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1745-03-02

From: ()

Date: January 11, 2010

To: Mayor Pamela Goldsmith-Jones

Council Members: Trish Panz
Bill Soprovich
Michael Lewis
Michael Smith
Michael Evison
Shannon Walker

Raymond Fung, Director of Engineering & Transportation

RE: Flooding of Nelson Creek and Ongoing Drainage Issues at()

We write to express our deep concern regarding the ongoing drainage issues and the recent torrential flooding of the West side of Cranley Drive (just south of Nelson Creek) which occurred on December 21, 2009. Unfortunately, this most recent flooding took place while we were out of the country, and our neighbours and family were left to clean up the mess on our property. We are still currently in clean up mode at our residence () as water penetrated our home and in some areas was up to 11" deep. Due to the flooding it has required that we remove insulation and continuously run heaters to dry out framing and portions of our home. One of our vehicles was also severely damaged by the flooding and may not be repairable, as water penetrated the vehicle and has resulted in damage to the electrical system.

We have contacted the District of West Vancouver numerous times over the past 10 years (you can access the record of our calls to your service line, as well as our written correspondence to Mr. Doug Gow – Risk Management). We witness flooding on our property every winter, whenever there is heavy, prolonged rainfall (which is the normal weather pattern in our area). We have spent much energy monitoring and watching the flow of storm run off on Cranley Drive, from the entrance to the Seaview Trail, south on Cranley to Daffodil Lane. The flow of rainwater is often too excessive for the current open ditch drainage system that is in place on this portion of Cranley. Many times, water in the ditch on the East side of Cranley rises and flows out onto the roadway. The forgoing has been documented and communicated to Mr. Doug Gow many times previously. Mr. Gow has stated that if we have a monetary claim for damages, we should submit them directly to him.

We had previously suggested to Mr. Doug Gow, that a review of the drainage system on Cranley Drive be carried out and an action plan be put in place to correct these flooding problems. Obviously, the current level of drainage provided by the District is not adequate. If it were, we would not be flooded out every winter when the typical heavy, west coast rains arrive. As rain water permeates into the ground due to direct rainfall and storm water runoff, this surcharges the ground and increases the water table and causes the majority of the problem. To correct this, a solid ditch (concrete or metal, in place of the open ditch on the east side of Cranley) would minimize the ground water intrusion running down Cranley and thus lower water table and would hopefully minimize or eliminate flooding to any residences along Cranley Drive.

There are two issues which need to be addressed:

1. What is being done to ensure that we do not experience another episode of flooding as occurred on December 21, 2009 from Nelson Creek onto Cranley Drive? Does the District of West Vancouver have the proper creek management strategies in place to ensure we do not experience damage to our property again from this type of flooding?
2. What will be done by the District of West Vancouver to ensure that our property at () does not continue to repeatedly be flooded every time we have continued winter rainfall? This has been an ongoing issue for years and we have had District crews called out to our home many times – but no solution has ever been presented to us – we have only ever been advised “we will get back to you” – but we are still waiting for a solution.

We look forward to hearing from you with an update on what is being done to solve these two issues. We are available to meet with you in person if that is necessary, or you can contact us at our home at ()

Thank you for your concern.

Sincerely,

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cc. Mr. Doug Gow, Risk Management, District of West Vancouver