

MASSEY/VICTORY HEIGHTS RESIDENCE ASSOCIATION MEETING
Thursday, March 31, 2005

President Susan Wandell introduces guest speakers Caitlan Dobresku, City of New Westminster Proj. Engineer and Mark Gajb, City of New Westminster, Emergency Preparedness and Gavin Palmer, President of the Queensborough Residence Association who are visiting us tonight

WATER PRESSURE CHANGES – LOWER MASSEY HEIGHTS

Mr. Dobresku came to explain the problem of low vs high water pressure in some parts of the area bounded by 10th Avenue in the North, McBride in the West, 8th Avenue in the South and Cumberland to the East, and how they are going to fix it.

He strongly suggests that each homeowner install a pressure reducing valve (PRV) in their home at the water intake point. A plumber must install the unit with the cost of the valve being approximately \$100.00 and installation can put the cost upwards to \$400.00. If neighbours get together and hire a plumber en-masse they might be able to reduce the individual plumbing charge.

Mr. Dobresku explained that the higher up the hill the higher the water pressure.

June 6, 2205, the water pressure will be changing and all home owners should be prepared. The higher situated homes will see a reduction in pressure and the lower homes will see an increase in pressure.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

New Westminster will receive \$10,000 grant for a Federal Tsunami disaster planning strategy.

The City has decided to hire **COMMUNITY ALERT NETWORK**, a New York Company to install an emergency telephone software system which in an emergency situation can contact 25,000 people per hour through the phone system. It will cost the city \$10,000 per annum.

Questions were raised about if the telephone lines were down would the system work and privacy concerns were also raised. Mr. Gajb stated the City lawyers were working on the privacy issues in the contract and the system could be used for evacuations in flood situations, hostage situations and community threatened situations where the telephone lines would not be down.

New Westminster is the first municipality to have its own Emergency Radio Station 88.7 FM. It plays a looped recording in non-emergency times if anyone wants to listen to it.

There is a list of Clinics and Pharmacies available in emergencies so minor injuries do not clog our local emergency room.

City streets marked **EMERGENCY RESPONSE ROUTES ARE FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES ONLY IN AN EMERGENCY** and not evacuation routes as many residents thought. Alan Galambos can be reached at the provincial Ministry of Transportation about questions concerning the ad campaign for this issue that was never put out to educate the public.

GENERAL MEETING

Letters to the President:

- Invitation to the CandleLight Tribute for Victims of War at the Cenotaph on May 3, 2005. All wishing to attend should meet at the Royal Westminster Regiment at 6:45 p.m.
- Queensborough Residence Association sent out a letter to increase the number of councillors on City council to eight (8) from six (6). Only seven (7) residents responded to the inquiry.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Executive at their last meeting floated the idea of a 1ST Birthday Party for the Residence Association in June.

Elizabeth Van Os said that there was grant monies available and offered to look into getting a grant for the party and obtaining a venue for the event. She will also head the committee to plan this event.

Susan said a resident had suggested a community garage sale and there seemed to be some interest but no one offered to co-ordinate this event.

Canada Day Box Lunch donations – bring to June residence association meeting.

Still calling for volunteers for website design and neighbourhood logo design. Nancy Wark volunteered to work on the logo.

COMMUNITY POLICING

- traffic fine money should go directly to policing
- we should look into getting police officers back into the elementary schools
- Res. Assoc. should write a letter to the Police Board requesting two officers be assigned to schools

President Susan asked if anyone would volunteer to take over for Heather James as Secretary as she has so much on her plate. NO ONE VOLUNTEERED!!!

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2005 at 7 p.m. at Glenbrook Library – Guest Speaker will be Bob Westfall of the Citizen's Assembly on Voting.

Meeting adjourned 9:15 p.m.