

Electoral Area A

December 2016

BULLETIN

Bi-annual publication sharing Metro Vancouver information with Electoral Area A residents.

NEWS & ISSUES

Electoral Area A Official Community Plan News

A third round of community meetings was held November 14 to 16 to present and get feedback on the first draft of the first-ever Official Community Plan (OCP) for Electoral Area A, excluding UBC, UEL, Passage Island, and Bowyer Island.

An Official Community Plan contains land use designations and policies that together set out the long term vision for communities. The first draft of the OCP was presented to Indian Arm and Pitt Lake residents on November 14, to Howe Sound residents on November 15 and to Barnston Island residents on November 16.

Thank you to those who attended and provided feedback. In January 2017 a second draft of the OCP that includes changes based on the feedback from residents will be posted on Metro Vancouver's website and shared with adjacent local governments and various agencies for comment.

For those who could not attend the meetings, your feedback is still welcome and important. Please visit Metro Vancouver's website to view drafts and maps and to download a feedback form.

Once a draft is finalized, it will be presented to the Electoral Area A Sub-Committee in early 2017, and will begin the process of being adopted as a bylaw by the GVRD Board. This process involves a public hearing, which allows residents another opportunity to provide comments on the OCP either in person or in writing. Residents will be notified in advance of the public hearing.

Visit metrovancover.org/services/electoral-area-a/ocp/ or Search "official community plan" on metrovancover.org.

If you have any questions, please contact Marcin Pachcinski, Division Manager, Electoral Area and Environment, directly at 604.451.6562 or marcin.pachcinski@metrovancover.org

Emergency Planning and Management Bylaw

Earlier this year, Metro Vancouver undertook a review of the emergency management plan for Electoral Area A to determine if it fully meets Metro Vancouver's obligations under the B.C. Emergency Program Act. The review indicated the need to establish a bylaw stipulating that emergency planning and management within Electoral Area A is to be funded through an annual Electoral Area tax requisition. To that end, the GVRD Board gave first, second and third reading to an emergency planning and management bylaw for Electoral Area A at its November 25 meeting. The bylaw will now be forwarded to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval. The cost of this service will be phased in over five years with a household impact of approximately \$0.08 per \$100,000 of assessed value in 2017 increasing to approximately \$0.40 per \$100,000 over the next five years.

Zoning Bylaw

At its September 23, 2016 meeting, following receipt of approval from the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, the GVRD Board adopted Electoral Area A Zoning Amendment Bylaw No. 1231, 2016. The Amendment Bylaw revised certain definitions and references and made amendments to the Strachan Point Residential Zone-RS-3, based on several meetings with Strachan Point residents, the Electoral Area A Director and staff. A comprehensive review of the Electoral Area A Zoning Bylaw will take place following the completion of the Official Community Plan.

A summary of the changes is on page 54 of the July 6 **Electoral Area A Sub-Committee agenda**.

<http://owl.li/O4NH306YVUi>

To view the entire amended zoning bylaw, please visit metrovancover.org and search for "consolidated zoning bylaw." If you have any questions, please contact Marcin Pachcinski, Division Manager, Electoral Area and Environment, directly at 604.451.6562 or marcin.pachcinski@metrovancover.org



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Howe Sound Updates

The fall 2016 Howe Sound Community Forum took place on Friday, October 14 in West Vancouver.

The Forum brought together representatives from local, provincial and federal governments, First Nations and various stakeholder groups to discuss issues and projects of interest to Howe Sound communities. The Forum included updates from each of the communities, and presentations by stakeholder groups on a variety of topics.

Highlights included:

Presentations on current development projects and planning initiatives, including the Electoral Area A Official Community Plan for Indian Arm, Pitt Lake, Barnston Island and Howe Sound communities.

metrovancover.org/services/electoral-area-a/ocp/

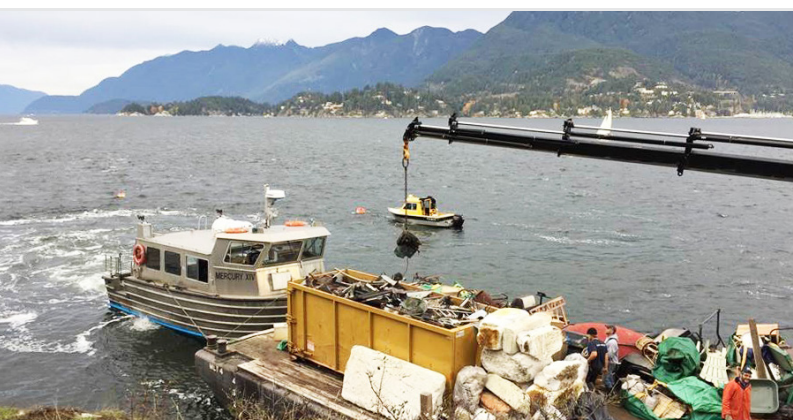
An overview from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure on potential future fixed link connections between the Lower Mainland and the Sunshine Coast, including information on the consultation process and timelines. gov.bc.ca/sunshinecoastfixedlink/

An update on the Howe Sound Cumulative Effects Project from the BC Ministry of Forest, Lands and Resource Operations.

A presentation on an initiative to make Howe Sound a UNESCO Biosphere Region.

futureofhowesound.org/campaigns/exploring-unesco-biosphere-reserve-status/

Information on planned discussions between the David Suzuki Foundation and Parks Canada on a feasibility study for a new park on Gambier Island. More information about the David Suzuki Foundation's Howe Sound campaign: sustainablehowesound.ca/



Christmas Campaign: Create Memories Not Garbage

For the sixth year, Metro Vancouver is encouraging people to invest in creating memories not garbage with a focus on reducing waste during the holiday season. The campaign reminds residents to celebrate the holidays with the gift of time and high-quality, long-lasting gifts. This year's campaign continues to use positive and humorous behaviour. This year's waste-reduction campaign focuses on the gift recipient, rather than the giver. Residents are invited to share their "best gift ever" ideas and experiences with Metro Vancouver through social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, using #BestGiftEver and #CreateMemories.

Visit creatememoriesnotgarbage.ca for festive inspiration, waste-free gift ideas, green gift wrap and decorating tips, e-cards, gift cards and more.



Bowyer Island & Passage Island Barge Clean Up

On October 22, Metro Vancouver organized a barge to enable residents of Bowyer Island and Passage Island to properly recycle and dispose of accumulated debris. Residents on both islands put in tremendous effort to load the barge with years of accumulated items like mattresses, tires, scrap metal, Styrofoam, old appliances, paint cans, a derelict vessel.

Metro Vancouver Electoral Area and Solid Waste staff helped in the planning and disposal efforts, but the event would not have been possible without the coordination and volunteer efforts of Bowyer Island and Passage Island residents. The clean-up effort helps to protect the unique Howe Sound land and marine environments and ensure items are properly disposed of. Metro Vancouver staff hope to hold a similar one-time environmental clean-up in the water communities of Indian Arm and Pitt Lake in 2017.

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Metro Vancouver Close Up

The latest episode of Metro Vancouver Close Up features Burnaby's Shorter Showers Challenge to conserve water at a recreation facility, a profile of the Tsawwassen First Nation Farm School, and zero waste recycling at Coquitlam's 125th Anniversary events.

Episode 9 November, 2016 - bcove.me/dgj3i8z0

Building Inspection Services

Metro Vancouver provides Building Inspection Services to all areas of Electoral Area A, with the exception of UBC, UEL and First Nation reserves. Metro Vancouver staff encourage you to get in touch with our office well in advance of any land clearing, building, renovating, or demolition. Metro Vancouver staff can assist you in the building permit process, in obtaining and understanding the required documentation, and with any questions you may have.

Wood Stove Exchange Program – \$250 Rebates

Metro Vancouver residents are eligible to receive a \$250 rebate for trading in their old, uncertified wood burning appliance for a new low-emission appliance. Exchanging old wood stoves for low-emission replacements can make a difference in air quality within your neighbourhood.

For details on how to take advantage of this program, search "wood stove exchange" on metrovancover.org

Buying/Selling Property in the Electoral Area?

If you or someone you know is buying or selling property in Electoral Area A (except for UBC/UEL), we encourage you to get in touch with Metro Vancouver staff to request any records on file before purchasing or listing a property.

The types of records commonly available are building plans, occupancy permit records and geotechnical reports. In addition, we often have copies of water tests, septic approvals, gas inspections and electrical inspections on file.

For more info, please contact Marcin Pachcinski, Division Manager, Electoral Area and Environment, at 604.451.6562.

For legal plans and documents registered on title, please contact the BC Land Title Office at ltsa.ca or 604.630.9630.

Deck The Halls With...

For many of us, the holidays invoke memories of halls decked with boughs of holly. Although beautiful, English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) is an invasive species here in Metro Vancouver. Invasive species are non-native plants or animals that can harm our environment, health, safety, and economy.

Are your halls decked with English holly this season? After the holidays, please don't chip or toss it into your backyard, parks or other natural areas. Why? English holly can quickly grow stems and take root in the soil. Once established, it shades out native trees and shrubs, and sucks up water that native plants need. All of this is bad news for the forests and natural areas in our region that provide clean water and habitat.

If English holly plants are growing on your property, we recommend removing them. Small plants can be easily pulled or dug up by hand when soil is moist. Larger plants or trees may require hiring a professional.

Wondering what to plant instead of English holly? Check out Metro Vancouver's **Grow Green** website for non-invasive plant and design ideas.

www.growgreenguide.ca

CONTACT



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To subscribe, visit: <http://goo.gl/gR3Amn>. For an archive of past bulletins, please visit: <http://goo.gl/aabPtU>

For the UBC/UEL area, Maria Harris, the Metro Vancouver Director for Electoral Area A, also prepares a monthly update which is provided to the UNA Board and the UEL Community Advisory Council as well as UBC, the UEL Manager, and residents.