



## Winter/Spring 2022 Newsletter

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our Winter/Spring 2022 Newsletter!

The past 2 Covid 19 years have affected all of us in different ways, I am sure. Welcome to resuming our lives with a slow re-opening. Welcome to being able to gather at our first face-to-face meeting in over two years. We look forward to meeting everyone for a meaningful engagement on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. We have in every way - with virtual meetings, our newsletter, the Halloween House Decorating contest, and our Little Free Library in Victory Heights Park among other efforts - tried to keep our association engaged these past 2 years. I thank our sponsor John Cooke for enabling our efforts with his financial support. We are planning several activities to meet with our members throughout the year. I wish you all a successful 2022.

Regards,

Sherry Messenger, MVHRA President

### MESSAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Spring is around the corner, the crocuses are in bloom, and the bees are returning. As the province and the country gradually opens up after two years of pandemic restrictions, the Massey Victory Heights Residents Association is opening up to in-person engagement – with the return of our annual garage sale in May and the general meeting mentioned above at the Mount Zion Church instead of by Zoom.

As a result, we are scaling down our quarterly newsletter to a bi-annual newsletter – keeping you informed of our activities on your behalf. We will continue to send out occasional news blasts with timely and important news and notices of meeting and other events.

Enjoy the lovely gardens in our neighbourhood as the blooms gradually emerge over the next few months – and join us in May for the garage sale and June for the general meeting!

Deb Thomas, MVHRA Secretary & Newsletter Editor

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We held an annual general meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup>. A new president, Sherry Messenger, and a new Vice President, Derek Deacon, were elected. Chester Kniec joined us as a new Director-at-Large. Our speakers were Sharat Chandra, Chief Project Officer and Executive Director of the Royal Columbian Hospital Re-development Project, who gave us an informative overview of the phases completed to date and timelines for yet to be completed development. Deputy Chief Constable Paul Hyland spoke about reforms currently underway in the way that the New Westminster Police perform their work. He referenced their supporting role in the Peer Assisted Crisis Team (PACT) pilot project managed by the Canadian Mental Health Association to help address issues resulting from people with mental health and substance abuse issues. Detailed minutes from the meeting can be found at <http://www.masseyvictoryheights.com/minutes.html>



## GENERAL MEETING

Our next general meeting is on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Mount Zion Lutheran Church, basement entrance. The speaker will be Wendee Lang, Planning Analyst, Climate Action, Planning and Development for the City of New Westminster. She will be speaking on the Laneway and Carriage House as well as Phase One of the Infill Housing Monitoring work. She will provide background and an overview of both, as well as some detail as to how privacy and planning for parking – both issues that will affect neighbouring homes – will be reviewed. Her presentation will be followed by a Q&A, a brief presentation by an MVH resident who has had an experience with a neighbour's laneway house, and finally a market overview from MVHRA's sponsor, realtor John Cooke. Details on any Covid guidelines and other information for attending the meeting will be sent via email closer to the date.

## GARAGE SALE

We are delighted to be able to offer our annual garage sale once again thanks to the lifting of pandemic restrictions. The 17th Annual Garage Sale is planned for May 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Registration closes April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6:00 pm. You can download a registration form on our website.

<http://www.masseyvictoryheights.com/>

You must be a member to participate. Membership is \$10 per household. You can find a membership form on our website at: <http://www.masseyvictoryheights.com/membership.html>



## TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Only \$10 per household allows you to participate in the annual garage sale and the Halloween Decorating Contest – and supports our work on your behalf. Download a membership form at:

<http://www.masseyvictoryheights.com/membership.html>

## POLICE COMMITTEE

Executive member Ron Bain is a member of the City's Police Committee and can pass on any ongoing concerns you may have about safety and other police matters. You can contact him at

[masseyvictoryheights@gmail.com](mailto:masseyvictoryheights@gmail.com). We will be following up on recent thefts of catalytic converters.

## Recent Issues:

There have been numerous reports over the last few years of **thefts of catalytic converters** from vehicles for the precious metals contained in them.

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, a resident of our neighbourhood was pepper-sprayed when confronting thieves attempting to remove the catalytic converter from a vehicle. The New West police file # is 22-3335. The police are asking if anyone has video footage of the street from 2:30AM to 3:30AM on that day.

See <https://www.nwpolice.org/blog/2022/03/08/victim-pepper-sprayed-by-catalytic-converter-thieves/>. If you have any information or video footage for this incident, please call the New West police at 604 525 5411 and quote police file# 22-3335.

See also new BC regulations designed to curb these thefts: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/catalytic-converter-theft-regulations-1.6385392>

There has also been a reported incident of a man (*Caucasian, blue eyes, late 60s early 70s*) in a green Toyota pick-up truck helping himself to items from a backyard in the neighbourhood on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. The resident caught him in the act and he returned the items. Police reported that this was not an isolated incident. If you are aware of or witness any other incidents involving this man taking items from other yards, please report them as indicated below:

To report a crime that is an emergency, please call **9-1-1**. To report a crime that is not an emergency, please visit the [online reporting page](#), call the non-emergency line at 604-525-5411 or go to the police station at 555 Columbia Street.

We recommend reporting all such incidents to the police as this helps them establish patterns of theft behaviour and respond accordingly.

## LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

The Little Free Library that the MVHRA has installed in Victory Heights Park is being well filled by local residents with books for both adults and children. Thank you! And residents are also taking books to read and perhaps return for others when they are done.

A note about the kinds of books we prefer to be donated. We prefer books and magazines that are in reasonably good condition, pages and covers intact:

- Novels in hardcover or paperback
- Factual books in hardcover or paperback
- Magazines of enduring interest (examples: home decorating, gardening, wildlife, children's magazines)  
*Please donate in small quantities as space in the library is limited.*

We prefer **not** to receive:

- Old text books
- Multiple copies of the same book
- Books in poor condition

**Please remember** to close the door firmly after browsing to protect the books from the weather – and do not leave books lying on the ground. Thanks for your cooperation.

If you haven't checked out the Little Free Library, feel free to do so! There are books for all ages and different reading tastes currently there for the taking.



## WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE CITY IS DOING AND HAVE YOUR SAY?

A few great sources of local news:

- <https://www.newwestrecord.ca/> - you can subscribe to daily emails or a weekly digest.
- <https://www.newwestcity.ca/citypage/> - You can subscribe to have this sent to you or by email or go to this link to read the latest City news.

If you want to give input on City Issues, you can find out more about the issues on which Council is currently working at <https://www.beheardnewwest.ca/> – issues like indoor and outdoor sports court usage and the Homelessness Action Strategy.

You need to register to provide input. This ensures that those providing the input are actually New Westminster residents.

## REAL ESTATE MARKET REPORT

I hope everyone had a great fall/winter season. I'm sure we're all ready for some sun and the spring season a few weeks away.

The market for detached homes in Massey Victory Heights through the fall/winter was very active with the continuation of more record sales. A total of 16 homes sold in the past 3 months and 24 in the past 6 months within 14 days on average with the majority of them going into multiple offers and 17 selling above list price. They are currently 16 active listings in our neighbourhood as of March 8.

What continues to help drive the market is historically low interest rates and low inventory. Even with the most recent hike in interest rates, the market will continue to be strong as it's mainly driven by supply and demand. We'll see more listings become available after spring break. Will there be enough inventory to slow the market down? We'll have to wait and see. If you're looking to make a move or just have questions, please reach out as I'm here to help in any way I can.

John Cooke, Keller Williams Elite Realty

Your local neighborhood Realtor

[www.johncookehomes.com](http://www.johncookehomes.com)

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**Thanks to John Cooke for his generous sponsorship of the  
Massey Victory Heights Residents Association**



Each office is Independently owned and operated



*Our thoughts are with those of you with friends and family in and near Ukraine, as we know this is an extremely frightening and troubling time*

You can also connect with us on [Facebook](#) and our [Website](#).