



“Working to enhance the value and quality of living in historic Shaughnessy”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS — 2002-2003

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President's Message

Dear fellow SHPOA members,

I have been elected by the SHPOA board to be President for this year. To me, this is both a challenge and an honour, and I am committed to doing my best in promoting SHPOA and making it a voice that counts at City Hall. With our new 2002-2003 board, we have a new spirit to uphold traditional values, and a lot of initiatives have been or will be undertaken to make SHPOA a stronger organization, one that will be in closer touch with our members and be more responsive to your concerns.

candidates from all the major parties as well as a good group of independents, and also by having Mr. Jack Volrich, former Mayor of Vancouver, as our emcee and moderator. It was a successful meeting, with very high attendance. We also used this opportunity to invite some neighbouring groups such as various residents' associations to this meeting, so that we could start a dialogue with them. On issues such as density and traffic, there may be common interests among us, and by working with these neighbouring groups, we can be more effective in voicing our concerns.

New Initiatives

Members-only Communications Network

Firstly, we are in the process of developing a **members-only communications network**, so that we can share information and experience regarding issues of common concern such as security, new development, traffic and parking, and trees. This will also be a way for our board to listen to any other concerns you may have, and for our members to warn each other if we know of any security problems in our neighbourhood.

Reaching Out

We are also reaching out to the wider community. As the first of our activities for this year, we sponsored a Candidates Meeting on Oct. 24, for our members and neighbours to come and meet the candidates running for mayor and city council, hear what their positions are, and ask them questions. We were honored by the presence of

Future Activities

Future activities may include helping our neighbours organize **block watch** and sharing information on how to **better protect our homes**, and continuing to address the issue regarding **traffic on Granville**. When the Rapid Bus was approved by City Council in 1998, certain promises were made to consult the neighbourhood on solving the traffic problems on Granville, but nothing seems to have happened, so we are going to follow up on those promises. **Several recent property developments** such as 1625 Angus and 1638 W. 40th have also raised alarms in recent months, and coupled with our recent experience with the **Greencroft** issue, we may have to look at how the Planning Department administers current bylaws or whether there are inadequacies in those bylaws that should be addressed. We are also keeping a close watch on what will be happening to **5055 Connaught, a heritage house** that is currently on the market. These and several other initiatives are being discussed at our board level. Since all board members volunteer their spare time for SHPOA, priorities have to be set as to which issue should be dealt with first. Once we decide

on more details on these and other matters, we shall let you know.

Housekeeping Matters

I and our board learned a great deal from the input of our fellow members at the last AGM, and we have taken our lessons to heart. In the last few months, we have done quite a bit of work aimed at addressing our members' concerns, enlarging our membership, and raising the profile of SHPOA.

Who Qualifies to be a Member?

One thing that was the subject of dispute at the last AGM was the interpretation of the existing bylaws as to who and how many from each property qualifies for membership. Our board has now accepted a legal opinion obtained from a major law firm which interprets the bylaws as saying that **all property owners AND their resident spouses are qualified to join SHPOA**, with no limits on how many can join for each property. So, if you are a property owner, or if you are the spouse of a property owner and you live in your spouse's Shaughnessy property, we welcome your joining us. We want to be as inclusive as we can.

Who is Entitled to Vote?

Secondly, we recognize that, by law, **each paid-up member is entitled to one vote at a members' meeting**. Therefore, if you and your spouse are both paid-up members, BOTH of you could vote.

Membership Fee

Thirdly, we have adjusted our **annual membership fee**, with effect from Oct. 7, 2002, to \$20 for a couple, \$10 for a single owner, and \$10 for a society or corporation (for 1 representative). Therefore, if a property has 3 joint owners, all three may join for a \$30 annual fee. All members who paid up prior to the adjustment in membership fees will be entitled to this new fee structure by having any excess fee paid used towards either adding your resident spouse as a member for the current year, or towards your future membership renewal. Please contact our association regarding which option you wish to choose.

Fees for Previously Paid-up Members

Finally, it was sometimes unclear whether a member who paid \$25 in annual membership fee but signed up a couple's names were entitled to one membership or two (hence whether they would get one vote or two). With

our new membership fee structure, **if you paid \$25 and signed up you and your spouse, both spouses will be considered members and both could vote**, and you will have \$5 left as a credit toward your future membership renewal.

Since this new membership fee structure was introduced, our membership has grown steadily.

Looking Towards the Future

As you can see, all the above are aimed at putting SHPOA on a solid footing for future growth and prosperity. We would love to hear your opinions, and more so, **we would appreciate your inviting your friends and neighbours to join us as members**. Most of our common issues require dealing with various levels of government or their agencies, and in a democracy like ours, how many members we have directly affects how well our voice is heard. Our government does not look at how many properties we represent, but rather how many people are in our membership. And so, the more members we have, the more effective we can be.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the following persons:

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Finally, let me take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Peter Kwok, President