

## street banners

In our previous newsletter, we unveiled our new identity package. The local graphic design company, Design HQ, did an excellent job of capturing the diversity, the energy, and all other components that make the Drive the special place that it is.

We are pleased to announce that we've chosen 5 images for the street banners, which have been approved by the City of Vancouver, and we've already placed the order for the brackets to be placed on the light standards. We are looking at a target for completion by the third week of July, if all goes well.

The Street Enhancement Committee has also considered future projects to better the Drive such as extra lighting to high-light the banners and improve safety; hanging baskets; establishing our own graffiti and poster removal program.

### Drive Pride Award

This newsletter goes to **Heidi at the Sylph** on Charles St. for her well kept, beautiful, imaginative and altogether inspiring store frontage. Love the birds!

### in this issue:

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# currently

## Drive on the Web!

Location, location, location! We've already got the best urban village on the continent and now you'll also find the Drive on the Web. Our site:

**www.thedrive.ca**, presents the hip, quirky, diverse image of the Drive to a broader (global!) audience.

You'll find some interesting press, a guide to businesses, a calendar of community events, history, directions for visitors, and a resource section for our membership.



We've just scratched the surface and we know there's lots more that should be included, so we want to hear from you. Send suggestions, articles, press clippings and links to our email: [info@thedrive.ca](mailto:info@thedrive.ca)

or our snail mail address:  
Commercial Drive Business Society  
PO Box 21660, 1850 Commercial Dr.  
Vancouver, BC, V5N 4A5  
You can also fax material to:  
604.251.2899

## Cross-Border Shopping

A record number of USA border shoppers are coming to BC and we are enticing them to the Commercial Drive area with some clever copy in a great ad in the Seattle equivalent of our Georgia Straight. This paper is distributed in Seattle, Portland, up the I-5 corridor as far as Blaine, and in some parts of Vancouver. Various US shoppers have mentioned finding our neighbourhood by our invitation, so we know it's working. Prepare your place of business by posting and knowing how to access the exchange rate for US currency.

## Postcards

See the great promotion postcard tipped into this newsletter!

As a marketing/tourism initiative for our neighbourhood, these postcards are in the Streetcard Promotional distribution box locations throughout the Lower Mainland – theatres, movie houses, hotels, cafes, art galleries, tourist venues, etc.

All businesses are welcome to pick up a dozen postcards for their own distribution from our new office in the Il Mercato. Please call for summer hours.

## Posted Bill Removal

We're pleased to announce that we've partnered with **Street Youth Job Action**, to create the **Commercial Drive Clean Team**. Street Youth Job Action provides casual and temporary employment for 24-and-under street youths on a work-today, get-paid-tomorrow basis.

On a weekly basis, two youths will remove bills posted on light standards, graffiti from all city property and litter from sidewalks and curb sides. This is just the beginning of many more projects that we are doing to make the Drive a cleaner place.

## Sidewalks

We met with **Don Brynildsen, Assistant City Engineer, Street**, and have done a preliminary walk through on Commercial Drive highlighting the problem areas.

Mr. Brynildsen has requested a meeting with members of the BIA to develop a strategy for sidewalk improvements using funding sources identified by the City of Vancouver.

It is important that we express our concerns about the disrepair of our sidewalks, especially the heaved sidewalks around the base of trees, due to the root growth.

Contact **Don Brynildsen** at **873-7313** to voice your concerns.

## Graffiti Program

Graffiti vandalism is a continuing issue on the Drive. As one knows, the connection between graffiti and the negative perception of a community are closely related. As a community, we must take action. One of the most cost-effective methods that we've reviewed is a graffiti program implemented by, **Goodbye Graffiti Inc.** To have graffiti on your commercial buildings painted over free-of-charge, property owners must sign the authorization forms included in this newsletter.

A reminder to all tenants – please forward the authorization forms to your landlord or property manager.

The program we're considering to best tackle our graffiti problem is **Ever-Clean**. This program includes a weekly cleaning of building fronts and visible sides, a quarterly volunteer clean-up of back alleys, plus weekly patrols.

We appreciate your co-operation in returning the authorization form. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call us. Let's take charge and keep our neighborhood clean!

# Society News



## Hi everyone, late breaking news!

The Commercial Drive Business Society has a new, street level, store front office, centrally located in the IL Mercato mall at #105-1641 Commercial Drive.  
T: 604.251.2884  
F: 604.251.2899

Our new mailing address is:  
**Commercial Drive Business Society  
Little Italy Postal Outlet  
PO Box 21660  
1850 Commercial Dr.  
V5N 4A5**



The Commercial Drive Business Society would like to congratulate the Britannia Community Services Centre on its 25th Anniversary. Here is their incredible creation story!

Twenty-five years ago the multi-partnered Britannia Community Services Centre was created as a result of a community vision for a centre that promoted unity and neighbourhood. Many individuals, both staff and volunteers, donated thousands upon thousands of hours to see the creation of a complex that houses schools, a library, child care facilities, a senior's centre, a teen centre, a variety of recreation facilities and dozens of programs in one easy access site. It is a centre dedicated to all members of the community and is intended for use by all ages.

The creation story of Britannia Centre has a relevant message for all of us in Grandview Woodlands. Twenty-five years ago there was a strong political force to demolish this neighbourhood and redevelop this community for what was then called an Urban Renewal project. Many old heritage houses were slated for demolition, a multi-lane free-way was to run through the centre of the community and there were plans to build multiple large tenement housing structures. Neighbours from all over the Grandview Woodlands area and beyond came together to stop the Urban Renewal process and maintain the character and cultural flavour of this neighbourhood. Hundreds rallied against the redevelopment initiative and packed the offices of City Hall to fight for the community and values. Not only did they succeed in stopping the demolition of the neighbourhood, they came together to define the good things they wanted to see in this community.

The 17 acre Britannia Community Services Centre, with its many resources, is the result of that visioning process where community members defined what they did want in services and what they did not. In the end the united community succeeded in defeating destructive social/political pressures and triumphed by further creating a centre intended to benefit all. Britannia is proud of its heritage and still aims to be more than just a community centre. It is a place where people come together and enjoy and support the well-being of neighbours and the neighbourhood.

The Commercial Drive Business Society would like to thank **Alexandra Temple of Dutch Girl Chocolates** for her initiative in helping to set up the Society, and for her work as Board Member and Chair. Following her stepping down, we would like to wish her great success with her business, and a great summer with more time for her family!

Our ads for an Administrator resulted in a pile of applications which we are working our way through now. Drop by the office soon, to meet the successful applicant.

*We wish everyone successful business, a great summer and we hope that the autumn will bring you all out to volunteer for Business Society projects and Committee work. Working together will make us prosper!*

## news and moves

### Baghdad Cafe

1018 Commercial Dr.

The Baghdad Cafe is a new spot on the Drive to get good food at great prices. Owner **Abu Nor** offers a mixture of Eastern fast food like donairs and falafels as well as eat-in meals. Tantalizing aromas encourage your order and you can enjoy your food in the comfort of the authentic seating area, complete with low tables and carpets.

### Mongolian Teriyaki

1918 Commercial Dr.

Owner **Gil Sang Kim** has moved into the space recently vacated by Thai Away Home. He offers a variety of Mongolian BBQ dishes, a cooking style originally invented by Genghis Khan and his caval-rymen. You can eat in or take out and the staff are super friendly.

### My Sister's Closet

1029 Commercial Dr.

The age-old tradition of getting clothes from your sister's closet continues here at the latest thrift addition to the Drive. My Sister's Closet is a non-profit thrift store run by the **Battered Women's Support Services** ([www.bwss.org](http://www.bwss.org)), the volunteer staff is helpful and friendly and they have a nice selection of second hand women's clothes and accessories as well as stuff for the kids.

### Platinum Video

2137 Commercial Dr.

This new location has a large selection of videos and DVDs to satisfy your home entertainment needs and fills the video rental gap between the Celluloid Dispensary and Applause Video.

### Typhoon

on Charles St. at Commercial Dr.

Owner **Pang Branscombe** brings the delicious taste of her Thai food to the Drive at Typhoon. In order to keep food prices down, Typhoon is a cash only spot, any inconvenience is easily made up for by the great food and incredibly low prices. Plenty of seating, a pool table and an open kitchen are added bonuses.

### Urban Native Market

931 Commercial Dr.

The Urban Native Market is stocked with great clothes, art and jewelry, all by Native designers. Owner **Wendy Nahanee** and her sister design most of the clothes, their cotton Ts and pants are adorned with beautiful Native designs. They also take some consignment and have traditional artwork and jewelry. The combination is definitely worth checking out.

### Joji's Salon and School

1126 Commercial Dr.

Congratulations to **Joji** on her new purchase! Joji has bought the building at 1126 Commercial Dr. and moved the school and salon the few blocks from their old location. The new space is great and much more roomy, the students at the school were especially excited about new and much improved classroom space.

### Thai Away Home

1736 Commercial Dr.

Thai Away home has found a new home! Owner **Dale Dubberly** has bought the building at 1736 Commercial and the restaurant now has seating for 50 instead of 16. The location is new but Thai Away Home has retained all of the great food, as well as the great prices, with the added bonus of a beer and wine licence.

## redoes

### Aldo Hair & Esthetics

1418 Commercial Dr.

**The Figaro Barber Shop** has a new addition called Aldo Hair & Esthetics. The old-style barber shop is still on one side but it has been joined by a more modern, full-service beauty salon. A nice combination of new and old.

### La Cabana Hair Studio and Esthetics

1912 Commercial Dr.

Maria wants to welcome old and new clients to her studio la Cabana at 1912 Commercial Dr. Only 100% natural products are used in holistic esthetic services such as aromatique facials.

### Zesty Cafe

920 Commercial Dr.

Congratulations to the Zesty Cafe on its new art gallery featuring fabulous local artists and its Saturday night Comedy Revue entertainment.

## notice board

### The Sylph

1704 Charles St. Phone 215.7781

Owner **Heidi Wilkinson** has a bunch of great art and home decor items made by local artists in the store and also offers a wide selection of art classes and workshops.

Classes offered in July include Luminaire paper lanterns, rod puppets and Indian shadow puppets, faerie wings, garden stones, painted floor cloths and face casting. When you're in the store pick up a coupon for 15% off any class during the month of July.

### Public Dreams

Info 879-8611

Another wonderful **Lantern Festival** is being held July 28th at dusk at Trout Lake.

### Lantern Making Workshops

July 14th at Britannia Community Centre at Commercial and Napier.

July 16th till the 26th at the Trout Lake Community Centre.