

Subject: District watermain infrastructure - Lynn Valley area

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From: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

To: "Sue Mitchell, for Public Works" <Sue_Mitchell@dnv.org>

CC: Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@district.north-van.bc.ca>, Directors Team <managecomm@district.north-van.bc.ca>, FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>, Cathy Adams <cathyadams@canada.com>, Eric Andersen <eric_g_andersen@hotmail.com>, Maureen Bragg <m.bragg@shaw.ca>, John Hunter <hunterjohn@telus.net>, Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>, Allan Orr <allandorr@shaw.ca>, Brian Platts <brian_platts@telus.net>, Dave Sadler <davesadler@telus.net>, Peter Thompson <bedeconsulting@shaw.ca>, Bill Tracey <bill_tracey@telus.net>, Angela Trudeau <a.trudeau@canada.com>

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER

I recently queried both Staff and Councillor Crist regarding the state of watermain infrastructure in the area [roughly] bordered by Kirkstone/20th, Mountain Highway, Viewlynn, Floralynn, Greylynn, Merlynn, Alderlynn, etc. That enquiry specifically related to the issue of the District's schedule to replace aging, fragile, asbestos piping throughout the municipality.

The response I received from Staff, which I forwarded on to Clr. Crist, was to the effect that water piping in all of that area of Lynn Valley had already been renewed. That set my mind at rest not only with respect to asbestos but, I assumed, with respect to the general condition of watermain piping which, as a result of Staff's assurances, I considered to be "renewed".

You can imagine my surprise, therefore, when I encountered a flood gushing up through the asphalt at 20th and Mountain Highway and at another point below that, as I drove up from Greylynn to 20th and Mountain Highway early last Saturday evening. A rather frantic District crew member was in the middle of the road trying to stem the tide and shut the water off to prevent hundreds of gallons of expensively treated water from pouring wastefully down the hill. Two police cars were in attendance.

This morning, on my way in to work, I noted several District crew members and vehicles working on the north-east and south-east side of the 20th Street intersection at Mountain Highway - presumably renewing the road surface which had been damaged during the burst pipe incident.

My questions to you today are:

- Why would a "burst pipe" happen to "renewed" watermain infrastructure? Is it that, despite the information given to me by Staff, that section was, in fact, **not** renewed? If so, what other information a citizen may be given by District staff is 'not accurate'?
- Alternatively, is it that the infrastructure renewal work was performed but was of inferior quality? If this is the case, why so? After all, District citizens are facing a hefty tax increase for the services they receive - to say nothing of the depletion of reserve accounts.

One of my concerns - other than accuracy of the answers one receives, wasted water and the costs of police attendance - is that a Saturday evening staff callout for the emergency will, presumably, be much more expensive than efficient renewal work paid for at straight time.

Your comments would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Liz James, Chair

Coalition for Accountability in Government Enterprises

Box 16090, 3017 Mountain Hwy.,

NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C. V7J 2P2

[604] 988.2066

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