

July 26, 2019



Village Update

Your Weekly News & Updates

Updates from Mayor and Council

From the Mayor's Desk

Hello Lions Bay.

With a long week end approaching, and many on holidays, most of us have a bit more time on our hands. Council breaks until September 17th so I won't be writing again until late September. This article is long but it is your opportunity to catch up on a wide variety of issues that affect our Community.

- Harvey Water Tank – Return to full service of our primary tank is slated for late September. Critical for us is to be able to limp through until Labor Day when rainier weather is normal (it always rains on the PNE!). From a water supply stand point the many rainy days so far this summer have worked in our favor and, as a bonus, reduced wild fire risk. If it continues to be hot without occasional rains, expect the final level of water restriction to be imposed.
- Kelvin Grove Waste Water Treatment Plant – On July 16th Council approved an engineering services contract to pursue replacement of equipment within the confines of the original concrete structure. This is the cheapest option. The success of this engagement, which beyond design is substantially focused on obtaining the Ministry of the Environment's approval to rebuild the plant using the same treatment method, should be known in September.

- Sale of our Kelvin Grove (KG) lot – Our cost to develop the lot was \$165K. It has been listed since November 2018 and the current asking price is \$789K. Proceeds will go towards our infrastructure war chest. We have not been engaged in a purchase discussion for a while. The pluses to the lot are the view, being in a desired area of the Village with sewage treatment instead of septic, and the opportunity to be part of our Community. The impediments to a sale are the steepness of the upper 2/3 of the lot and the proximity of the highway. Residential property prices on the North Shore have fallen such that Lions Bay presents less value because of the distance to amenities. Short of someone who is immediately in love with the Village, a buyer will most likely be attracted when all the numbers compare reasonably well to a new home on the North Shore. After sale of the KG lot we will have a couple of million in cash and another couple of million in borrowing capacity to spend on infrastructure so financially we are moving in the right direction.
- Infrastructure and Grant Funding – We have two grant applications out for consideration. They are for ancillary parts to the Harvey Creek water tower, and for our beach park renovation. They have been outstanding since August, 2018 and January 2019 respectively. The Provincial government is extremely slow in advising how we fare in the beauty contest for funding. My aggressive overtures to highlight our needs resulted in a “stand down and be patient” letter from the Minister. I am hopeful of positive results on these applications by the year end. Until then we will hold off on any beach park upgrades.
- Trying to expand our grant funding opportunities, we asked to be included in the Province’s Rural Dividend Fund, which is intended for rural communities with populations under 25,000. Bowen Island now qualifies for this fund after being excluded like us due to being within Metro’s boundary. Our rationale was put forward and was supported by our MP, MLA, and Metro Vancouver. We were officially declined earlier this month for the reason that we weren’t rural enough. I know, don’t get me started....
- We will reconstruct the concrete stairs between the bus stops next year as part of an existing (50/50) \$80K Translink grant approval (\$40K each). Recent good news is our successful overture to Translink to decrease the Community’s participation from 50% to 25% for future capital funding to improve biking and walking to transit.

- In October I will be placing Development Permit Applications (DPA's) on Council's agenda. DPA's are premised on some development being vital to the financial sustainability of the Village and also lead into the Community Amenity Charges (CAC's) discussion. CAC's are fees or other forms of compensation to the Village to mitigate the impacts of development. Last Council was unable to reach a decision when these items were addressed, and then, due to the election cycle, the topic was tabled. I would have preferred that this discussion had occurred sooner this year, but am hopeful we will move one way or the other on this topic by the end of the year.
- Bears in the neighborhood – In the last month two bears have been our visitors, usually sighted in Upper Oceanview near the watershed gate. Their seasonal appearance is a reminder that we share the forest. Bears are near and dear to all of us and Bear Smart practises are ingrained. It was with surprise that I spoke to the Conservation Officer on July 13th and he advised he had put a trap at a residence in lower Oceanview. While it was moved two days later without a furry visitor getting a ride, I was distressed to hear the cause of his visit was a bear's access to garbage and fruit trees. Please take a Bear Smart/Wildlife 101 refresher ([here](#) and [here](#)) if you think you need one. I have asked that our Bylaw Officer's patrol is expanded to check that best practises are in effect in areas where the bears have been sighted.
- Desire for a View Bylaw survey - When I was first referred to the survey that was circulating early in the month, I asked CAO Peter DeJong to place the topic as one of the items for discussion for Council in our forthcoming strategy session. This year I have asked that it occur a little sooner in the fall so that decisions made can get started on sooner. A strategy session is intended to earmark Council's 2020 objectives. My sense is that we are looking for a fewer number of important goals that can be synchronized and achieved within our resource restraints. The proponent of a View Bylaw came forward at our last Council meeting and advised 28 of 50 residents had responded to the survey. Other residents were going to independently begin drafting a Bylaw (without any Council direction). I advised the proponent that when residents undertake work there is often an expectation of follow-through. This may not be the case.
- Cell tower – Staff have been working on a proposal from SBA Communications Corporation for a cell tower to be located above the new Harvey water tank. The business model would see various service providers renting space on the tower with the Village receiving rent and a revenue cut as well as vastly

improved cell service. I'm told to expect a report and presentation in September seeking approval in principle, subject to a public consultation process to follow. If all goes well, construction would begin next Spring.

- Parking – The Village's parking plan provides opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Our parking fine revenue is on target for the budgeted \$10,000 this year. Parking meter revenue may exceed the budgeted \$19,650. Villagers have options for street parking below the highway provided their new parking permits are properly affixed by August 1st. Above the highway is mostly open parking, except where it's specifically restricted. Other than the occasional resident who writes me that they would like more restricted parking in their vicinity and more enforcement, so far this year parking appears to be a non-issue. If you provide your guests with a one day Guest Parking Pass, be sure to fill it in to avoid them getting ticketed.
- Translink – If you didn't see the survey results last week, the residents have had their say and 170 of you responded and made comments (**which you can find [here](#).**) We are a small Community and our ridership doesn't cover the provider's costs. Translink has the survey results and are considering ways to improve service. We will be meeting with them in the fall to follow-up.
- Filming – Also if you missed it last week, 170 residents participated in our survey and had their say with comments on this topic as well (**which you can find [here](#).**) The common themes were that residents were largely favorable to filming for the reason of its revenue, but wanted safeguards in place as much as possible to minimize resident disruption. Revenue generated from filming for 2019 year to date is \$10K. For the last four years it was: 2018-\$12K; 2017-\$3K; and 2016-\$2k. In fall 2018 and since then exemptions from Policy have been made wherein 90% of affected residents in a filming area needed to agree to the filming, vs. 100% previously. At the last meeting Council was presented with a lot of information to digest in addition to the survey. The decision was to reflect on the information until our next meeting in late September. I expect an updated policy will be in place by the year end.

I hope you made it this far. If you did you should be able to hold your own if these topics arise during conversation with neighbors and friends. From all of Council, we hope everyone enjoys the rest of the Summer.

Regards,

Ron
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Updates from the Municipality



LEVEL 2 WATER RESTRICTIONS APPLY VILLAGE-WIDE

Lions Bay has moved to Level 2 restrictions on outdoor water use. With the warmer weather, both plants are running almost non-stop to keep up with demand. Residents are reminded that our water is currently being supplied by the much smaller 100,000-gallon Oceanview tank until the new tank is commissioned in September. That leaves us with significantly reduced firefighting water reserves. Please assist us during this construction period by reducing your water consumption to ensure as much of the water as possible remains within the 100,000-gallon tank for firefighting purposes.

Under Level 2 Water Restrictions, watering is only permitted one day per week between 4:00 am to 9:00 am as follows:

- Mondays for even-numbered addresses
- Thursdays for odd numbered addresses

No washing of outdoor surfaces is permitted, including pressure washing. Washing of vehicles and boats is only by bucket.

For details please see the [Outdoor Water Use Conservation Measures Chart](#) in the “Village of Lions Bay Outdoor Water Use Bylaw 484, 2015.

Despite some rain over the past couple of weeks, the Lower Fraser Basin, which includes Lions Bay, remains “very dry” on the B.C. Drought Map. Residents should be prepared to move to Level 3 restrictions in August should drought conditions persist. To view the Drought Map visit the [British Columbia Drought Information Portal](#) and click on the BC Drought Map tab.

COASTAL WILDFIRE NEWSLETTER

For the latest copy of the Coastal Wildfire Newsletter, please visit our website [here](#).

Note: All meetings take place in Council Chambers unless otherwise noted. The Village Office is open until 6:30 pm on Regular Council Meeting nights. Please check the Meeting Calendar for changes or cancellations.

COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Trees, Views & Landscapes: August 7 at 11 am
52 Brunswick Beach Road

Meeting Calendar

A piece of Lions Bay history...



LIONS BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY "LOOKING BACK"

The Royal Hudson Steam Train
The romance of the great era of train travel lives on in the Royal Hudson steam train. No. 2860 which operated as a passenger service between North Vancouver and Squamish during the Summer months. The Royal Hudson is one of the Hudson-type locomotives built between 1929 and 1940 for high speed passenger service across Canada in the late steam era. In 1939 during the celebrated cross-Canada tour of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, its sister engine 2850, was chosen to head the Royal train. The engine performed admirably, without a single malfunction between Quebec and Vancouver. So impressing the CPR that permission was asked and granted to add "Royal" designation to the steamlined models of the Hudson locomotives. Crowns were affixed to all the engines, thereafter know as Royal Hudsons. There were 25 changes of crew from Montreal to Vancouver. It travelled 5'189 km from Montreal to Vancouver.



The Hudsons were among the most handsome engines ever built, and their construction provided high traction and better highspeed efficiency. The 2860 spent sixteen years powering trains through the difficult terrain between Vancouver and Revelstoke. But the era of steam was over, and the 2860, like all the other Hudsons, was consigned to the scrap heap. A reprieve came in 1964, when it was restored as part of a proposed railway museum in Vancouver, but when the museum project fell through, the engine sat for another decade in storage.

The provincial Government eventually brought the 2860, with the aim of returning the locomotive to active service. Another year went by while it was being restored, and in 1974, the Royal Hudson took its inaugural run. The 2860, the only steam locomotive still in scheduled mainline service in North America, proved to be one of British Columbia's greatest attraction. Some 100'000 passengers a year boarded the Royal Hudson for the eighty-mile round trip to Squamish - not only to experience the romance of travel under steam, but to enjoy one of the most scenic routes in British Columbia. The Royal Hudson had its last trip in 1999. It ran again for a short time. The Royal Hudson 2860 is now on display at the Railway museum in Squamish.

This fine piece of B.C. history brings fond memories to us who lived in Lions Bay along the Royal Hudson's route. We knew by the timing of the watch it was either 10.15 am or 3.30 pm. One never got tired of hearing its whistle blowing, to see the plume of steam. To see the engineer in his striped overalls and cap waving to the folks who stopped in their tracks to honour the passing of such a beautiful piece of B.C. pride on wheels. Memories of the "Royal Hudson 2860" stay in our hearts long after the last and unique whistle blow..

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