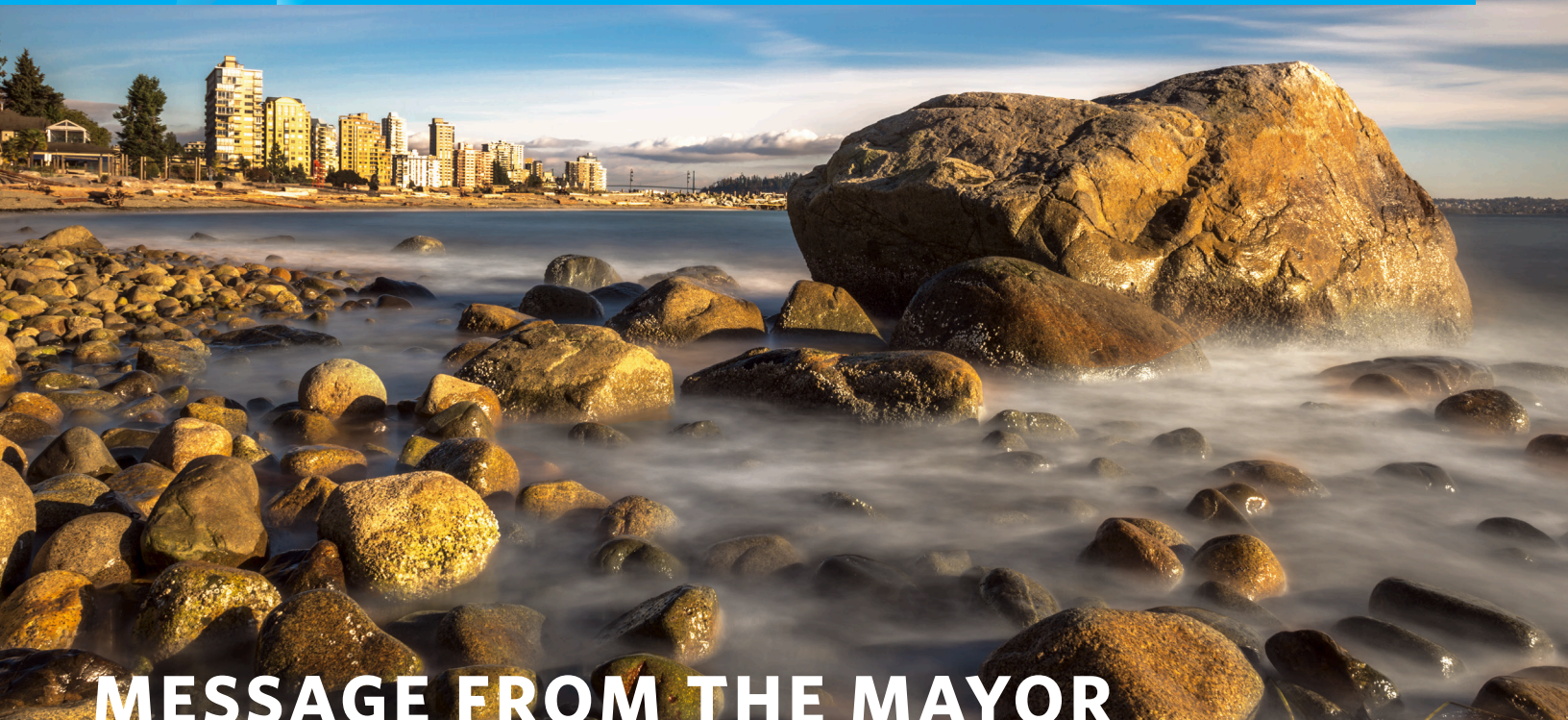


# Community Report

SUMMER 2016



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor Michael Smith  
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### Update on Council priorities—listening, planning, moving forward

*The District of West Vancouver continues to move forward in seven priority areas as 2016 unfolds.*

*By prioritizing these areas, we are continuing to sharpen our municipal planning tools, build new and enhance existing public spaces and facilities, strengthen and expand our services to the community and protect neighbourhood character. We are also enhancing our cultural offerings, putting the District on a solid financial footing, engaging more fully with residents and seeking ways to moderate our impact on our natural assets: the waterfront, forests and mountains, which residents treasure.*

*We are listening to our residents, making smart fiscal decisions in the present and in the long-term, and moving forward with specific projects that people want and need. This report tells just part of the story; go to [westvancouver.ca](http://westvancouver.ca) for detailed information.*

*You are welcome to contact me or any member of Council at any time to give us your views or ideas. You can also come to community meetings on specific projects, speak to us at Council meetings, express your views on our website, email us or send us a letter.*



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## 1 AMBLESIDE: WATERFRONT & TOWN CENTRE



! Council endorsed the Ambleside Waterfront Concept Plan in June. The plan is based on four decades of work from the community, previous Councils and staff, and an extensive community consultation process this spring. The plan expresses a cohesive vision that ensures something for everyone, more green and open spaces, and multi-use facilities and infrastructure, letting the community enjoy the waterfront for what it is—one of the jewels of West Vancouver and the Lower Mainland.

> **Check out the plan's key features: [westvancouver.ca/amblesidewaterfront](http://westvancouver.ca/amblesidewaterfront)**

More detailed designs and project budgets will be developed over the next five years, with community consultation at a level appropriate for various implementation projects. Council will review projects and funding requests as required before approval.

- + The District will launch an Ambleside Town Centre planning process this fall aimed at supporting a complete community for residents and businesses alike.
- + Council voted to create the Ambleside Dundarave Business Improvement Association last winter. The association is moving forward on branding and a strategic plan.

## 2 BUILT FORM, HOUSING & NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER



! West Vancouver's urban tree canopy is an essential part of neighbourhood character. In April, Council approved an interim tree bylaw that takes a balanced approach to protecting West Vancouver's trees on private lands. Council has heard continued and increasing concern from the community regarding the loss of trees. However, Council also recognizes the effects of tree growth on amenities such as access to sunlight, views and safety.

In May and June, the District undertook extensive community consultation regarding tree protection on private lands, and more will take place this summer and fall. Staff will report back to Council in fall 2016 on possible changes to the interim bylaw and a long-term strategy for tree protection.

> **Details on the interim tree bylaw: [westvancouver.ca/trees](http://westvancouver.ca/trees)**

- + In April, Council passed new limits on fence height, impervious surfacing and runoff control, lot consolidations and new regulations for design and maintenance of public boulevards.
- + In fall 2016, staff will propose new regulations on building bulk for Council's consideration. Siting, massing and height regulations will be proposed with the goal of balancing development with many residents' concerns around built form and its effect on their neighbourhoods.

## 3 FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY & MUNICIPAL SERVICES



! In April, Council took a critical step to ensure the long-term fiscal health of the District by authorizing creation of an asset levy to provide for maintenance and replacement of the District's \$1 billion worth of capital assets. The 5.25 per cent levy represents a major step forward for the District's ability to ensure future residents will enjoy the same high levels of services and quality facilities as current residents.

We are building a long-term financial plan to address all aspects of capital planning, including creating and funding reserves for infrastructure maintenance and replacement cycles. A long-term approach combined with an appropriate mechanism for funding had not been considered by previous Councils. This new approach is intended to address the infrastructure maintenance and replacement gap that is forecast for the District of West Vancouver.

> **Fiscal sustainability plan details: [westvancouver.ca/fiscal-sustainability](http://westvancouver.ca/fiscal-sustainability)**

- + Staff are beginning a core services review to produce a complete and current account of every service the District provides, while making sure that taxpayers are getting the services they want, delivered as cost-effectively as possible.

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION



! Addressing the challenge of climate change is a priority of this Council. The Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP) working group is leading the way forward. They're developing strategies and actions that residents, businesses and the District can take to begin to live more sustainably and protect the natural environment for future generations.

Workshops, open houses and a public survey took place this spring. The working group used the consultation process to understand and then build strategies around community priorities. These tie into longer-term plans on housing and neighbourhood development, which will be expressed in our updated Official Community Plan. Implementation will create both opportunities and challenges as we make important future land use choices for housing and transportation.

> [Get details here: westvancouver.ca/CEEP](http://westvancouver.ca/CEEP)

+ The Pedestrian Network Study is underway. It will provide a framework for expanding and improving pedestrian routes to facilitate safe, efficient and comfortable places to walk for recreation and as a form of transportation.

+ Approved in 2014, the District's Invasive Species Strategy controls introduced plant species that out-compete native species. Now in year two, staff are treating knotweed and removing hogweed on public lands, mapping invasive species and educating residents.

## ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE



! This month, staff are reporting to Council on first steps toward the Arts & Culture Strategic Action Plan that would set the direction for the next five years of delivery of arts, culture and heritage activities. The strategy would be delivered in spring 2017 and would include:

- a facility needs assessment
- a cultural scan of community groups and organizations providing arts and culture services in West Vancouver
- a comprehensive community engagement process that articulates the community's vision and priorities for arts and culture services, programs and facilities
- a process to develop key principles and criteria for decision-making to enable the District to prioritize allocation of resources
- an implementation plan that aims to develop a collaborative, coordinated and community-based approach to enhance the quality, access and delivery of arts and culture services for all residents of West Vancouver.

...SEVEN PRIORITIES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

# Council's Seven Priorities: *Moving forward for a better community*



2014

JULY 2016

2018

## Stay updated on these priorities and important District news.

Receive future issues of this newsletter by email, as well as Council agendas and project updates. Visit [westvancouver.ca/news](http://westvancouver.ca/news) to sign up. It's easy to stay informed, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

### OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN REVIEW



! West Vancouver has a tremendous opportunity to plan for its future through a review of its Official Community Plan (OCP) and the development of a robust policy framework to guide planning decisions.

The review process will build upon the key principles and values of the existing 2004 plan, capture a decade of citizen working group input and engage the community and stakeholders on emerging issues like housing, local area plans and climate change.

To be completed in 2018, the OCP review will provide a number of opportunities for citizen engagement throughout the coming year as various policies are reviewed and local area plans are developed. Watch our website for OCP announcements or sign up for updates on future engagement events.

> **Details:** [westvancouver.ca/OCP](http://westvancouver.ca/OCP)

+ An Official Community Plan is a statement of objectives and policies to guide decisions on planning and land use management. BC's *Local Government Act* requires that municipalities develop an OCP and update it periodically.

### POLICE SERVICES & MUNICIPAL HALL PROJECT



! If you've visited Municipal Hall lately, or driven past, you've seen the hive of construction activity and the bones of the new Police Services Building rising up out of the hole where the south side plaza and parkade used to be. We would like to thank our neighbours around Municipal Hall who have been so patient during this first phase of construction. We recognize that construction noise and traffic has an impact on your lives and homes. We will continue to make every effort to moderate the construction impacts while this project is being completed.

Keeping citizens safe is a priority of this Council. The new building will provide officers and civilian staff with an updated and seismically strong structure. This provides our community with greater assurance that police officers will remain available to respond in a major disaster.

+ The new Police Services Building is on budget and on schedule for completion in fall 2017.

Visit the freshly updated [westvancouver.ca](http://westvancouver.ca) to learn more about Council's priorities, as well as:

- ways to be involved with your community
- summer sprinkling restrictions
- current fire bans
- local utilities and road construction locations
- upcoming festivals, concerts and art exhibitions
- committee and working group meetings, and
- garbage schedules.

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*westvancouver*

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