



westvancouver

(15)

PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

750 17TH STREET, WEST VANCOUVER, BC V7V 3T3
TELEPHONE: 604.925.7200 FACSIMILE: 604.925.5978

March 6, 2009

File: 2190-01

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RE: Trees and Invasive Species

Thank you for your letter and subsequent phone conversation regarding trees and invasive species in the District of West Vancouver.

In your letter, you asked that West Vancouver Parks staff reconsider removal of healthy trees when a resident suggests it for view enhancement. I would like to assure you that tree removal in West Vancouver is considered on a site specific basis and with neighbourhood input. This process is outlined in the enclosed "Tree Work on District of West Vancouver Property" policy. This policy attempts to balance tree preservation and flexibility for views so we do not create another problem in the form of illegal tree cutting.

I also want to clarify that residents who request the removal of a tree do so at their own expense and, as outlined in the policy, require consent of 80% of neighbours within a 30 to 50 metre radius. The only time District staff would remove trees without expense to the resident or consent of the neighbours is when it is deemed to be a hazard.

When we spoke on the telephone on February 23rd, you asked why you had to incur a cost to protect a Holly tree during the construction of your home. The District requires protection for all trees, and does not distinguish between native and non-native species. Many residents see Holly trees as trees first, providing green in our community, and therefore believe that they have value and are worth protecting.

Document # 348576v1

You have also expressed concern around the ivy growth at Firehall #3. Please be assured that we are looking into this matter and hope to address it in the near future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions in this regard.

Sincerely,



Anne Mooi
Director
Parks and Community Services

copy: Mayor and Council

2190-01
(6)

the Mayor and Council,
West Vancouver,
750 - 17th St. West Vancouver, V7V 3T3

Re: 1. Trees
2. Invasive species.

Please encourage West Van Parks staff to reconsider removal of healthy trees when residents suggest view enhancement.

- Trees enhance views (our homes value has been greatly reduced by massive tree removal and the resulting construction)
- Trees shelter birds who reduce harmful garden insects
- Trees clean our air (reduce carbon etc.)
- Trees stabilize soil
- Trees mitigate massive run off of water after rain storms
- Trees keep us warm in winter, cool in summer.

Do think VERY carefully before cutting down trees.

Please also encourage Parks staff to plant native species - Firehall # 3 was planted with ivy which is totally out of control and spreading. Could the firemen be requested to remove the ivy?

Sincerely,

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