

# Invitation to Build Your Local Community

To every resident in Vancouver:

Please take advantage of my experience with our 8th Avenue community in East Van to help build your community. We will help you with security, socializing, and recycling that the City does not do. If you already have your own community, that's great. I'll bet we can work together.

## History

Over 18 years ago, the 1700 and 1800 blocks of 8th Avenue (Commercial to Victoria) had a serious problem with car traffic by people trying to avoid the intersection at Broadway and Commercial. The residents of 8th Avenue got together, meeting in each other's living rooms and building a phone and email list. They were able to convince the City to put in a cul de sac and park where 8th Avenue meets Grandview Highway. The neighbourhood's responsibility was to maintain the park so the City didn't need an operating budget for it.

This traffic problem was a blessing in disguise - the two blocks of 8th Avenue became a tight knit community where most people knew the other residents. We had a phone and email list.

## My Experience

When my wife and I moved in 18 years ago, it was great. The community threw a Welcome Party for us where we met everyone. My wife fit right in since she had retired and loved making quilts for the new babies in our neighbourhood. She also organized spring planting and fall cleaning parties for the park at the cul de sac - I supplied the coffee and doughnuts!

Pre-covid, we would have block parties and social get-togethers. We could also use our email list if there were security issues.

Five years ago, after I retired, I set up a weekly recycling station for items that the City doesn't handle. Each Saturday, from noon to 2 pm, I'd set out wheelie bins and a blue bin where my neighbours would drop off their **plastic bags & wrap, styrofoam takeout & packing materials, batteries, and small appliances**. Then, I'd take the items down to the recycle depot on Powell



**Take advantage of my experience and let me help you build your own community.**

## Build Local Communities

Wally Kunz, 604 817-4727, [build.local.communities@gmail.com](mailto:build.local.communities@gmail.com)

# How we can build our neighbourhoods into communities

## Let me help you build your own community

1. I'll be happy to knock on doors in your block with you and explain the benefits of community. We'll collect emails and phone numbers so your community can communicate.
2. We've found that a good size for a local community is no more than a two block area.
3. We can set up a weekly pop-up recycling station to collect the material that the City does not collect. This is a great way to meet your neighbours and start building your community.

## Community Administrator task list

The task of the community list administrator is very simple - maybe as little as 15 minutes a week.

- Maintain a spreadsheet of address, name, phone, email.
- Add more to the list as volunteers determine the contact info of those not already on the list. (I'll be happy to help out until we can get a local volunteer)
- Every month, email the updated list to all the neighbours on the community list. Add "news" if any. For example, a reminder about the pop-up recycling. As appropriate, send emails about security issues, socializing, or anything of community interest.

It's really simple and I'll be happy to help.

## Pop-Up Recycling task list

Pop-up recycling is also very simple, just a few minutes a week plus the trip to the recycling depot. In fact, these two chores can be handled by two different people.

To get started, I can help deliver the recycling to the depot.

### Collecting the recycling

- On the chosen day and time, bring out the labeled wheelie bins and blue box. Be sure they are lined with a plastic bag to make the collection easier.
- If you're feeling sociable, you can chat with your neighbours as they come by.
- At the end of the session, return the wheelie bins and blue box.

### Dropping off the recycling

- Be sure all the bags of recycling have no holes and are tied off so that any moisture is kept in the bag.
- Drop off the recycling at the nearest depot. You will need to separate the coloured styrofoam from the white, but that's simple to do at the depot.

For more information, contact Wally Kunz, 604 817-4727, [build.local.communities@gmail.com](mailto:build.local.communities@gmail.com)