



Summer/Fall 2022 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Members! Summer has arrived and with it comes some warm weather. Please be mindful to keep cool and check on our senior residents. The city has set up many cooling shelters for everyone to use. See <https://citypage.newwestcity.ca/196dd01c86759a0c5baf48ce3b81358a/heat-advisory-and-cooling-centre-information> for more information.

The MVHRA is on a summer break until our meeting in September where we will have mayoral candidates at our meeting to review their platforms. If you have questions to submit, please send them to president@masseyvictoryheights.com.

We are looking for new members to join our executive. Do you want to work toward making our neighbourhood even better? Do you have concerns or issues you'd like to see addressed? We are looking for few more directors at large to join us. We could do so much more on your behalf with more active members: more advocacy with City Hall on issues that concern you, more events to bring neighbours together and help create a sense of community.

Contact me at president@masseyvictoryheights.com if you are interested!

Your current executive is:

Sherry Messenger, President
Derek Deacon, Vice President
Danielle Karlsson, Treasurer
Deb Thomas, Secretary
Terry Tomcko, Webmaster
Chester Kmiec, Director at large

- Sherry Messenger, President

MESSAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I take such pleasure in walking in our neighbourhood – the thriving gardens, the friendly walkers, the quiet streets. Still, we know there are ways it could be even better – safer, more neighbourly, with some practical issues resolved that would make life a little easier. I was delighted that the Cothull family made the effort to apply for a neighbourhood small grant to host a block party on Burnaby Street. The party, held on July 16th, drew a crowd of about 40 local residents, each, at the Cothull's

request, bringing the flag from the country where they were born to highlight the wonderful diversity of our neighbourhood.



BLOCK PARTY GRANTS

The MVHRA would like to help future such efforts to bring neighbours together by offering small grants of \$100 each to residents interested in hosting their own block parties. **We are accepting applications now for 2022.** Starting in 2023, we will open the application process on the first day of spring. We will fund the first five applications we receive. You can find application forms on our website at: <http://www.masseyvictoryheights.com/>.

Deb Thomas, MVHRA Secretary & Newsletter Editor

GENERAL MEETINGS

Summer:

The MVHRA held a general meeting on June 9th that drew 33 local residents. It was the first in-person meeting we've hosted in since 2019. The invited speakers were Wendee Lang, Planning Analyst at the City of New Westminster, who spoke about laneway homes and carriage houses; Sid Johnson, a local resident who has been impacted by a neighbouring laneway house; and MVHRA sponsor and realtor John Cooke, who gave a market update.

Fall:

The MVHRA is planning a general meeting on September 22nd at 7 pm at Mount Zion Lutheran Church. This meeting will host mayoral candidates for brief presentations and a Q & A with local residents. So far, we have Ken Armstrong, running for the New West Progressives and Patrick Johnstone, running on the Community First ticket. To find out more about these candidates, check out their party's websites –<https://www.nwprogressives.ca/about-us/> and <https://www.communityfirstnw.ca/candidates>

A reminder about the meeting will be sent in September.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

This fall, on October 15, we will be electing mayors, councillors, and school district board members for municipalities in British Columbia.

If you want to ensure you are registered to vote or have questions about candidate nominations, candidate allowable expenses, making campaign contributions, dates for advance voting or any other questions about local elections, you can find answers here:

<https://elections.bc.ca/local-elections/2022-general-local-elections/>

We encourage you to VOTE!



**Massey Victory Heights Residents Association
PRESENTS our Second
HALLOWEEN HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST**

OCTOBER 22-31, 2022

THREE TOP PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED

To PARTICIPATE, register your home

BY: OCTOBER 16, 2022

at: halloweendecorations@masseyvictoryheights.com

To VOTE, email your **THREE FAVOURITE** homes **BY: OCTOBER 31, 2022**

at: halloweendecorations@masseyvictoryheights.com



JOIN IN AND BE PART OF THE FUN IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD!

Sponsored by John Cooke & the MVHRA

TRAFFIC ISSUES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

A number of residents contacted us recently about the new “traffic calming” measures at the intersection of Rickman Place and Cumberland. Our president, Sherry Messenger, conveyed your concerns to the City through Councillor Chinu Das who passed on our concerns to the City’s Engineering department. Below is the reply we recently received.

We encourage you to express your comments and concerns through the online survey to which Mr. Jankovic refers. There is also a discussion forum where you can share your comments and concerns with other residents.

Additionally, if you live on a street where a traffic calming measure like a speed hump might be helpful, we encourage you to follow through with the process to which Mr. Jankovic has linked below. Please email our president at president@masseyvictoryheights.com if there are ways that we can help to advocate to resolve traffic issues in the neighbourhood.

From: George Jankovic, Engineering Technologist

Subject: RE: Cumberland and Rickman Traffic

Hi Sherry,

Thank you for reaching out to the City with your concerns about the delineators on Cumberland St and Rickman Pl. I was also given a list of other concerns from your Residents’ Association from my colleague Lisa Wambaa that I’m happy to respond to as well.

The white delineators that have been installed at the Cumberland and Rickman intersection, along with many other intersections in the city, are temporary measures aimed at calming traffic within school zones. Although these measures may be seen as an aggressive approach, I have personally confirmed that larger passenger vehicles are able to make these turns without encroaching into oncoming traffic. As with many traffic-related changes, there will be a learning curve as drivers learn to adjust. However, these are temporary measures and may be adjusted depending on the feedback we receive on our [online survey](#) and staff observations. I encourage you and the other members of the Residents’ Association to fill out the survey if you haven’t already done so. The intent of these changes is to encourage slower and more careful driving in school zones and we expect they should improve road safety for pedestrians, particularly at times when crossing guards are not available. Children will still be going to the school to play on the field or playground during summer and after school hours and these types of measures are self-enforcing and in effect at all times. There are always trade-offs with traffic calming and we hope to find the right balance once we have heard back from the community on our survey, while noting that school traffic safety is a high priority for the City.

I understand that there were requests at your RA meeting for speed humps on various roads. The City has a [speed hump request process](#) that I suggest you follow. By following the process, staff will collect and analyze traffic volume and speed data to see if speed humps are warranted and if they’re supported by the majority of residents on that particular street. With that being said, there are some streets, like East Eighth Avenue where the City will not support the installation of speed humps. East Eighth Avenue is a part-time truck route, transit route, collector road and quite steep on certain sections. All of these factors together make East Eighth Avenue unsuitable for speed humps.

In regards to traffic concerns on Surrey Street, the City expects to begin construction on the permanent design this year. We have done extensive [public engagement](#) on this project and are confident that the situation will improve once construction is complete.

City staff will review the lighting in the East Eighth Avenue pedestrian underpass to see if we can potentially improve it without using a significant amount of resources as our budget for these spot improvements is limited and must be used strategically. The pedestrian signal at this intersection may be used as an alternative for those who are uncomfortable with the underpass.

City staff will visit the intersection of Jackson Cr and York St to see what issues there are with traffic operations and how we might adjust them if warranted. I will follow up with you regarding any recommendations or next steps for this intersection.

Again, thank you for reaching out to the City with your concerns. Staff rely on the community to provide feedback in areas that we may not notice has issues ourselves.

- END -

MEMBER SURVEY ON TRAFFIC

In a 2021 survey of residents, traffic was the top community issue for those that responded. The MVHRA Executive would like more information on your specific traffic concerns so that we can advocate effectively with City Hall on your behalf.

Please share your concerns about traffic in the neighbourhood with us!

Recent traffic issues in our neighbourhood include the Surrey/Tenth/Cariboo intersection and the traffic calming initiatives on Surrey Street and the Cumberland/Rickman changes in traffic patterns near the crosswalk to the FW Howay Elementary. What other concerns do you have about parking, traffic patterns, traffic safety?

Please share them with us by emailing them to: secretary@masseyvictoryheights.com.

We'll create a report on the nature of your concerns and share it with newsletter subscribers. The report will also help inform the executive's advocacy on traffic issues.

Thanks to our sponsor, John Cooke, for his generous support.



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