

Walking Through Vancouver's Norquay Village with Kids...

Reflections on community mapping by Viviana Herrera and Kae Angus



The following describes our experiences leading a community mapping project with the Environmental Youth Alliance (EYA). The Youth Community Asset Mapping team at EYA worked with a group of Grade 6 students from Norquay Elementary to explore the community and get a sense of what children and youth think about their neighbourhood. Walking through the neighbourhood, and along Kingsway, the children were asked to take pictures of things they liked or disliked about the area. We realized that Norquay Park was the most important part of this area for the kids because they took more pictures there than any other location we visited. We went back to the class afterwards (with the developed photos) and they wrote on the back of each one why they took each picture; these comments and the photos were used to create a map showing neighborhood assets and challenges, which we presented with a final report to the planners and the working groups. Although these kids are at such an early stage of their lives they can be very observant: they know what they like and not like about where they live. Before this project we hadn't really thought about who is asked when it comes to deciding what changes to make in the city. In neighborhood planning projects, we've learned it's important to get the views from all age groups.

The neighbourhood assets and challenges map created by EYA will be on display at the Open Houses November 1 and 2.



Norquay Village Neighbourhood Centre Kick-Off Event Attracts 250 Visitors

Mayor Sam Sullivan and Councillors Suzanne Anton and Kim Capri were on hand to open the Norquay Village Neighbourhood Centre Kick-Off event at the Renfrew Park Community Centre on March 25, 2006. About 250 people viewed displays and talked to City Planning and Engineering staff about the neighbourhood centre program. Photos of ideas such as better sidewalks, safer crossings, banners, plantings and public art stimulated discussion. There was lots of interest in the new housing types such as rowhouses, cottages and duplexes and infill houses. A local band, the Jazzmanian Devils warmed up the crowd.

CONTACT US

Neighbourhood Centre Program

For more information

Phone: 604-873-7461 or 604-871-6423

Web: www.vancouver.ca/norquayvillage
june.christy@vancouver.ca or
kathleen.kern@vancouver.ca

Living in Community

Living in Community is a two-year, city-wide project to develop an integrated approach to increase the health and safety of all community members in relation to the impacts of sex work on neighbourhoods. The project is a collaboration of community, business and government organizations. A series of neighbourhood dialogues will be held throughout the fall/winter of 2006/07 to engage diverse community members in developing strategies to increase health and safety for everyone. The dialogue for Renfrew Collingwood will be held at:

Collingwood Neighbourhood House
Wednesday, November 1st, 6:00-9:00 pm.

This is your opportunity to participate in developing an Action Plan to make your neighbourhood healthier and safer for each and every community member. Hope to see you there!

For more information check out:
www.livingincommunity.ca or phone (604)254-5401.

Come to the Open Houses

TO SEE IDEAS FROM THE DESIGN CHARRETTE

Wednesday and Thursday,
November 1st and 2nd, 2006
6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

John Norquay Elementary School: 2nd Floor,
 Staff Room and Lobby. 4710 Slocan Street



NORQUAY VILLAGE

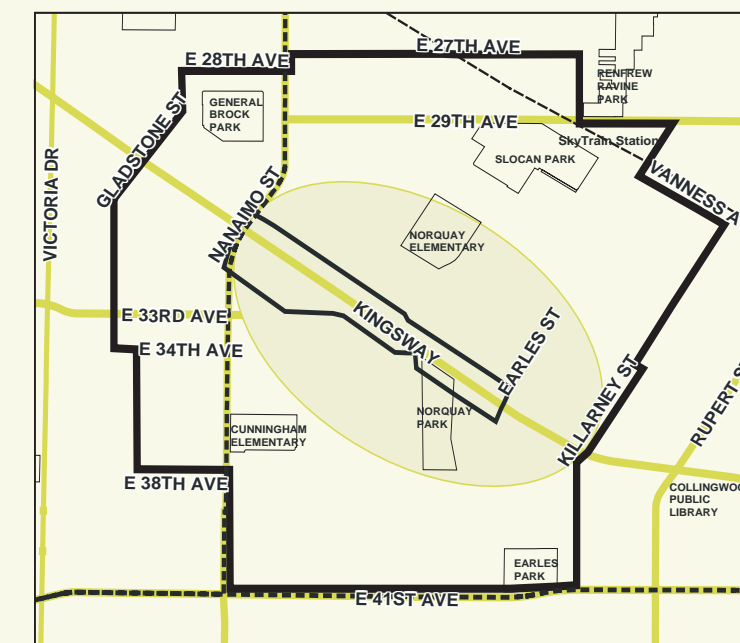
Neighbourhood Centre Program

(內頁載有中文版通訊)

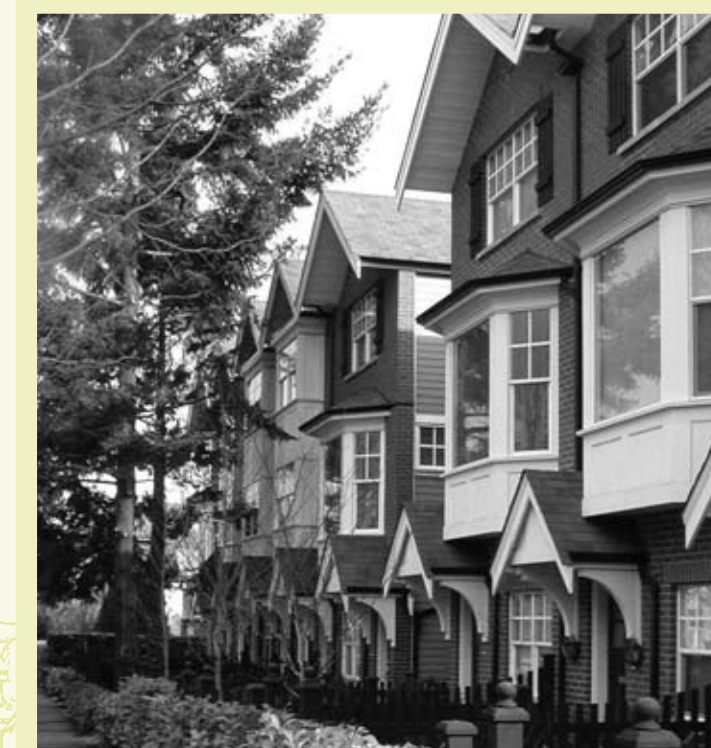


The Norquay Village Neighbourhood Center Program

(NCP) is a City program whose goal is to transform the shopping area along Kingsway between Nanaimo and Earles into a pedestrian-oriented, mixed use shopping area with new small-scale housing around it. Street improvements on Kingsway between Nanaimo and Earles could include street trees, medians, new sidewalks, safer street crossings and public art. New housing will include rowhouses, infill, small houses, cottages and duplexes and some 3 or 4 storey apartments. (see map on last page.) This program follows the success of a pilot neighbourhood centre program at Kingsway and Knight. This is the second in a series of newsletters about the program.



- RC Vision: Potential for new housing choices
- RC Vision: Shopping Area
- Study Area
- Major Arterials
- Skytrain
- Vision Area Boundary



Come to the Open Houses

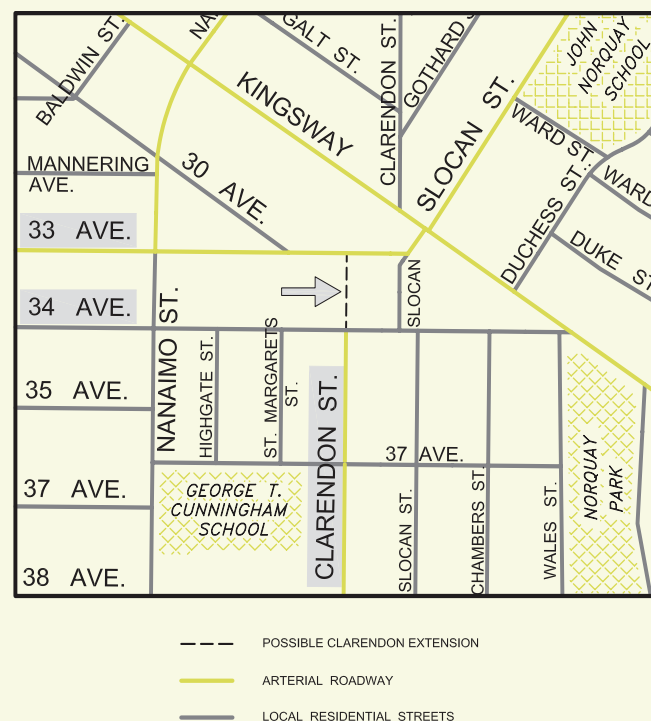
TO SEE IDEAS FROM THE DESIGN CHARRETTE

Wednesday and Thursday,
November 1st and 2nd, 2006
6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

John Norquay Elementary School: 2nd Floor,
 Staff Room and Lobby. 4710 Slocan Street



Introduction to the “CLARENDON CONNECTOR”



Clarendon Street is currently designated as a secondary arterial. Normally, secondary arterials connect directly to the City's arterial street network. Over 6,000 vehicles per day are distributed onto some of the local residential streets as motorists have to find their way from Clarendon and 34th Avenue to access the City's arterial street network. The volumes exceed that which residential streets are normally expected to carry. Connecting Clarendon Street to 33rd Ave from 34th Ave would reduce traffic volumes on 34th Avenue and Nanaimo Street to levels more consistent with the design of these local residential roadways and provide a direct route to the arterial network. The City would consider mitigating any increases in traffic volumes on Clarendon south of 34th Avenue by reclassifying Clarendon to a “collector street” and installing traffic calming devices.

Several years ago, the City purchased four properties between 34th and 33rd Avenue to facilitate the proposed extension of Clarendon. Last December, the City demolished the house at 2458 East 33rd Ave and will demolish the house at 2451 E. 34th Avenue this fall because of expensive repairs required to maintain the buildings in rentable condition. The City will fence and maintain these vacant lots until a final decision to extend Clarendon Street to 33rd Avenue has been made.

Engineering staff will be on hand to answer any questions you may have at the Open Houses for the Norquay Village Neighbourhood Center on November 1st and 2nd (see front page for details). Contact Joe Dingwall, Strategic Transportation Planning, at (604) 871-6471 for more information.

The City is examining whether to extend Clarendon Street from 34th Avenue to 33rd Avenue. Presently Clarendon “dead-ends” at 34th Ave. The timing for the extension, including public consultation, is not known until a review of the function of Clarendon Street is completed. This includes its possible reclassification from “secondary arterial” to “collector” and funding for traffic calming. Public consultation will take place in the neighbourhoods near Clarendon, Elliott and Slocan when the review is underway.

The City's Transportation Plan was approved by City Council in May 1997. One of the Plan's directions was the reclassification of several streets from “secondary arterials” to “collectors,” as well as the implementation of traffic calming measures on some of the newly designated collector streets.

Shopping Area Working Group Update



The Shopping Area Working Group (SAWG) is made up of twelve volunteers who are local business owners, property owners and residents. The group plays a critical role by assisting staff in developing a public realm plan and pedestrian + traffic improvement plan for the shopping area. SAWG has been meeting bi-weekly since April. During these meetings, the Working Group has been learning about the range of streetscape and pedestrian safety improvements that could be applied to Kingsway to make it a distinct and pedestrian friendly neighbourhood centre. This included a tour of other neighbourhood shopping areas in Vancouver and the North Shore to examine a diverse range of streetscape configurations and solutions.

SAWG has explored both problematic issues and untapped opportunities on Kingsway and developed some guiding principles. Working group members articulated their desire to see a Kingsway streetscape that was clean, consistent, coherent and distinct. Some of the issues explored included:

- ▶ the large distance between signalized pedestrian crossings, especially between Slocan and Earles;
- ▶ the inconsistent sidewalk treatment along Kingsway;
- ▶ the lack of adequate garbage cans and greenery;
- ▶ and the high rate of storefront vacancies and missing essential neighbourhood services (i.e. a bank, a café, a large grocery store).

In October SAWG members will work with staff in a 'charrette' to generate ideas and design solutions for the Kingsway streetscape. The results will be on display at the Open Houses on November 1 and 2.

Norquay SAWG Members include: Rita Achtemichuk, Rob Allen, Annette Anderson, Steve Cheung, Alessandro Fantinato, Denise Fantinato, Allan Gjernes, Giovanni Hrelia, Dr. Carol Macpherson, Dominique MacKay, Brad O'Connell, Paul Reid.

2400 Motel Update

The 2400 Motel site is city-owned and located in the core of the Norquay Village shopping area. The City is currently undergoing a process to determine the future of the 2400 Motel site. The RC Vision identifies it as a special site which if redeveloped should include commercial and/or residential uses and amenities. It is hoped that redevelopment will create a catalyst for transforming this section of Kingsway into an animated pedestrian-oriented mixed use area. The 2400 Motel is also considered a heritage site as it is the only surviving intact examples of the post-war rise of automobile-related Motor Court development.

James Burton of Birmingham and Wood Architects was retained by the City to create a Statement of Significance (SOS) for the site. An SOS is a short document that identifies the heritage values of the site and provides an understanding of the factors that contribute to the site's significance. The SOS will form the basis for the second phase which will identify potential development scenarios and their evaluation in the light of evaluation criteria from the community, heritage advocates and market realities. The scenarios could range from retaining the site as a working motel with improvements to enhance its viability through to urban development with retention of some character defining elements. This phase will be led by the consulting team of Hotson Bakker Architect & Coriolis Consulting with input from community groups, R-C City plan committee, interested residents, the housing and shopping working groups and heritage groups. Public consultation will include working group sessions/charrettes and a public open house for R-C residents and business owners.

For more information about the SOS, the 2400 process, and upcoming open houses, check out our website at www.vancouver.ca/norquayvillage or phone June Christy at (604) 871-6114



Housing Area Working Group Update



The Housing Area Working Group (HAWG) has been meeting bi-weekly since April 2006. Fourteen Renfrew Collingwood residents have volunteered their time to help City staff come up with housing plan options for public review in January 2007. The new RT-10 and RM-1 zones will be considered. These zones deliver row houses and low rise apartments (RM-1) and cottages, small houses, duplexes and infill (RT-10). Through area tours and exercises, the HAWG have become familiar with the special features and attributes of the Norquay Village housing area. In October, the HAWG participated in an all day design charrette with City planning, engineering and urban design staff, parks planners and landscape architects. They helped to generate different housing plan options as well as linkages and greenway ideas. See the results at the Open Houses on Nov. 1st and 2nd (see front page). These will be a lead-up to an open house and survey in January.

Working Group Members include: Bill Yuen, Heather Taylor, Shawn Lawrie, Desmond Loo, Richard Main, Margaret Johnstone, Doug Fouchalk, Janet Woo, and Annette LaBrosse - Missing are: Scott Kennedy, Ron LaBrosse, Wei Ping Li, Richard Lui, and David Boote and Marg Relova.

Eldorado Hotel Update

The rezoning application received approval by City Council in January. The development will be constructed in two phases and includes residential and commercial; a maximum density of 3.6 FSR. The form will be a 22 storey-residential tower at the corner of Kingsway and Nanaimo, a 7 storey residential tower along Nanaimo Street, residential units above commercial uses along Kingsway and townhouse units along East 30th Ave. There will be approximately 39,128 sq. ft. of commercial floor area. A fully equipped child day care facility is a community amenity contribution. R-C residents and staff have provided initial input for a public art plan for the site. Phase 1 and 2 will each have a public art component. Artist(s) will be retained through an open competition.

Contact Doug Robinson at (604) 871-6091 or Joanne Baxter at (604) 871-6656 for further information.

