

# Bulletin

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

DECEMBER 2017

## Holiday Greeting

*The following message comes to you from Maria Harris, Metro Vancouver Director for Electoral Area A.*

“2017 has been a positive and progressive year for Electoral Area A. Alternate Director Bill Holmes and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with residents across the diverse and unique communities that make up the Electoral Area.

Bill and I extend our appreciation for your continued enthusiasm and collaborative spirit, and thank you for your continued confidence in us as your representatives to the Metro Vancouver Regional District.

Our thoughts turn to you and yours as we extend our best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season.

We look forward to continuing to work together in the coming year.

Merry Christmas!”



## Electoral Area A Official Community Plan: Indian Arm and Pitt Lake Short-Term Rentals

In July 2017, the Electoral Area Committee, a standing committee of the Metro Vancouver Board chaired by Electoral Area A Director Maria Harris, discussed short-term rental policies for Indian Arm and Pitt Lake in the proposed **Electoral Area A Official Community Plan (OCP)**.

Following discussion around fire risk and potential demand on policing services, the proposed policies were revised to generally not support short-term rentals in Indian Arm and Pitt Lake communities. However, after these revisions were made, Director Harris and staff received feedback from some residents and concluded that more community input was needed on this topic. Therefore, in November 2017, Indian Arm and Pitt Lake residents were asked to provide additional feedback regarding their current experiences with short-term rentals, as well as their thoughts on either allowing or restricting short-term rentals in the future.

We thank all those residents who took the time to provide us with comments. They will be considered by the Electoral Area Committee at its next meeting in early 2018, and there will be another opportunity to review and provide feedback on the proposed OCP once a public hearing is scheduled.

If you have additional comments or questions, please contact Marcin Pachcinski, Division Manager, Electoral Area and Environment at 604.451.6562 or [marcin.pachcinski@metrovancover.org](mailto:marcin.pachcinski@metrovancover.org)

To view the current draft OCP and to see comments received on short-term rentals, see the link below.

<http://www.metrovancover.org/services/electoral-area-a/ocp/>

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### Fire Training on Passage Island

On August 13, 2017, Metro Vancouver Safety, Security & Emergency Management and Electoral Area Services staff hosted a fire safety training session on Passage Island. The session covered a variety of topics, including hands-on practice with wildfire suppression pumps and portable hand-held fire extinguishers, emergency notification protocols, and Metro Vancouver's role in assisting residents in the event of an evacuation.

Approximately 25 residents actively participated in the training session. Since the training session, residents have continued to prepare and to build community capacity to respond in case of a wildfire. Metro Vancouver welcomes opportunities to provide information and training related to emergencies. If your community is interested in participating in a fire safety or other emergency training session, please contact Marcin Pachcinski, Division Manager, Electoral Area and Environment at 604.451.6562 or [marcin.pachcinski@metrovancouver.org](mailto:marcin.pachcinski@metrovancouver.org).



### Barnston Island Meeting Regarding Trains and the 104 Ave–176 St Intersection

On October 10, residents of Barnston Island organized a meeting hosted by the Katzie First Nation to discuss concerns regarding crossing delays because of trains at the 104 Avenue and 179 Street rail crossings and traffic safety concerns from ongoing road work at the South Fraser Perimeter Road and 104 Avenue intersection. Residents brought up these issues through the Electoral Area A Official Community Plan process, and took the initiative to organize a meeting directly with elected representatives.

Representatives present were: Katzie First Nation Councillors Peter James and Rick Bailey, Electoral Area A Director Maria Harris, Federal MP for Fleetwood—Port Kells Ken Hardie, a staff representative for Provincial MLA for Surrey-Guildford Garry Begg, and staff from CN Rail, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and Metro Vancouver.

Residents shared common experiences of waiting at the train crossings for long periods of time, which causes significant inconvenience for Island residents, especially when trying to catch the ferry before it stops operating for the night. The potential for trains blocking the road in the event of an emergency was of particular concern.

In addition, residents spoke about safety concerns at the South Fraser Perimeter Road and 104 Avenue intersection caused by ongoing road work, confusing light signals, a new barrier at 179th street, and the large number of trucks coming into the CN terminal. A number of next steps came out of the meeting intended to ease the challenges facing Barnston Island residents. Metro Vancouver will provide the community with a progress report in early 2018.



### Emergency Management Notification System

Metro Vancouver is the local authority responsible for emergency management in Electoral Area A. To assist in notifying Electoral Area residents of emergencies, Metro Vancouver uses a web-based text and voice messaging system that sends voice, text and email messages to residents in the event of an emergency that may affect them.

Residents must opt in to the system if they wish to be notified. The system will only be used for emergencies, or other urgent communications, and an annual test.

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If you would like to be added to the emergency notification system, email [semsupport@metrovanancouver.org](mailto:semsupport@metrovanancouver.org) with the following information:

- First and last name
- Community name (Strachan Point, Passage Island, Indian Arm, etc.)
- Property address
- Primary contact number
- Secondary contact number
- Email address (if desired)

### Residential Wood Smoke Regulation Consultation

Metro Vancouver is considering a bylaw to reduce wood smoke emitted from indoor residential burning. As part of this process, Metro Vancouver is seeking public input on a proposed phased approach to regulating wood smoke emissions.

For Electoral Area A residents outside the Urban Containment Boundary, which includes all of the Electoral Area outside of the Point Grey peninsula, the proposed phased approach involves:

- A seasonal restriction on the use of indoor residential wood burning appliances between May 15 and September 15, from May 2020.
- Registration requirements for indoor residential wood burning appliances from September 2022. When registering, residents of Electoral Area A would commit to adhering to recommended operating procedures, fuel quality guidelines and cleaner burning practices.
- A Prohibition on residential wood smoke emissions from unregistered appliances from September 2025.

Indoor residential wood burning is responsible for nearly one third of the fine particle emissions in the region – more than any other source. Since heating generally occurs in the fall and winter, wood smoke can make an even larger contribution to the fine particles in the air we breathe during those times of the year. In addition to health impacts associated with particulate exposure, wood smoke also has a distinctive odour and can negatively affect residents' use and enjoyment of their environment, particularly in densely populated neighbourhoods. To help reduce wood smoke, Metro Vancouver currently offers a wood stove exchange program, educational workshops, and other initiatives.

If you would like to hear more about the proposal, Metro Vancouver is hosting a webinar at 1:00 pm on January 8th. See the link below for information on how to participate in the consultation process, which has a deadline of January 15, 2018 for online feedback.

<http://www.metrovanancouver.org/services/air-quality/consultation/reducing-residential-woodsmoke/>

Please see the Discussion Paper for full details:

[http://www.metrovanancouver.org/services/air-quality/AirQualityPublications/AQ\\_Residentialwoodsmokeemissionsstrategydevelopment.pdf](http://www.metrovanancouver.org/services/air-quality/AirQualityPublications/AQ_Residentialwoodsmokeemissionsstrategydevelopment.pdf)

### Create Memories, Not Garbage Campaign

The holiday season is here, and Metro Vancouver is once again encouraging residents to Create Memories, Not Garbage. The annual campaign, now in its seventh year, aims to raise awareness of the unnecessary waste produced during the holiday season and encourage people to do just one thing differently this year to reduce the amount of garbage they create.

At the heart of the campaign is the idea that many people say that their favourite Christmas memory was an experience with friends and family, or a gift that generated memories for years to come.

“Best Gift Ever” stories support the message, and tips for celebrating with less waste – such as gift giving, wrapping, and decorating – can be found on the campaign website.



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To give the gift of an experience, you can create a custom coupon on the site, which can be printed and folded into a 3D shape, or emailed in a PDF version.

New for 2017 is the **Merry Memory Maker** – an online app designed to help inspire new ways of thinking about gift-giving by offering experience-based or long-lasting gift ideas based on a preferred price range.

The campaign supports the Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan, which aims to reduce the quantity of waste generated per capita within the region to 90% or less of 2010 volumes by 2020.

<http://www.creatememoriesnotgarbage.ca>

### Air Quality Advisories and Fire Season

Metro Vancouver faced one of its worst summers in terms of air quality in 2017, as heavy smoke from the wildfires raging in B.C. and the northwest U.S. drifted across the region. Prolonged hot and dry conditions led to extreme fire risk conditions, significant wildfire activity, and deteriorating air quality.

Metro Vancouver played a key role in the early detection and the ongoing surveillance of air quality, due to wildfire smoke, which significantly exceeded any previous year and affected monitoring stations from Hope to Horseshoe Bay.

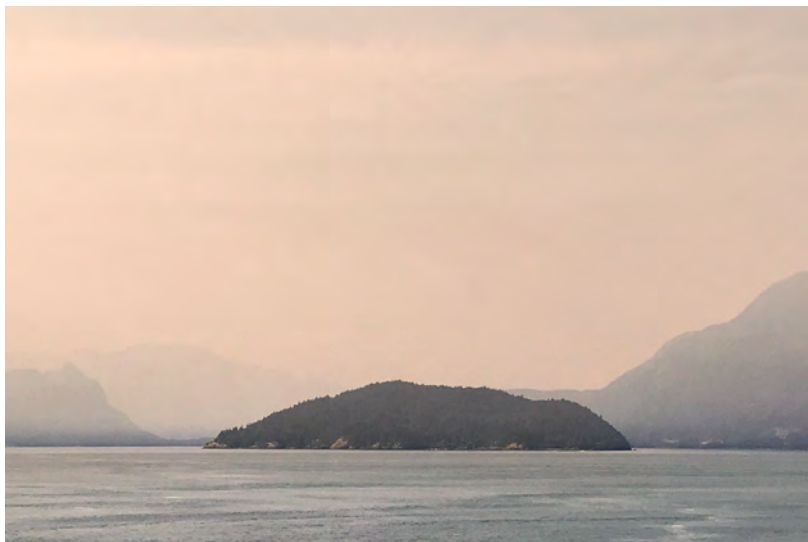
Five air quality advisories were issued this summer, with an unprecedented 19 days under advisory. The longest period was from August 1 to 12, with elevated levels of fine particulate matter and intermittent spikes of high ground-level ozone. Ground-level ozone is usually produced during hot sunny weather, but the smoky skies inhibited sunlight and reduced temperatures, which suggests the smoke coming into the region was also carrying pollutants that accelerated ground-level ozone production.

On a brighter note, despite the prolonged “extreme” fire danger rating, there were few fire incidents in parks and green spaces throughout Metro Vancouver, thanks in part to the diligence of Regional Parks and Watershed Protection staff.

Metro Vancouver residents generally enjoy clean, clear air, but the summers of 2015 and 2017 may be an indication of how the changing climate will increase the severity and occurrence of out-of-region wildfires in the future. As a result, Metro Vancouver plans to adapt its approach to air quality management in response to wildfires, not only to deal with smoke particles but also with ground-level ozone.

Read the 2017 Caring for the Air Report to learn about key air quality and climate change issues affecting the region, and the work being done to improve conditions in the Lower Fraser Valley airshed, which stretches from West Vancouver to Hope.

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/air-quality/information-public/caring-for-the-air/>



### Metro Vancouver New Head Office

Metro Vancouver has a new Head Office at Metrotown in Burnaby.

All staff and Director email addresses and phone numbers remain the same. Please note that if you are coming to Head Office for meetings, the building entrance is best accessed from Central Boulevard.

The new mailing address is:

Metro Vancouver  
Metrotower III  
Mailroom 11th Floor  
4730 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC, V5H 0C6

If you have any questions, please contact the information centre at 604-432-6200 or email [icentre@metrovancouver.org](mailto:icentre@metrovancouver.org)

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### Building Inspection Services

Metro Vancouver provides Building Inspection Services to all parts of Electoral Area A, with the exception of UBC, UEL and First Nations reserves. Metro Vancouver staff encourage you to please 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 Available

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 neighbourhoods.

For details on how to take advantage of this program, search “wood stove exchange” on [www.metrovancouver.org](http://www.metrovancouver.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.

Please contact Tom Pearce, Regional Planner, at 604.432.6383. For legal plans and documents registered on title, please contact the BC Land Title Office by visiting [www.ltsa.ca](http://www.ltsa.ca) or calling 604.630.9630.

### Provincial Well Database

If you have a well, there may be information on it in the provincial well database. If a well record does not exist for your well, the province recommends that you register it. This will create a record of your water use, which helps to ensure that your use is considered in decisions for new provincial authorizations and during times of water scarcity. More information can be found at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/groundwater-wells/information-for-property-owners/well-records-registration>

### Sewage Disposal System Information

Onsite sewage disposal in Electoral Area A is regulated by either Fraser Health Authority or Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, depending on where your property is located. The Fraser Health Authority has a number of resources that are applicable to all residents with onsite sewage disposal systems. These resources provide maintenance tips and answers to frequently asked questions: <http://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-info/health-topics/onsite-sewage/onsite-sewage-resources/>

To find a Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner who can help plan, install and maintain your onsite sewage disposal system, visit: <http://owrp.asttbc.org/rowp-finder/>

### CONTACT



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### Subscribe To Electoral Area Email List

Email is one of the fastest ways Metro Vancouver can send information related to events and issues of interest to you and your community.

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

For UBC/UEL residents, Maria Harris, the Metro Vancouver Director for Electoral Area A, also submits regular reports to the UNA Board and the UEL Community Advisory Council.



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