



westvancouver

(16)

ENGINEERING AND TRANSPORTATION

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April 23, 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. I trust that the following will provide you with some assurance that the Program has been reasonably thought out.

The District's Snow Clearing Program - given its constraints (budget, man/womanpower, equipment) – seeks to focus on ensuring all major roads and bus routes are functional. Providing access along arterial and collector roads for emergency vehicles and transit provides basic access throughout the entire District as well as a viable transportation alternate for the interim. Only when these roads are made operational does staff redirect their efforts to local roads - typically two to three days.

This past winter was very unusual in that the snow storms were intense and successive. Consequently, staff were committed many times over, to concentrating their efforts solely on those routes mentioned above. During those short breaks between snow storms, staff did their best to tackle as many local roads as possible. Again, by my account, most roads were operational within two to three days.

In terms of resources:

- The annual maintenance budget was reduced by \$55,000 for 2009 despite rising labour, equipment, material costs and an ever increasing road inventory.
- The 2009 Fleet and Equipment Capital Plan identified \$8,000 for repairs to existing snow removal equipment. The events of this past winter subjected all of the snow removal equipment to above normal wear and tear.
- The vehicles identified in the 2009 Fleet and Equipment Capital Plan are replacements for existing fleet used throughout the year for a variety of activities i.e. snow removal, construction, hauling, etc. That said, staff are continually identifying opportunities for diversifying the fleet. For example, the tandem truck is to be equipped with a front mount and belly plough. Also, the single rear axle dump truck (Class 5) is to be equipped with a front plough, salt spreader and four wheel drive and the backhoe can be fitted with a plough.

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- The total compliment of snow removal equipment is currently five tandem trucks with ploughs and two large salt spreaders; four Class 5 trucks with ploughs and salt spreaders; one ¾ ton four wheel drive with plough and salt spreader, three backhoes with ploughs and one wheel loader with plough.
- An additional salt spreader for one of the tandem trucks was budgeted for 2009 but declined.
- The contingent of staff available for operating this equipment remains fairly static.

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 as to the Program and expectation. A brochure will be made available in this regard. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 604.925.7157 to discuss further.

Yours truly,



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

BAD/bw

cc: ✓ Mayor and Council

1785-05

(1)

From: ()
Sent: January 6, 2009 9:03 AM
To: MayorandCouncil ()

My name is () I live at () in the lower British Properties. I've been calling the road crews since Sunday (5 times) asking that () (a very small cul du sac) get plowed once so that my four wheel drive vehicle can get out of our driveway and to ensure that emergency vehicles can reach our house. I've had no mail delivery for a week. No garbage pick up yesterday. I've been told on all five occasions that I have called that I'm being put on "the list". I've also had no furnace for a week and today was the first day the furnace guys could replace our furnace. They have cancelled the service call (this morning) because they too (in their four wheel drive vehicles) couldn't drive up () Their next available service call is Thursday. I have a one year old and a three year old child. I was able to drive my four wheel drive yesterday morning (but not today - I had to catch a cab at the bottom of () and noticed that every other side street around my area looked as though a plow had been on it at least once (they didn't look great but they were at least passable). We need better contingency plans for snow. The winters are getting worse and we need better service than what we are receiving. I want to be clear - I'm not asking for an unreasonable standard of service - just a plow on my street ONCE so that emergency vehicles and four wheel drive vehicles can use the street. This happened a 1 1/2 weeks ago and I am convinced that if I didn't call that time, () would have been ignored. This is an unacceptable and dangerous level of service. The staff that I have spoken to are always polite and I do think they are trying their best - but there is obviously a lack of sufficient resources or a misallocation of resources. What is West Vancouver doing to allocate/purchase/lease more/better equipment?

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