

5 February 2005

Your Worship & Members of Council

Pay Parking coming to the District?

Pay parking in our parks is being introduced for the first in the District of North Vancouver under **Agenda item #8 of Council meeting on Monday February 7/2005**. In my opinion, this is a direct result of increased growth in the adjacent City of North Vancouver, increased tourism, and the chronic under-funding of our District parks.

I am opposed to pay parking for our parks. I was opposed to pay parking being put into Stanley Park. I lost that battle and I no longer go there (an annual pass costs \$200). I was opposed to pay parking for Cyprus Park. I lost that battle as well and I no longer go there. Now it is proposed to put pay parking into my District parks – starting first with Cates, Lynn Canyon, and Deep Cove / Panorama Park. If I lose that battle I will likely never go to those places as well. I will not be the only one. Thousands of families, all taxpayers of the District, who have traditionally made use of parks, will be disenfranchised.

We are told to walk, ride a bike, carpool or take transit to our parks. Ridiculous! Has anyone ever tried that from Capilano to go to Panorama Park? It is said that pay parking “reduces vehicle traffic and congestion in these Parks or surrounding neighbourhoods”. Really? What about all those who would then travel in the adjacent neighbourhoods looking for a free place to park? Oh well, you say, we will put in resident’s parking only. What would that do but add more inconvenience and bureaucracy?

Pay parking is also said to “encourage turnover of parking spaces and will deter parking for extended periods of time”. So now we don’t want families to linger in our parks?! In any case, would not signage accomplish these same (misguided) goals. Ah, but what about enforcement of those time limits? But then again, what about enforcement of the parking charges?

Some argue that the added revenue would go for park maintenance. Don’t we already pay for that? In any case much of the money would not go to park improvements but go to bylaw enforcement.

It is said that the “GVRD Regional Parks have looked at pay parking too”. Yes, and they rejected it, as did this council whenever it came up. Council felt that \$2/yr per household was well worth keeping pay parking out of Regional Parks.

Make no mistake about this – if pay parking is approved for some of our parks it will soon come to many others – William Griffin is already being mentioned by some members of Council. Like gambling revenue the addiction will spread – and not only in the District of North Vancouver but throughout the region.

It is said that other municipalities are now starting to charge so what not us? I can understand it in Vancouver – a city somewhat deficient in local park space, or Coquitlam with their exploding growth and subsequent insufficient parking being put in their planning of that growth. No other municipality like the district is reported as having put pay parking into local parks. So why us? Are we so poor? Or have we just managed our finances badly? **I say no to pay parking.** I can only hope that most of our residents agree and will let council know how they feel.

Yours truly,

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