



Dear Electoral Area A Residents and Property Owners,  
Welcome New Members of Electoral Area A Email Distribution

I would like to extend a warm welcome to new members on the email distribution list. This distribution list was first setup by Metro Vancouver staff in 2011 in an effort to better inform you of what's happening at Metro Vancouver. For UBC/UEL area residents, I also submit regular reports to the UNA Board and the UEL Community Advisory Council. An archive of these reports and bulletins, are accessible on the reports page of my website ([www.mariaharris.ca](http://www.mariaharris.ca)).

### **Barnston Island Dike**

At the end of the year, The Province of BC plans to repeal the Drainage, Ditch, and Dike Act, dissolving the Barnston Island Diking District and transferring responsibility to Metro Vancouver. However, there are significant issues to be resolved.

A technical assessment report indicates the need for significant and costly physical upgrades, yet no funding sources have been identified. Neither Metro Vancouver nor the Island residents have the financial capacity to take responsibility for upgrades and management of the dike under the proposed legislative change.

Given the significant issues identified in the report regarding the current state of the Barnston Island dike facility, transfer of these responsibilities to Metro Vancouver is not appropriate and should not be considered until the Province has fully addressed all the physical and legal issues associated with the dike.

Metro Vancouver will continue to reiterate these concerns and opposition, and encourage the Province to address these issues through an agreeable resolution. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or opinions you would like to share.

### **Barnston Island Dike Assessment 2012:**

[www.metrovancouver.org/services/electoralA/Electoral%20Area%20A%20documents/BarnstonIslandDikeAssessmentbyNHCCConsultantsAug2013.pdf](http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/electoralA/Electoral%20Area%20A%20documents/BarnstonIslandDikeAssessmentbyNHCCConsultantsAug2013.pdf)

### **Wood Stove Exchange Program**

Metro Vancouver residents are eligible to receive a rebate for trading in their old uncertified wood-burning appliance for a new low emission appliance.

The rebate amount is:

- \$250 per exchange when replacing an uncertified wood burning appliance with a qualifying wood burning appliance OR propane appliance OR EnerChoice rated natural gas appliance OR electric insert.
- \$350 per exchange when replacing an uncertified wood burning appliance with a qualifying natural gas appliance that is NOT eligible for Fortis BC's EnerChoice Fireplace Program.

[www.metrovancouver.org/services/air/whatsMVdoing/Pages/WoodStoveExchangeProgram.aspx](http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/air/whatsMVdoing/Pages/WoodStoveExchangeProgram.aspx)

### **Garbage Disposal at Grant Narrows**

Metro Vancouver provided waste disposal services at Grant Narrows until the 2011 conversion of the area from a regional park to a Katzie First Nation/Province of BC conservation area. Cabin owners on Pitt Lake can now dispose of their garbage at private marinas, or at the Grant Narrows boat launch for a fee of \$5.00 per bag. The bins are located near the boat launch by the West side of the parking lot.

### **Strachan Point – Charles Creek**

Over the last couple of years the Ministry of Transportation has done a lot of work to reduce erosion at Strachan Point. Watch the video here:

[www.tranbc.ca/2013/02/27/protecting-sea-to-sky-highway-strachan-point-from-erosion/](http://www.tranbc.ca/2013/02/27/protecting-sea-to-sky-highway-strachan-point-from-erosion/)

### **Montizambert Water Supply & Treatment**

Montizambert Wynd residents were issued a disconnect notice by the District of West Vancouver earlier this year because of concern that their drinking water system is not in compliance with the Drinking Water Protection Act. The water disconnect notice from the District of West Vancouver was extended from August 2013 to August 2014 to better evaluate the options available to residents. Metro Vancouver staff and I have been working with residents, the Province, the local health authority, and the District of West Vancouver to help facilitate an arrangement that will ensure a safe and secure water supply in future for this Electoral Area community. Currently, a number of options are still being evaluated.

### **Kildare Estates, Bowyer Island**

Working closely with Metro Vancouver Staff, some of the cabin owners on Kildare Estates have successfully moved forward with renovations and new accessory buildings that included installation of a new septic system and collaboration with the Health Authority on upgrades to their drinking water system.

### Community Docks

The Island Trust has recently prepared an excellent background document on what options are available for community dock development. Much of the information is also relevant to owners on Indian Arm, Pitt Lake and Barnston Island. A summer planning student put together the following linked resource which is a good starting point for communities interested in working towards a private community dock. If you have further questions or would like to begin the process of dock development on Passage or Bowyer Island, please contact an Islands Trust Planner at the Northern Office (toll free through Enquiry BC)

[www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/gambier/resources.aspx](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/gambier/resources.aspx)

[www.islandstrust.bc.ca/connect/contact-staff.aspx](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/connect/contact-staff.aspx)

### Howe Sound Community Forum

Metro Vancouver's Electoral Area Planner and I attended the Howe Sound Community Forum held September 25th. Presentations included the District of West Vancouver 5-year Protection Plan and the David Suzuki Foundation mapping for Howe Sound, as well as minor updates to the Principles for Cooperation and discussion about next steps. The presentation from the District of West Vancouver highlighted their innovative approach to managing the ecologically

sensitive dynamic foreshore areas, including negotiating enhancements to the public realm to help protect private property as part of development permits.

The Howe Sound Community Forum was started in the early 2000s as a forum for local governments, Regional Districts and First Nations discussion to maintain and enhance the economic, environmental, cultural and social well being of the Howe Sound for the benefit of present and future generations. Metro Vancouver is a signatory to the Forum's Principles for Cooperation, which you can read at this link.

The next meeting of the forum will be in mid-January.

[www.futureofhowesound.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/HSCF-Principles-for-Cooperation-Original.pdf](http://www.futureofhowesound.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/HSCF-Principles-for-Cooperation-Original.pdf)

### Foreshore Protection

Earlier this year, the Islands Trust hosted a Greenshore Workshop on Foreshore Protection and Stewardship. Resources, including the webinar, can be found at the website below:

[www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/gambier/projects-initiatives/foreshore-protection-and-stewardship.aspx](http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/gambier/projects-initiatives/foreshore-protection-and-stewardship.aspx)

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If you or your neighbours wish to receive these bulletins in future, please visit

[www.metrovancouver.org/SERVICES/ELECTORALA](http://www.metrovancouver.org/SERVICES/ELECTORALA)

Anyone can add themselves to the email distribution list on the bottom left hand corner of the webpage.

As before, I hope that you will find these bulletins useful and I welcome your comments and feedback.

With best wishes,

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