



AUGUST 2009

Mount Pleasant

PARKS AND RECREATION NEWS



Hello Mount Pleasant!

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation provides the green spaces and leisure facilities that contribute to Vancouver's rank as one of the most liveable cities in the world. Long-term planning, informed by community consultation, subject-expert advice and staff research and recommendations, guides the work of the Board and helps us make decisions about where and how new services are provided.

This newsletter is distributed to Mount Pleasant residents to give you an update on – and a sneak peek at – the city's newest two recreation resources. Why? Because our state-of-the-art community and aquatic centres due to open soon are located in the heart of, and just south of, the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood!

We are proud of these two new world-class facilities, and want to share our excitement with those who will benefit most directly from the programs and services they will provide. In these pages, you will learn more about our newest community centre located at 1 Kingsway and our destination aquatic centre at Hillcrest Park. Future editions of Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation News will provide you with information on how to get involved in upcoming public consultations, as we move forward on the next phase of redevelopment of Mount Pleasant Park.



Two New Facilities - Closer Than You Think

Mount Pleasant – one of the oldest and most diverse communities in Vancouver – and some might say, one of the luckiest. Why? After nearly a dozen years of consultation, planning, debate and designing, the newest community centre in the city is set to open in the neighbourhood.

Goodbye to an old friend

Plans to replace Mount Pleasant Community Centre (MPCC) have been underway since 2001, after the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (Park Board) accepted an engineer's report outlining numerous structural inadequacies. The MPCC, built in 1966, is approaching the end of its lifespan, but will operate until staff move to the new location at Kingsway and Main Street by the end of the year.

Say hello to two beautiful new spaces

The move will mean programs and services currently provided at 16th and Ontario will

soon be delivered at Mount Pleasant Centre – a gleaming multi-service civic centre with virtually everything under one roof. The heart of the building is the new Community Centre, 24% bigger and only one kilometre away from the old site, featuring a gym and climbing wall, a fitness centre, dance studio, multi-purpose rooms and outdoor space. Mount Pleasant Centre will also house a new Vancouver Public Library, Child Development Centre, café and market value rental housing.

The second beautiful new space is located just to the south: a new Aquatic Centre at Hillcrest Park. This facility has been built as a city-wide swim destination, is just 1.5 kilometres from the MPCC pool. The 6,100 square metre centre boasts the largest pool in the city, plus a 70-person hot pool, leisure pool and new seasonal/outdoor pool.

The Aquatic Centre will be open to the public in early 2010, while the Community Centre at 1 Kingsway is gearing up to host programs and services in the late fall of this year.

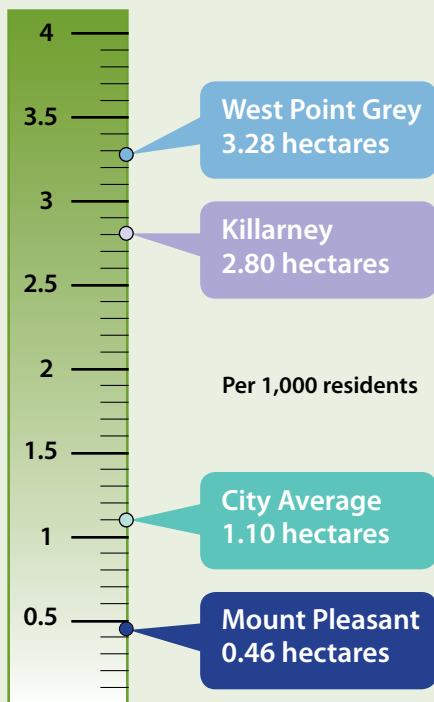
So what happens next?

Public consultation will take place this fall, inviting community input into redevelopment of the site of the existing Mount Pleasant Park. Residents will have an opportunity to share their points of view on the existing pool, alternatives for the old building, as well as park amenities such as community gardens, mini fields and playgrounds.



The Mount Pleasant Community Centre at 1 Kingsway will be the city's newest facility and easily accessible via three major transit lines.

More Parks for Mount Pleasant



For more than 120 years, the Park Board has purchased lands which provide the trees and green spaces that we all enjoy. Over the years, some neighbourhoods have become much greener than others. In fact, Mount Pleasant is one of the most park-deficient areas of the city, with a very low people-to-parkland ratio. The Park Board is trying to improve Mount Pleasant's second-to-last ranking in the neighbourhood park ratio; it is one of the key factors behind the move to re-green the MPCC site.

Of 23 neighbourhoods across the City of Vancouver, Mount Pleasant ranks second from last, in terms of the ratio of park land per 1,000 residents.

Aquatic Services Review: Highlights

In order to make the best long-term decisions on future pool developments, in 2000 the Park Board commissioned a comprehensive Aquatic Services Review. Conducted over 16 months in 2000-2001 – with input from the public – the Review provided a 10 to 15 year strategy to help the Board reconfigure swim services and facilities, while addressing issues of aging pool infrastructure and meeting the needs of an expanding population.

The report provided data and made a number of recommendations, both of which have guided the Board's decision-making. The Review found that while continued investment in a select few seasonal pools should be maintained, no new stand-alone outdoor pools should be developed. Rather, the report noted that a focus on new indoor facilities would provide much greater value for money, and lead to a 70% increase in pool usage over the long term.



Popular Killarney Community Pool was the first new one completed following the Aquatic Services Review.

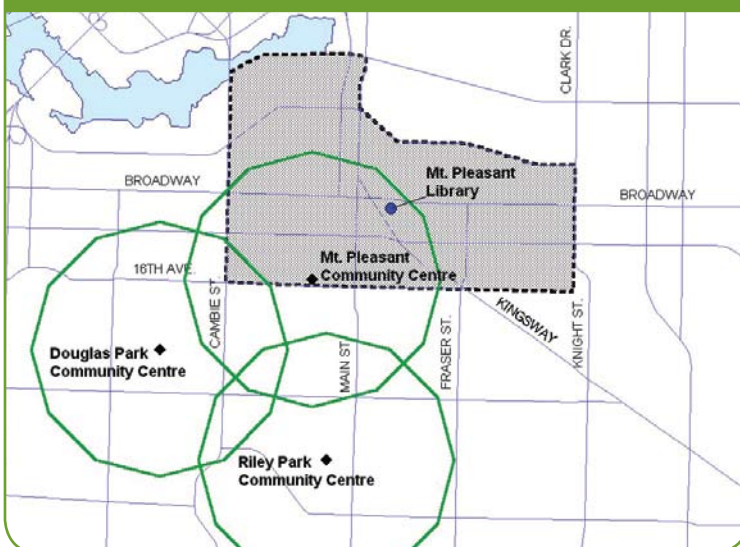
The Aquatic Centre at Hillcrest Park is a spectacular result of the Review. The facility includes a new outdoor pool, and brings the total number of seasonal pools to five (with the addition of Second Beach, New Brighton, Kitsilano and Maple Grove).

Access For Everyone - Serving All Mount Pleasant Residents Equally

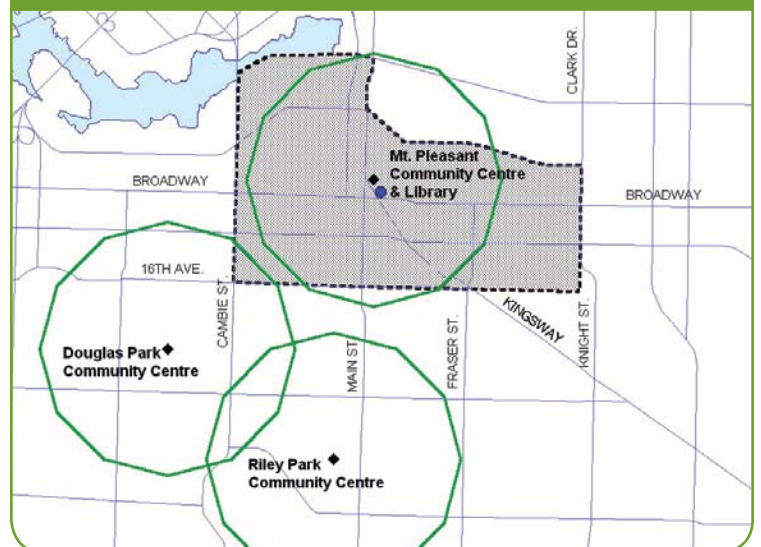
Since publication of the first Mount Pleasant Community Development Plan in 1987, the Park Board has worked to ensure that green spaces and recreational facilities are evenly distributed across city neighbourhoods. The original location of the Mount Pleasant Community Centre placed three facilities in very close proximity to one

another (image left, below). Completion of Mount Pleasant Centre at 1 Kingsway puts the new Mount Pleasant Community Centre in the heart of the neighbourhood and better serves all Mount Pleasant residents (image on right). The black dotted lines around the light grey areas denotes the boundaries of the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood.

Community Centres – 1km radius – BEFORE Relocation



Community Centres – 1km radius – AFTER Relocation



Charting the Course

Finding optimal ways to provide Mount Pleasant residents with recreational programs and services has been a focus of the Park Board's agenda for over 10 years. Here is a timeline of our decision-making processes, in partnership with the Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association.

Planning began in 1996, when Gage-Babcock & Associates Ltd., with PBK Architects, conducted and submitted a comprehensive Facility Review to the Park Board. The report notes that the 30-year-old Mount Pleasant Community Centre

(MPCC) suffers from a multitude of building deficiencies. That report was the basis for long term planning with a goal of providing new facilities and improved green spaces for residents.

1999
to
2002

- 1999: Park Board agrees MPCC should be relocated or replaced, works closely with Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association (MPCCA) representatives to consider new facility site
- 2001: Selection and purchase of 1 Kingsway site; decision made to share location with other City services, creating a one-stop civic service site
- 309 residents respond to 2001 Recreation Survey
- 2002: Aquatic Services Review presents Park Board with 10-15 year strategy reconfiguring aquatic services in a fiscally sustainable way
- 917 comment sheets are collected by Park Board staff providing public comment on the Aquatic Services Review recommendations

2003
to
2005

- 2003: MPCCA works with City of Vancouver on Mount Pleasant Child Development Service Needs and Preference Assessment. The report leads City of Vancouver to include childcare services at 1 Kingsway
- Public consultation, ongoing from 2001 into 2003. Initiatives include: distribution of two project newsletters; creation of 1 Kingsway Building Committee with two MPCCA members; continuous information on Park Board and City websites; distribution of community recreation survey; meetings with MPCCA Board; public open house
- 2004: Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association approves 1 Kingsway building design on condition of continued consultation re: redevelopment of old site. Based on MPCCA approval, Park Board approves design
- 2005: Public meeting considers options for site renewal. Public opinion favours keeping existing pool and/or construction of new pool at park site. Community delegations commit to identifying funding to pay for pool option
- 78 citizens make presentations to Commissioners and staff on 2006-2008 Park Board Capital Plan

2006
to
2009

- 2006: City of Vancouver 2006-2008 Capital Plan allocates \$4.8 million to child care initiatives; a Mount Pleasant Child Development Centre is identified as a priority
- 2007: Staff reports to Planning Committee that continued operation of MPCC pool not feasible under existing allocations, recommends \$1 million addition to site redevelopment fund (2009-2011 Capital Plan), to cover cost of water play area
- 2008: City of Vancouver and MPCCA advance feasibility, design and project cost studies, related to creation of new Mount Pleasant Child Development Centre on site at Simon Fraser Elementary school
- 2009-2011 Capital Plan does not include additional \$1 million for Mount Pleasant pool
- 2009: Concerned at a possible gap between closing MPCC and launch of Mount Pleasant Child Development Centre, Park Board staff recommend options to ensure child care availability until City and MPCCA fund a permanent solution



A wide variety of exciting programs for all ages will be available at the new Community Centre.



Our parks provide a wealth of opportunities for families to play outdoors in their own neighborhood.



Public consultation around 1 Kingsway began as soon as the site was purchased in 2001.

Questions & Answers

Q: Why is the Mount Pleasant Community Centre being closed?

A: Built in 1966, MPCC is one of the oldest of the Park Board's recreation facilities. It suffers from a wide range of deficiencies, identified by engineering consultants in 1996. Program staff and services are being moved to a brand new facility located at 1 Kingsway later this year.

Q: Why has park board staff recommended closing the Mount Pleasant Pool?

A: The recommendation to close the pool was contained in the 2001 Aquatic Services Review. The existing pool is failing, and a brand new Aquatic Centre is opening in the Spring of 2010. Building new seasonal pools does not make economic sense. Investments in indoor facilities provide far greater value.

Q: Didn't City Council pass a motion to work with the Park Board to provide operating funds to keep the pool open until a replacement pool is built?

A: City Council and several Park Boards have committed to keep the pool going under several conditions; key among these has been operating the pool until a replacement facility opens. The MPCC pool is currently open through the regularly scheduled 2009 summer swim season and a new Aquatic Centre at Hillcrest Park will be open in Spring 2010.



Sneak peek! The 667 square metre gymnasium in the new community centre is nearing completion.

Q: Why isn't there a pool at the new Mount Pleasant Community Centre at 1 Kingsway?

A: The newest pools in the city are just south of Mount Pleasant: the Aquatic Centre at Hillcrest Park will be open in early 2010, and contains a 50 metre lap pool, a leisure pool, as well as a hot pool and an outdoor pool.

Q: What is going to happen to the old MPCC building? What does the Park Board plan to do with the land?

A: The Board has yet to make final decisions about the future of the old building, and the way in which the site may be re-greened. To

aid in that decision-making, the Board has already committed to undertake public consultations this fall, to gather feedback from the community.

Q: Why can't the Board simply leave the pool as part of a future Mount Pleasant park?

A: The pool is at the end of its lifespan. Staff is dealing with costly issues including repairing pool leaks and rusty pipes, struggling to keep outdated filtering and mechanical systems going – and coping with an aging chlorination system.

This notice contains important information that may affect you. Please ask someone to translate it for you.

此通告刊載有可能影響閣下的重要資料。請找人為你翻譯。

ਇਸ ਨੋਟਿਸ ਵਿਚ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹੈ ਜੋ ਕਿ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਲਈ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਹੋ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਉਲੱਥਾ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਆਖੋ।

Thông báo này có tin tức quan trọng có thể ảnh hưởng đến quý vị. Xin nhờ người phiên dịch hộ.

Este aviso contiene información importante que puede afectarle personalmente. Pídale a alguien que se lo traduzca.

Ce document contient des renseignements importants qui pourraient vous concerner. Veuillez demander à quelqu'un de vous le traduire.



Mount Pleasant Centre at #1 Kingsway was built to target LEED™ Gold certification. The building includes green features such as rainwater holding cisterns for irrigation, heating and cooling by ground-sourced heat pumps and a green roof.

For More Information

This fall, the Park Board will be seeking additional public input on the future of the old Mount Pleasant Community Centre and 16th and Ontario site. Further information will be posted online and published in future editions of Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation News.

Until then, you can read more about the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, including reports, past community consultation processes and future Park Board meetings at:

vancouverparks.ca