

Subject: [Fwd: Re: Waterfront Access - Deep Cove to Cates Park]

Date: Fri, 11 Mar 2005 13:51:54 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Subject: Re: Waterfront Access - Deep Cove to Cates Park

Date: Thu, 10 Mar 2005 17:15:39 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Phil Chubb <maureen_and_phil@shaw.ca>

CC: Ernie Crist <ernie_crist@dnv.org>, Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>, Senior Management Committee <managecomm@dnv.org>, Cagebc@yahoo.com

Dear Mr. Chubb:

I received a copy of your e-mail and the subsequent response by Councillor Ernie Crist. I was one of those citizens who served on Phases I and II of the District's Waterfront Task Force back in the '90's and can confirm that Councillor Crist is absolutely correct in what took place.

The so called "Concerned Citizens Association" spent huge dollars during the '99 municipal election to promote only those candidates who were openly hostile to implementing the recommendations of the Waterfront Task Force Report and to defeat the referendum question. It was an anonymous and secret campaign but it was very effective. The group even ran prominent ads in the North Shore News showing an unflattering photo of the West Vancouver Sea Wall and high-rise apartment buildings with a caption warning that this was the "real" vision for our District waterfront. It was a complete fabrication by waterfront property owners to protect their interests which excludes, of course, public access to the waterfront. The District's current Mayor, who was a Councillor at the time and supported by the CCA, derisively referred to the proposed waterfront trail system as "a concrete sea wall walk from Maplewood to Deep Cove." She made this comment repeatedly and even when challenged, she refused to retract this falsehood and apologize.

The campaign against the Task Force Plan even got nasty. During the December '98 Open Houses to present to the public, the preliminary recommendations to improve public access, the volunteer Task Force membership was subjected to waterfront homeowners yelling and screaming in our faces. It was the worst form of bullying and intimidation. Before the election in '99 I spoke publicly in favour of Council holding a referendum on the Task Force recommendations. For these efforts, a few days later at 2 a.m. my house was paint-bombed. After the election that year, a stream of Development Variance Permit applications for massive waterfront homes that far exceeded the Zoning Bylaw, were approved by Council, and many encroachments on to street ends leading to the waterfront, were legalized.

Fast forward to today we have a new Council that cannot fairly be saddled with the actions of the previous Council, but having said that, we still have seen no progress on improving waterfront access. Part of the problem, however, is the Vancouver Port Corporation has jurisdiction up to the high tide mark. In addition, the VPC has a policy of allowing every waterfront property owner a licence for a dock that cuts across the beach. But the problem is far from being just the Port. There are 28 street ends leading to the foreshore yet only a few are accessible to the public because of, in many instances, blatant encroachments by adjacent homeowners. In other cases it's the result of overgrowth of foliage. Council has simply not made opening street ends a priority. In fact, Council has granted homeowners Licences to Occupy and some councillors have even talked about selling street ends.

In closing, Mr. Chubb, your e-mail is much appreciated by those who continue to advocate for increased public access to our publicly-owned District waterfront. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Brian Platts

Ernie Crist wrote:

Dear Mr. Chubb:

The issue has been going on for many years. It was at my initiative that a citizens task force was set up to regain public control of the waterfront.

However, in order to kill the recommendations of this Task Force a civic party was formed by special interests with the avowed purpose of defeating not only the Task Force recommendations but also any and all councillors who supported such a concept.

The name of that civic party was the CCA and it made good on its promise with the result that every councillor who supported this concept was defeated at the polls. I was the only exception but I came within 150 votes from being ousted as well and for no other reason then to stand up and try to give back to the people that, which belongs to them in the first place. Most of the present members of District Council were supported by the CCA which explains why no progress on this issue has been made since.

Thank you,

Yours truly

Ernie Crist

From: Phil Chubb [mailto:maureen_and_phil@shaw.ca]

Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2005 7:38 PM

To: Mayor and Council - DNV

Subject: Waterfront Access - Deep Cove to Cates Park

I've just finished watching the CBC's news story on the above and it was a real eye opener. I had no idea that a public access to that area could be possible or that the District had the power to make it happen. I'm 100% in favour of public access. Might I therefore suggest that Council give the area's waterfront property owners a year's notice to enable them to adjust their properties to conform with legal requirements then simply put a Caterpillar D9 at or near the high tide mark in Deep Cove and bulldoze south to Cates Park.

Phil Chubb

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District of North Vancouver