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Interested in writing for Kitsilano.ca?

By Rob on February 16th, 2009

If you read Kitsilano.ca regularly, I'm sure you've noticed that Erik and I are currently a two man team. While we've had other contributors along the way, they tend to be as transient as Kits apartment renters.

I believe the value of a community-based blog like Kitsilano.ca is the variety of voices and opinions in the neighbourhood. So, if you're interested in contributing, even if it's only the occasional restaurant review, [fire me an email](#) and I'll get you set up. The more the merrier.

Make a Short Video for Chip and Win \$1000

By Erik V. on February 15th, 2009

As we [told you back in December](#), race registration for the second annual [Chip's Not Dead Yet Memorial Mile](#) will open soon.

In the meantime, there is still time to enter your video into the contest that will decide which themes will be running the uphill mile on June 20th.

Here is what you'll need to do: Make a quick video showing us what you think is going to be the hottest new trend in theme waves. Any video will do, so long as it's between 30-60 seconds in length and features you, your teammates, co-workers, family or pets! Anyone and everyone can get involved - so get inspired! And get filming! Submit your videos to www.memelabs.com/cndy between December 2nd- March 16th, 2009 and get your votes in by March 20th. The winners to be announced on March 26th, 2009.

The first 50 video entrants to the contest will receive a free lululemon yoga mat, running hat, and key cuff and there are three grand prizes to be won: a people's choice \$1,000 cash prize, a Judges' favourite \$1,000 cash prize, and a free wave sponsorship for the video submitted by a company that gets the most votes.

So let those cameras roll!

Luv Lost

By Erik V. on February 14th, 2009

It was almost exactly a year ago that we excitedly announced the [opening of LouLou Luv](#) on West 4th. And it is with some sadness that we have to announce, on Valentine's day no less, that LouLou Luv's usually funky window display now sports a rather hideous "for lease" sign.

I'm not sure if this means LouLou Luv is moving or closing, but I suspect it's the latter. I also don't know what this means for LouLou Lust on West Broadway, but let's hope they are just consolidating back to the one store, as it would be really sad to loose both.

Hip Baby under New Organic Management

By Rob on February 14th, 2009

Long-time Kits baby store [Hip Baby](#) at West 4th & Arbutus has been purchased by the designers of a clothing brand named [Fig](#) - an organic kids fashion line - and is now under new management.

The new Hip Baby will be focused on eco and sustainable options for newborns to 6 year-olds.

The new owners are Fig Founders Jen MacCormack and Michael Ziff and they re-opened yesterday after doing renovations over the last couple weeks to modernize and brighten the space.

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It's great to see the evolution of a retail concept in Kitsilano rather than a property developer bulldozing a building and leasing it out to [retail chain](#).

Parents of young ones - the next time you're strolling along West 4th, be sure to steer your stroller in to say Hi and check out their 15-25% Grand Opening sale.

Spanking Karma

By Erik V. on February 14th, 2009

It didn't take long for someone to snatch up the beautiful space that used to be the home of [Karma](#).

[Spank shoes](#) will make the jump across the street, from the corner of 4th and Maple to 2066 West 4th (@ Arbutus). Their shoe store must be a success if they are moving to this obviously larger footprint.

On the surface at least, this seems to be a logical and smart move. The old Karma store offers a beautiful, open, and bright space that will make a great shoe store. And they are now only two doors down from the original Spank clothing store, making it a lot easier for customers to run into both.

Visioning Workshop at Kitsilano Secondary

By Erik V. on February 13th, 2009

Kitsilano Secondary is one of nearly 300 at risk schools in BC that are part of the 15 year, \$1.5 billion seismic upgrade program approved back in 2005. Progress has been slow (only 14 upgrades out of the 300 were completed [by September 2008](#)), but Kitsilano Secondary appears next.

As part of the upgrading process, Kits Secondary will be hosting a Visioning Workshop tomorrow, Saturday Feb. 14th, from 9:30am until 3:30pm. From the announcement [\[PDF\]](#):

Kitsilano Secondary is due for seismic upgrading, creating an extraordinary opportunity to rethink our school, and bring innovation to learning. Help us chart our future by attending this workshop with featured speakers and facilitated break-out sessions.

If you're interested in participating in the workshop, please call 1.866.383.0304 ext. 32 or email kitssecondary@cityspaces.ca.

If you're busy or don't want to commit the whole day, there is also an open house, tonight (Friday Feb. 13th 7-9pm) and tomorrow (Saturday Feb. 14th 9.30am-3.30pm).

Speedy Glass in Old Canadian Tire Building

By Erik V. on February 13th, 2009

An automotive service has returned to the old Canadian Tire building. You can't get your brakes checked or your tires fixed, but if you got a chip in your windshield, a broken side

mirror, or a smashed window, head on down to 1868 York Avenue (@ Cypress).

[Speedy Glass](#) moved from their West Broadway location (on the corner of Vine) down to the [old Canadian Tire building](#). I imagine they'll have a little more space down there, especially for parking. I often work at [Heart Attack and Vine](#) and it was always a constant coming and going of vehicles, which were often blocking the sidewalk. Seem like a logical move.

Spoken Word comes to Granville Island

By Rob on February 12th, 2009

The [Vancouver International Writers Festival](#) and Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad present [Spoken World](#) at Performance Works on Granville Island next week. Two nights of spoken word are scheduled with performers Regie Cabico, Morganics, Lemn Sissay [Tickets are \\$20 adults & \\$18 students/seniors](#) for performances on February 18th and 20th at 7:30 pm at Performance Works at 1218 Cartwright Street.

Molson's 2010 Mural Project

By Rob on February 11th, 2009

If you commute across the Burrard Bridge into downtown daily, you likely saw quite a commotion at the Molson Brewery this morning. Turns out they're launching their [2010 Mural Project](#) today.

Canada's gearing up for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games, so Molson Canadian is building a mega-mural to show your support.

Over the next few months, we're going to plaster the Molson Canadian brewery in Vancouver with thousands of pictures of Canadians just like you. Once the mural's done, we'll have a special message for Team Canada as they prep for the Games.

Looks like a pretty cool project that should draw some attention to Kits-side of the bridge over the next year.

Shooting at old IGA

By Erik V. on February 9th, 2009

The violence in Vancouver continues, and is not isolated to downtown. [From the CBC](#):

The victim was taken to hospital after being shot in the parking lot of the IGA on Broadway near Arbutus Street around 11:30 [pm] PT, police said.

The recent spate of gang violence appears to be continuing across the Lower Mainland after a man was shot and wounded overnight Sunday in Vancouver's normally quiet Kitsilano neighbourhood. A witness told CBC News that

they saw two men shoot about eight to 12 shots at each other.

So this wasn't "just" a targeted liquidation, it appears to be an actual shoot out. Near a supermarket. wtf.

Two dead in hit and run near Granville Island

By Rob on February 9th, 2009

Two people are dead after being thrown several metres in a hit-and-run incident near the entrance to Granville Island Saturday night. Vancouver police spokeswoman Jana McGuinness told the [Vancouver Sun](#) that at about 11:53 p.m., a 31-year-old man and 25-year-old woman were in a crosswalk under the Granville Street Bridge at Fourth Avenue when they were hit by a black Buick SUV.

The two were thrown "several metres" and died at the scene, she said. Immediately after impact, police said, the 18-year-old driver got out of his vehicle, and ran northbound — down the hill from Fourth Avenue and into the Granville Island area — toward False Creek.

He dove into the water but police dogs tracked him down and he was taken into custody, where he remained Sunday. Speed and alcohol were likely factors in the crash, said McGuinness.

Two female passengers, aged 14 and 16, were in the vehicle at the time of the incident, and stayed at the scene. They were interviewed as well, McGuinness said.

Investigators said the couple was behaving as they should — at a pedestrian-controlled lit sign permitting them to cross the street, said McGuinness. Police are looking for witnesses to help reconstruct the incident.

"We are appealing for any help in piecing [together] what led to this. Somebody may have seen something at the time, or five minutes before, when the vehicle was driving along West Fourth," said McGuinness.

Anyone with more information on the hit-and-run is asked to contact the VPD Collision Investigation Unit at 604-717-3012.

People from Kits: The Shopping Bags

By Rob on February 6th, 2009

If you live in Vancouver and have turned on a TV in the last 10 years, chances are you've heard of *The Shopping Bags*: [Kristina Maticic and Anna Wallner](#). But did you know they're from Kitsilano.

Kristina Maticic and Anna Wallner are journalists, shopaholics, and hosts of The Shopping Bags and Anna & Kristina's Grocery Bag.

It all started with The Shopping Bags, where we test everything from running shoes to food

processors. In our new show, Anna & Kristina's Grocery Bag, we take product-testing into the context of real-life situations.

In our book, a companion to The Shopping Bags television show, we share tips and guidelines to teach you how to be a smart, savvy shopper.

If you have any suggestions on other Kits residents that deserve a call out Kitsilano.ca, [let us know](#).

3436 Coffee Lounge

By Erik V. on February 5th, 2009

Last Saturday, on one of my regular strolls with the twins, I made it west of Blenheim along Broadway for the first time in quite a while. And with coffee shop openings and closings [fresh](#) on my [mind](#), I was surprised and excited to find [3436 Coffee Lounge](#) (3436 West Broadway @ Waterloo). And let me tell you, this place deserves to call itself "lounge".



It has a beautiful interior, quite unlike any other coffee place that I know, easily rivaling 49th Parallel for style. And in true lounge fashion, they have some comfortable looking chairs set up close to a cozy looking fireplace. They also have a bunch of conventional tables and chairs, which is convenient for using the free wireless they offer. In a little space in the back there are a couple of workstations set up, and I assume you pay for these by the minute/hour. One station looked particularly attractive, as it had a huge flat-screen monitor.

While having a great look and feel is nice, it's all moot if you can't back it up with quality coffee. So I was happy to find out that the coffee is excellent.

3436 Coffee Lounge is also open to live performances, be they music, poetry, or other forms of art. The one thing I forgot to check was to see whether they are licensed, but I have a feeling they are not.

The only downside I can see to this place is the fact that they are closed on Sundays and close at 6pm every day (although the website suggests they sometimes stay open later on Fridays and Saturdays). But next time I need to hole up with my notebook to finish a project, I will certainly consider hopping on a bus to this end of Broadway.

Celebration of Light Cancelled

By Erik V. on February 4th, 2009

Well, that sucks.

The CBC [reports](#):

Vancouver's annual fireworks festival has been cancelled, organizers said Wednesday, blaming the economic downturn.

"It has been an exceptional 18-year event — the largest of its kind in the world — and it is a credit to our many exceptional sponsors that we kept the event going year after year," said Brent MacGregor, chair of the Vancouver Fireworks Festival Society. [...]

However, the event also had a reputation for drawing some unruly crowds, making the policing costs high, and it continued to struggle financially from year to year to meet the event's \$4 million annual budget.

The [HSBC Celebration of Light](#) has always been one of my favourite events in the summer. Last year I didn't make it out for any of the evenings, what with all the newborns in our house. I had promised myself that this year I would go down to Kits beach for at least a couple of the nights. What a bummer.

[picture from the CBC](#)

City to Test Lane Closures on Burrard Bridge

By Erik V. on February 3rd, 2009

The City wasted no time following last Saturday's [open house](#) in [making a decision](#) about a lane closure pilot study.

Up to two lanes will be temporarily closed for cars this spring and opened up to cyclists. The City will use this time to study the effects on pedestrian and cyclist safety and the effects on traffic flows. From the [Sun article](#):

"We pretty much know the status quo isn't good enough," Vision Vancouver Coun. George Chow said at an open house Saturday.

"This trial will give us volume data to see how we accommodate the cyclists and traffic. We really need to have the data to make an intelligent decision."

[Photo from the City of Vancouver](#)

New & Improved Social Life

By Rob on February 2nd, 2009



Craigslist can be a great find for interesting tidbits about Kitsilano. Check out [this new listing today](#) for a discounted membership at [Campoverde Social Club](#):

I have been a member of this outstanding social club for Professionals. When I first split up with my ex I had NO single friends and had to create a new group of friends and inner, safe circle. This club has been an amazing, safe place for me to meet other single, professional individuals with similar goals. I have made so many new and fun friends.

At this point in my life, my kids and life is costing me a lot more money. So that being said, I'm looking to sell my membership. To join at this point in time it costs \$2,200. I purchased my membership almost 2 years ago and I paid \$1,200. I am looking for a FAIR price for this membership.

In order for this to be transferable, you CANNOT go into the club without me, or else they will NOT allow you to purchase a membership from a pre-existing member. I am more than happy to take you in as a guest so you can see the place, feel what it's like first hand and see what it has to offer. As well, please check out their website and calendar of events to get a "feel" for what they are about.

I look forward to hearing from you and hope you can enhance your circle of friends and enjoy this wonderful experience.

Over \$2,000 for a new membership at Campoverde?!?! I don't know anybody that has ever been there. Any members out there - is it really worth this kind of money?

Caffè Artigiano now in Kits

By Erik V. on February 1st, 2009

I thought the recent [Broadway Coffee and Tea Scene Changes](#) post was exciting enough as it is, but it turns out there's a little more coffee excitement to be had still.

WyWyWa gave us the heads-up in the comments section that [Caffè Artigiano](#) will finally come to Kits. They just put up a large banner inside the former [Life is Good](#) location (3036 West Broadway @ Balaclava).

This seems to me a perfect location for Artigiano. It's spacious and bright, and there's usually lots of foot traffic along this section of Broadway.

I think a little over a year ago I would have been jumping up and down with joy about the thought of Artigiano finally opening a location close-by. Now, my reaction is a little more lukewarm. Sure, Artigiano serves great coffee, and I especially like the way they make their lattes. But I've also been finding their stores a bit of a mess of late (especially the Kerrisdale one). And food-wise it's quite the mixed bag; they have some nice sandwiches and in some locations a nice brunch/lunch menu, but most of their baked goods are mediocre at best.

Still, this is an exciting opening. And one that won't result in a closure post anytime soon.