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westvancouver

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April 21, 2009

File: 1785.05

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Dear()

RE: District of West Vancouver Snow Clearing Program

I have been asked to respond to your email concerning the District of West Vancouver Snow Clearing Program specifically, District policy concerning the removal of snow or ice from sidewalks.

Section 8.14 of the Traffic and Parking Bylaw No. 4370, 2004 clearly states that:

"The owner of real property must remove any accumulation of snow or ice from the sidewalks and footpaths bordering the real property within 24 hours after the cessation of any snowfall that caused any accumulation of snow or ice ..."

Snow removal around bus stops and at intersections is performed by District staff by hand and with the aid of two Bobcats.

In closing, I would note that staff is committed to reviewing the Snow Clearing Program this fall seeking efficiencies and refinements. Staff is also committed to communicating better with residents and businesses as to the Program and expectation. A brochure will be made available in this regard.

Yours truly,



Brent A. Dozzi, P. Eng., PTOE
Manager, Roads and Transportation

BAD/bw

cc: ✓ Mayor and Council

From: ()
Sent: December 28, 2008 12:37 AM
To: MayorandCouncil
Subject: Snow removal during Xmas 2008 snowstorms

27 December 2008

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I would firstly like to congratulate the municipality for the effort made to remove snow from major roads in West Vancouver during the recent snowstorms in which each delivered significant amounts of snow. I live near the corner of () so was pleased that () was one of the roads designated for routine clearing. As a motorist, I could with my all-wheel drive vehicle, manage to get out of the lane onto 13th Street and other connecting major roads that had been cleared. I was also pleased to see buses plying their usual routes in my neighbourhood.

However, I try to cycle and walk as much as I can in response to the objectives of the 2004 District of West Vancouver Official Community Plan to reduce residents' dependency on private automobiles and promote alternatives to private vehicles, including the enhancement of walking and cycling networks. I did cycle a little after the first storm but decided it was too dangerous thereafter. The few times, over the past few days that I drove by car east on Marine Drive from 13th Street, I noticed that the only half of the cycling decal on the inside lane was visible - the other half buried in deep snow that had been ploughed over it. This didn't surprise me as it is what one would expect in an automobile-centric community.

What bothered me more was the safety hazard in un-cleared sidewalks in the high-density neighbourhood where I live. Not only was it hazardous walking on un-cleared or partly-cleared sidewalks, but I observed several instances where pedestrians were actually walking instead on the roadways, sometime oblivious to the cars trying to pass them. On two separate days, I walked from Ambleside to Park Royal and back on un-cleared sidewalks. Not only was it slippery, but each time I found it inconvenient to have to step aside in the deeper snow from the narrow foot path to avoid other pedestrians on the sidewalk. I was pleased to see responsible shopkeepers and some homeowners and apartment dwellers clearing the sidewalks in front of their properties but while walking to and from the Community Centre today, I noted sidewalks around the Hollyburn School, Municipal Hall and near the Community Centre complex had been not been cleared.

I have two questions:

1. Is there a municipal policy with regard to clearing snow from sidewalks?
2. Does the municipality own any equipment designed to quickly and efficiently clear snow from sidewalks?

If the answer to question 2 is no, then I would suggest investing in at least one such unit and that a high priority be given to clearing those sidewalks in the business districts, around schools, public buildings and in the neighbourhoods with high density apartment dwellings.

Yours sincerely

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