

**ARBUTUS RIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OCTOBER, 2014 NEWSLETTER**

**There is never a time when we do not have concerns in our neighbourhood: the Arbutus Shopping Centre development, the Arbutus corridor dispute, our community centre, water problems at the Cressey Development, 16th and Arbutus!**

**DO YOU REMEMBER LITTLE VENICE? ASTHMA FLATS? FROG HOLLOW? If you lived in Vancouver in the thirties, you would remember the marshy lowlands – part of Arbutus Ridge. In the forties and fifties, sand was brought in from False Creek to fill the low areas. Then houses, schools and shops were developed on the land. They were not allowed to excavate for basements because of the underground rivers that kept the water levels so high.**

**Arbutus Village was constructed in the late sixties with housing and a shopping centre. The anchor, at that time was Woodwards and they also had a small department store, called Woodwynn. Altogether, there were about 30 retailers in the mall. Today, there are maybe seven. So what is the latest news on the redevelopment at the mall? So far, Larco, the developer, has not applied for a permit to build but anticipates that one will be applied for in mid or late November to start construction on Block A – which is the north-east quarter of their property. Several merchants have been given notice to move: A&W, Van Den Bosch, Purdy’s, Shefield’s and Arbutus Jewellers but the vacate dates are confusing. Some say next March, others next year.**

**When I asked the planner about the water problems, she said that had been settled at the time or rezoning. The rezoning took place in July 2011 but we have all observed many test being taken on the water level since then. Many in the Village stratas have had problems with flooded properties. ARCA is researching a hydrologist who can measure our current water levels so, after the Arbutus redevelopment, with its 3 or 4 floors of underground parking, if the water levels change significantly, we will know the cause.**

**When I moved to Arbutus Ridge in 1987, our garden, which has been part of the Quilchena golf course, was “bone dry”. When the apartments at 33rd and Arbutus were constructed with undergound parking, the adjacent park was flooded. When the Arbutus Club excavated in its redevelopment, Nanton Street became a river. Now, when it rains, my garden is underwater and so is the Yew Street lawn at Amica.**

**SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW? Not easy to describe what is going on with the Arbutus Corridor. Personally, I think it should be kept for future transit. If the City allows all the big developments to be built, we will need more transit. In the meantime, dog walks, a bike lane and vegetable gardens are a good idea. Currently, the City of Vancouver has filed an injunction again Canadian Pacific to stop them from using it for freight transit.**

**THE COALITION OF VANCOUVER NEIGHBOURHOODS (CVN) of which we are a member with about 30 other communities, held one of the BEST civic candidates meeting EVER! It was held at St. James Church Hall on Oct. 15th and over 350 people attended. ARCA got good press from it, too, with Marie Clarke, our treasurer, being interviewed by the Courier. You may have read the lengthy article in the October 17th Courier. The Coalition is not endorsing any candidates but has published its Principles and Goals document which encourages candidates to endorse them “to put community back into community planning.” It’s about time!**

**ARCA memberships! If you haven’t paid your ARCA fees for 2014/15, please contact Marie Clarke at** [**marieac@shaw.CA**](mailto:marieac@shaw.CA) **or phone her at 604-263-5086. Students $5.00, Individuals $10.00, Families $20, Businesses $30.00.** [**www.arbutusridgecommunity.org**](http://www.arbutusridgecommunity.org)**. Tweet your comments to ARCA on Twitter at ARBUTUSRIDGE.com**