

Friends of Point Grey Village—Spring 2023 newsletter

What is happening with the Safeway site?

Our village supermarket closed in July, 2018, which is getting close to five years ago. It was May/June 2022 when the community last heard from the developer, BentallGreenOak, at the open houses showing the proposed plans. Following the open houses, BGO was instructed to work with City of Vancouver staff before showing any more plans to the community.

Friends of Point Grey Village asked City staff for an update on the project, but so far there has been no response. We also asked BentallGreenOak and were told that the company continues to meet and discuss next steps with City staff. No timeline was given of the future development review process.

ABC swept the recent municipal elections. You will recall that ABC is on record to support the following on the Safeway site:

- New purpose-built library
- Daycare
- Public Square

ABC also supports redesigning 10th Avenue with People First policies.

In the meantime, BentallGreenOak says that soil remediation is progressing well and that they expect to finish this process by the end of March. They have been evaluating possible temporary uses for the site but have not yet made a decision on whether there is a workable option.

The only thing we can say for sure that will happen on the site in the near future is that the Grade 7 students at Queen Elizabeth School have been working hard to provide beautiful art to be hung on those white hoardings. We look forward to enjoying the art while we await our new village development.

Will the new supermarket in the University Endowment Lands impact the viability of a future supermarket in the village?

As many of you will have noticed by now, an Urban Fare has opened in the University Endowment Lands, as part of the Lelam development. Opening day was February 3, 2023. Interesting that at Lelam, streets can be laid out, hundreds of condos can be built and occupied and a 15,000 square foot

supermarket can be built and opened, all the while that our Safeway site remains vacant. These are two separate political jurisdictions and two separate developers/owners, with different motivations.

Will the presence of a nearby supermarket impact the potential of a full service supermarket on the Safeway site in the future? When asked this question at the May/June 2022 open houses, BentallGreenOak staff stated that their retail market analysis showed that a 38,000 square foot supermarket could be supported on the Safeway site even though they expected a supermarket to open soon at Lelam. The 38,000 square feet store being proposed is about 50% bigger than the old Safeway. UEL planning studies specified that the new supermarket should primarily serve north campus and Lelam, and also potentially ease some pressure on the overly busy Save On Foods in South Campus.

So the short answer is no—the Urban Fare should not impact the viability of our future supermarket.

Library update

Work is happening at the old VanCity building at **4566 West 10th**—the new location of the **Point Grey Library**. Workers on site say the plan is for work to be finished and the library moved in by the end of June.

SHOP LOCAL

Point Grey Village has lots to offer for your Valentine. If you favour traditional romance, then there are many options for cards, chocolates and flowers. The many restaurants would welcome your Sweetie for a special lunch or dinner.

News from Point Grey Business Improvement Association

If you have been in the village recently after dark you may have noticed some new lighting. The BIA is changing the decorative lighting in the village trees to all teal and warm white mix colors. The City requires the bulbs to be replaced every 5 years so the BIA decided to add some color. Because the new bulbs are LED they are brighter and add real sparkle in the evening.

The BIA is planning a Mothers Day Shopping Evening and a Spring Children's event with petting zoo. Watch for more details in future Friends newsletters.

What's New

Christianne's Lyceum of Literature and Art has officially moved to **4433 West 10th**

"Founded in 2007, **the Lyceum is a centre that celebrates literature and art and puts it at the centre of family and community life.** This inclusive centre prides itself on being ready to engage and co-construct learning journeys with individuals and families representing all aspects of a diverse community.

"Through creative programming that draws connections between literature and what's going on in the world, the Lyceum encourages children to see themselves as readers, writers, and artists engaging with ideas and reflecting on their own place in society. We offer classes, workshops and events for children as young as one to adults.

"Many have come to know the Lyceum as a cozy living room, a specialized library, a well-equipped studio and a whimsical art gallery all wrapped up into one. It is here that literature is transformed into experience, and experience is transformed into literature through passionate discourse."

There will be an Open House on February 12 from 12:30 to 3:30.

<https://www.christianneslyceum.com/>

What's almost new:

The storefront just west of Bean has been leased and is now sporting a new sign, **UR Mart**. Stay tuned for more info.

What's Everyone Talking About:

Donuts?!

Please share this newsletter with neighbours. Anyone wishing to join our mailing list and become a Friend of Point Grey Village can do so on our website <https://friendsofpointgreyvillage.ca/>