



CONNECTIONS

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Newsletter of the **Strathcona Business Improvement Association**

Executive Director's Report New Year, New Initiatives

Happy New Year!

With 2008 so quickly behind us, the SBIA is getting a jump start for the New Year by bringing new initiatives to our members. Before upcoming initiatives and events are announced, we will briefly update you on the latter part of 2008. I would also like to wish all of our members the very best for 2009 and may your year be filled with lots of joy, good health, and prosperity!

Strathcona's First Civic Forum a Success

SBIA's Government Relations & Safety Committee

in partnership with the Strathcona Resident's Association (SRA), co-hosted Strathcona's first civic candidates forum at Lord Strathcona Elementary School on November 5th, 10 days before the municipal election. 3 Candidates each from Vision Vancouver, COPE, Non Partisan Association, and one independent candidate were given a chance to address Strathcona residents and business owners. Questions for the candidates were collected in advance from members of the SBIA and SRA. Attendees of the forum were also given a chance to directly ask council candidates questions during an open floor question period, where audience members heard a lively debate about what Vancouver City Hall has in store for Strathcona. Some questions council candidates tackled were: 'What is your vision for Strathcona?', 'What can be done to deal with the ongoing problem of property tax burden on businesses?'



Civic candidates at Strathcona's first civic forum, from L-R: Sean Bickerton (NPA), Steve Waslabene (Indep), Kanman Wong (NPA), George Chow (Vision), Cathy Kwan (SBIA Executive Director), Rick Archambault (SRA Chair & Forum Moderator), Geoff Meggs (Vision), David Cadman (COPE), Kerry Jang (Vision), Ellen Woodsworth (COPE), missing Suzanne Anton (NPA)

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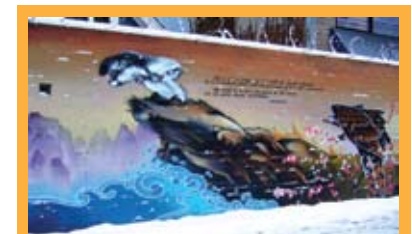
Celebrating the Holiday Season



SBIA hosted our annual holiday social on December 4th at Chapel Arts, located at 304 Dunlevy Avenue, with many SBIA members in attendance. SBIA members mingled and networked over appetizers and beverages into the early evening. Special thanks to City Councilors: **Suzanne Anton, George Chow, and Geoff Meggs** for joining the SBIA in celebrating the holidays.

Beautifying Strathcona Businesses

Local artists Nelson & Xochitl Garcia of Nomadic Alternatives have completed the last of the 2008 series of SBIA murals. Located at 657 Powell St., the latest mural addition to SBIA pays tribute to the Japanese Canadian heritage along Powell Street (historically known as 'Japantown'), utilizing Japanese style form and art.



SBIA's newest mural addition:
657 Powell St.

This specific location was also chosen to co-ordinate with the City of Vancouver's Great Beginnings: Old Streets, New Pride initiative for British Columbia's 150th to celebrate the history, heritage and culture of Vancouver's founding neighbourhoods: Gastown, Chinatown, Japantown, and Strathcona.

For more information on Japantown and Great Beginnings please visit:
http://vancouver.ca/commsvcs/planning/dtes/oppenheimer_initiatives.htm
<http://vancouver.ca/greatbeginnings/aboutus>

PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Report

Year	2005-2006*	2006-2007*	2007-2008*	2008 so far...
Street Cleaning	1403	1296	1311	3887
Graffiti Tags	1795	1842	1940	4427
Security Hours	6120	7024	7916	7740

Mark your Calendar

SBIA Strategic Green Zone
Visioning
January 29, 2009
7:30 am – 10:30 am
Strathcona Community Center
601 Keefer St.

SBIA Sustainability Expo 2.0
April 2, 2009
Time: TBD
Chapel Arts
304 Dunlevy Ave.

SBIA Renewal Year, Outreach Continues

SBIA will be approaching the conclusion of our second term mandate ending March 31, 2010. To continue programs and initiatives for our members, support for the SBIA must be expressed through the passage of a new by-law by the City of Vancouver, and approval of the request for renewal from voting members at the SBIA 2009 Annual General Meeting this fall. During the process of renewing SBIA's current mandate, we will be asking for input from members to ensure we're best meeting your needs as a property owner or tenant in Strathcona.

The first part of SBIA's renewal process began last January 2008, where the Board of Directors worked on developing our strategic plan to shape our existing and future mandate for the next 5-7 years. At this time, the Board of Directors developed an exhaustive list of objectives that have been prioritized and championed by our 3 existing committees: Sustainability; Government Relations; and Marketing & Communications. One of the main priorities that has been identified by the SBIA Board is the Strategic Green Zone Initiative.

In the fall of 2008, SBIA took the next step of the Renewal Process to our members, where the focus was on our Strategic Green Zone Initiative with the objective of seeking input to help prioritize the SBIA's programs and initiatives. Input was solicited through an online survey, followed by a workshop to report survey results and an open house for further discussion. (Congrats again to Nicole Boerner of HTnaturals, 1307 Venables St. - for winning a \$100 gift certificate for lunch in Strathcona for filling out our online survey!)

The next step in the Renewal Process is to continue with input on our Green Zone Initiative. Ideas based on feedback from member surveys and current input will be presented in a visioning session for SBIA members on **Thursday, January 29th, from 7:30 am- 10:30 am** at the Strathcona Community Centre, **601 Keefer St.** We welcome the opportunity to answer your questions and hear your concerns. **The SBIA needs your input, so please join us for a light breakfast!**



Nicole Boerner of HTnaturals accepting prize draw for filling out the SBIA's member survey from SBIA Executive Director, Cathy Kwan



Featuring **Bruce Carscadden Architect,**
715 E. Hastings St.



Bruce Carscadden in midst of renovations at 715 E. Hastings- soon this former café will be home to Bruce Carscadden Architect

Bruce Carscadden Architect Inc has called Strathcona home since 2000, and is now taking the exciting step of furthering their commitment to the neighbourhood by moving their office from 45 Dunlevy Ave to 715 East Hastings Street. "We're really excited about the move, and about becoming a more significant stakeholder in the community, contributing to Strathcona neighbourhood improvement," says BCA principal Bruce Carscadden. This move is not only about providing more space for the practice – all improvements are being completed with environmental, community and economic sustainability in mind.

Bruce describes the steps being taken during the renovation as being grounded in the sustainable and the local. "We have stripped a lot of metal, wire and wood, and we're reusing what we can in the renovation. When it can't be reused, we have shared these materials with Strathcona residents, and we have hired local labour to help with the construction."

BCA is striving towards running a carbon neutral office once everyone is moved in early in 2009. Plans include a green roof with solar panels, rainwater collection and an extensive greening of the back driveway.

Bruce hopes that BCA will have a positive presence on this high profile block of Hastings. "We are looking forward to beautifying this previously abandoned building. We hope to give it back some of its 1960's charm," says Bruce, "while incorporating modern ideas about the environment and sustainability."

Property Owners Corner Welcome to 2 Chefs and a Table!

305 Alexander St. 778 233 1303



2 Chefs & a Table, 305 Alexander St.
Lunch: 11:30 – 2:30 Monday to Friday
Dinner: 5:30 – 10:00 Wednesday & Thursday,
5:00 – 11:00 Friday & Saturday
Brunch: 10:00-2:00 Saturday & Sunday

Open for just over 6 months Karl Gregg and Allan Bosomworth of **2 Chefs and a Table** already have a long list of regulars. Just this past November, the bistro and catering joint was listed as one of the "**10 Best New Restaurants**" by Vancouver Magazine.

Recently 2 Chef's added weekend brunch to the mix, an instant hit due to the food and ample free parking in the area.

The location has worked out well says Gregg. "We've been getting about 80 people daily for lunch due to the industry in the area." The two chefs are excited to become more involved in the community and look forward to being in Strathcona for the long run.

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0	140
205	22
42	278

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BC HYDRO POWER SMART AND SBIA PARTNER FOR ENERGY CHALLENGE 2009: MAKING IT EASY TO BE GREEN

1. Make saving energy your New Year's resolution

The SBIA will be distributing Public Commitment posters to all members in the next week or so. We'd like you to fill it out and post it in your business to publicly declare your commitment to saving energy and supporting a greener, more sustainable planet.

2. Register for a free energy assessment

Right now, BC Hydro Power Smart and LiveSmart BC are offering free walkthroughs with experts who can help you identify significant energy-saving opportunities for your business. It works like this:

- Register for a walkthrough: bchydro.com/save
- A Power Smart representative visits your business and completes a comprehensive tour of your facility
- The Power Smart representative prepares a detailed report customized to your business and your needs, with suggestions for making your business more energy efficient. The report will include estimates of what you can expect to save with each upgrade.
- End result: you save money short-term by getting rebates on energy-efficient products and even more long-term by making changes that will reduce your energy costs for many years to come.