

Greetings all!

March 2009

Welcome spring. Despite the snow, sleet, or otherwise calls back to winter, the flowers are up and colour is seeping back into our world. The **Mt. Tolmie Community Association** has decided to switch to an e-bulletin format rather than delivering a newsletter – in part so we can reach residents in a timelier manner, but also to cut costs associated with printing the newsletter for the 3,600 people who live in the Mt. Tolmie area. The money we save through distributing information electronically can be reallocated to things we know the residents love, such as the Horner Park Picnic and area improvements.

We recognize that by changing our format to an electronic one, there is a concern some people may not receive this information. In an effort to reach more people, we are trying to gather a list of names and e-mail addresses to send this bulletin to. In the spirit of community, please forward or print this bulletin for your neighbours who may not have an e-mail address or may not have provided us with it. Everyone living in the Mt. Tolmie area is welcome to become a member. A membership form has been included at the end of this bulletin. Membership benefits and forms are also available at this link <http://mtca.ca/membership.shtml>.

This bulletin and other updates will be posted on the Mt. Tolmie Bulletin Board located on the outside wall of Fairway Market between Fairway and Peoples Drug Mart in the Shelbourne Plaza.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is finally here and with it comes renewal. The Mount Tolmie Community Association is pleased to be part of that renewal process with our involvement with the planned upgrades for the mountain of our namesake – Mount Tolmie. The improvements planned by Saanich should add to the accessibility and beauty of the area. With our new bench we can have a place to sit and, looking at our new directional marker, discover new points of interest. It has been a pleasure working with Saanich Parks and Saanich Rotary toward these accomplishments.

We have a larger community association now because we incorporated some areas that had no formal representation. We welcome you and hope you will join in with us as we move forward.

We continue our work to improve our emergency centre and earthquake kiosk, located at St. Aidan's Church. We hope we never have to use it, but feel proud we are planning ahead.

The association is proud of the bonds we are creating with merchants and developers – building our community ties to improve the neighbourhood and the Shelbourne corridor.

An April ceremony marks the merchants at the Shelbourne Plaza becoming part of Block Watch – way to go and thanks to Association VP Marlene Bergstrom for her efforts in making this happen.

I wish you all the best as you enjoy your life in this wonderful community.

- Patty Mack

THE 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

Date: Thursday April 16, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: St. Aidan's Church, 3703 St. Aidan's Street, Classroom 2A/2B (main level)

The evening's guest speaker will be **Harold Stanley of Saanich's Planning Department**, who will present information about the Shelbourne Corridor Study.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Mt. Tolmie Executive, please submit your name, address, phone number and a brief bio to the MTCA Executive Committee **by April 6**.

For more information contact: Marlene Bergstrom: 472-2246, mbergs@shaw.ca, or visit www.mtca.ca

ANNOUNCEMENT

Official kick off of **Shelbourne Plaza's Business Block Watch**

Where: Shelbourne Plaza, near M&M Meat Shop, 3600 block of Shelbourne St.

When: April 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Attending: Mayor Leonard and Police Chief Constable Derek Egan

Events: Ribbon Cutting, Prize Draws, Food Samples, Mascots, & more

NEIGHBOURHOOD AND NEARBY DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

The **Hillside Mall** expansion has been scaled back.

- Parking will be changed and improved.
- Lots of trees will be planted.
- The diversity and types of stores will reflect the area's demographic trends towards an increasing student population.

A draft copy of blueprints is available from the Oaklands Community Centre & Association website http://www.oaklandscommunitycentre.com/association_activities, or directly http://www.oaklandscommunitycentre.com/files/Hillside_Renderings.pdf (4.8 MB).

Development of town homes and condominiums at **Cedar Hill and Cedar Hill Cross Rd** intersection:

- Saanich Council tabled this proposal due to a strong show of neighbourhood opposition to the height of the proposed 4-5 storey condominium at the February Saanich council meeting.

- Council felt the hurdles to be overcome are not large, and that the proponent and the neighbours can find an acceptable compromise.
- MTCA pointed out that the new sidewalk that would be created along its Cedar Hill Rd frontage would come to an abrupt end at the northern limit of this property. This well-travelled route is used by children heading to Cedar Hill School, elderly walkers, and others walking to Nellie McClung library or University Heights Mall. It would be dangerous to let this sidewalk terminate there, in mid-block, because there is little room for pedestrians on the shoulder of Cedar Hill Rd, and it would be a bad place to cross Cedar Hill Rd due to the steady traffic and poor sightlines.

Mount Tolmie Improvements

Last year the Mt. Tolmie Community Association applied for and received a grant from the municipality to place a park bench at the top of Mt. Tolmie. This year the Association applied to Saanich for a grant for a directional marker. The Rotary Club of Saanich is partnering with the MTCA in support of this project. We anticipate that these projects, which form part of a larger effort by Saanich for the beautification and enrichment of Mt. Tolmie, will bring members of the community together.

Saanich Parks is requesting approval from council to upgrade the lower side of Mount Tolmie Park Summit. More details about Mt. Tolmie enhancements are available here

<http://www.saanich.ca/resident/parks/MtTolmie.html>

Official Community Plan and Shelbourne Local Area Plan

The District of Saanich has recently completed a review and modifications to its *Official Community Plan*. Although the *Shelbourne Local Area Plan* has not yet been addressed, the OCP identifies a major centre (University Centre, Shelbourne@McKenzie) and a neighbourhood centre (Cedar Hill Centre, Shelbourne@Cedar Hill Cross) within the MTCA boundaries.

More info on the **Official Community Plan** is available here

<http://www.saanich.ca/business/development/plan/ocp.html>

The **Shelbourne Local Area Plan** is available here

http://www.saanich.ca/business/development/laps/shelbourne/Shelbourne_LAP.pdf

If you're curious about other developments, please see Saanich's *What's New In Your Neighbourhood* at <http://www.saanich.ca/business/development/applications/current.html>

How Rabbit Overpopulation at UVic is affecting the MTCA area

In response to residents' concerns, the Mt. Tolmie Community Association has established a Rabbit Committee.

Residents of the MTCA area have noticed that the rabbit population at the University of Victoria has been growing, and the rabbits have now established themselves in the MTCA area.

Concerns include:

- Traffic accidents due to other animals chasing rabbits into traffic
- Children running into traffic after the rabbits
- Overpopulation, which may result in an increase in predators, such as cougars, being attracted to the area
- Damage to plants and gardens
- Burrows, which can create dangerous potholes in playing fields

To keep abreast of some of the ways that the Association is addressing this issue, please see <http://www.mtca.ca/rabbits.shtml>

A reminder that the municipality sponsors **emergency preparedness workshops**. You can register for these free workshops from Saanich's Recreation Guides. The electronic program link is <http://www.saanich.ca/resident/recreation/E-Catalogue.html>. The next course is on Saturday, May 9 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Pearkes Recreation Centre.

Emergency Preparedness Links and Publications can be found here <http://www.saanich.ca/resident/safety/prep/link.html>

As always, your community website www.mtca.ca is full of great resources – like those ever-changing garbage schedules and tide times.

Mount Tolmie Community Association Membership Form: 2009

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please note: Your e-mail will be used only to circulate meeting notices, newsletters, and other association business. It will be never be shared with or sold to any other party.

Membership is \$10 per household or \$10 per business.

Please make your cheque payable to the Mount Tolmie Community Association and mail it with this form or drop it off to:

Mount Tolmie Community Association
c/o Marlene Bergstrom
1735 Kingsberry Crescent
Victoria BC
V8P 2A8