need a formal group to speak for our community. We will bring the motion to you at the AGM. Many other community groups are non-profit societies and they have withstood many years of trials and tribulations

Arbutus Ridge Day. It is too late for this year, but 2012 could be the time to celebrate Arbutus Ridge Day. Larco has said we can use part of their parking lot for an event – provided it isn't torn up under construction. We could always use the little park or get permission to use Prince of Wales Park. What do you think of the idea? Most other communities have a special day or week. If you

would be willing to be on a planning committee, let me know.

Volunteers Needed! If you can spare a few hours each month, we need you! Translators – 36% of the resident of Arbutus Ridge are Mandarin speaking and there are also a lot of Korean speaking residents. Important notices should be offered in these languages. Could you help with translation? Social Network Savvy? We have our website, HYPERLINK "<http://arcca.info>" <http://arcca.info>, but we need to broadcast it to a bigger audience. If you are connected to Twitters, LinkedIn or FaceBook and would be willing to help us, let me know.

Speakers at Public Hearings.

Distributors of Literature Needed! Many of our members do not have e-mail addresses so we distribute these newsletters to them by hand. The routes are very small. If you would be willing to deliver up to 8 newsletters in your neighbourhood, please contact our Workshop Chair, Josie Timewell at HYPERLINK "<mailto:josietimewell@gmail.com>" josietimewell@gmail.com or 604-879-8115. We also need someone with a car to deliver to addresses too far to walk to. It would take no more than an hour of your time once every two months.

ARKS News. Several of our committee members attend the monthly ARKS meetings and represent you on important issues of the shopping centre, housing, the Arbutus Corridor, traffic and several other committees. If you would like to volunteer for an evening once a month, please contact me.

Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver (NSV). This group umbrellas the 23 communities in Vancouver and strives to represent and help them all. I am ARCCA's representative on NSV. Lately, they have been intensely involved in the Chinatown/Downtown East Side proposed developments, the Hastings Park proposals, the proposed new casino and several other spot-zoning projects. They have developed a policy statement and will canvass Vancouver election candidates on specific issue before the next civic election – to help you know which candidates to vote for. If you would like to receive NSV's many newsletters go to HYPERLINK "<mailto:nsvancouver@hotmail.com>" nsvancouver@hotmail.com and ask to be added to their mailing list. The precedent proposed for Shannon Mews at Granville and 57th has significance to neighbourhoods across the City. The change to the Transfer of Density policy regarding the handing of heritage bonuses from a Heritage Density Bank into neighbourhoods across the City could have huge impact in our neighbourhood. The heritage density could be landed on our shopping centre and greatly increase the scale of the development without any other amenities. It is very important that we are alert to what is going on around us.

Please, let's hear from you!

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