



District of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For further information, contact:
Lisa Zosiak at 604-467-7383
lzosiak@mapleridge.ca

MyHammond Area Planning Process Enters Phase Two with Online and Summer Photo Project

Maple Ridge, BC: On June 5, 2014 residents of the Hammond neighbourhood attended an Open House at the Hammond Community Centre as part of Phase One of the Hammond Area Planning process. The first phase was the 'Community Character Project' where citizens were asked to provide photos with keywords to define what they felt was special about the neighbourhood. There were over 300 photos submitted by members of the community, and those images provided a background for the posters and displays that were part of the Open House.

"On behalf of Council I would like to thank the citizens who took the time to submit photos and words for the Open House. In addition approximately 120 people came out on June 5 to participate in the discussions as part of Phase One of the Area Planning process that has been dubbed #MyHammond. I was able to stop by for a brief visit; there was an exciting buzz in the room and the conversations that were taking place were inspiring," said Mayor Ernie Daykin. He continued, "As the project moves into the next phase it is great to see that we will continue the engagement online and through social media channels that will culminate with a second Open House in the fall. This is a special neighbourhood, and with the input and continued engagement of the community, I'm confident that the final Hammond Area Plan will ensure that this vibrant part of Maple Ridge will flourish into the future."

Phase Two of the Area Planning process involves a more detailed examination of the issues that emerged as part of the Community Character discussion.

Our team will be posting a series of questionnaires every few weeks between now and September, with specific questions on various topics such as Neighbourhood Character, Commercial Use, Neighbourhood Connectivity and other topic areas. We're calling this "#MyHammond Talks" and based on the amazing contributions of area residents in Phase One, we're excited to read more comments and suggestions. We will capture the responses using an online survey tool, and provide regular updates of the responses at the #MyHammond section of the District website. We will try to zero in on the key issues that need to be addressed as we work towards the final Area Plan for Hammond. The community's responses will be an important part of the information we report to Council at the end of Phase Two of this project.

In addition to the online questionnaires, the #MyHammond project team are asking area residents to submit even more photos over the summer. The photos will be collected in an online gallery on the District website at mapleridge.ca and placed on the District's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/yourmapleridge. The gallery will be called '#MyHammond Summer' and area residents are asked to submit photos for this gallery directly to the special project email at myhammond@mapleridge.ca.

The District will send a link out via social media once the first questionnaire is posted on July 2 and as each new questionnaire is posted there will be a media release and additional social media notices on the District social media channels and through the 'Hammond Neighbours' Facebook Page.

For more information about the '#MyHammond Talks' questionnaires or the '#MyHammond Summer' Photo project please contact Lisa Zosiak at <mailto:lzosiak@mapleridge.ca> or by calling 604-467-7383.