

**Subject:** Bylaw 7631 Solid Waste Removal Bylaw

**From:** Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

**Date:** Sun, 12 Aug 2007 21:10:16 -0700

**To:** "Richard Walton, Mayor" <mayorwalton@dnv.org>, Alan Nixon <anixon@dnv.org>, Janice Harris <jharris@dnv.org>, Lisa Muri <lmuri@dnv.org>, Mike Little <mlittle@dnv.org>, Robin Hicks <rhicks@dnv.org>, Doug MacKay-Dunn <macdunn@uniserve.com>, NVD Council <dnvcouncil@dnv.org>, FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>

Mayor & Council:

In reference to the above-mentioned bylaw, I draw your attention to the provision that residential garbage be put out for collection not earlier than 5:30 a.m. and not later than 7:30 a.m. on collection day, rather than the evening before.

I note with cynical amusement that the June 18th Staff Report states it is anticipated that enforcement will be primarily on a complaint basis (complaints by whom?). At the same time, the report on the matter makes the unlikely claim that "public input was generally in agreement with [these new time limits]." Well, if the public truly is in agreement then I challenge Council to have the courage of its convictions and instruct bylaw enforcement officers to issue fines to every homeowner who violates this provision of the bylaw. If you did, I can just imagine the widespread public outrage that would follow. You would be inundated with complaints from across the municipality!

This is all, apparently, in the name of "bear awareness", which I have no doubt has satisfied the extreme position of the NS Black Bear Network, but what of the vast majority of citizens you were elected to serve? Do you honestly believe it is reasonable for seniors, people with disabilities, or those who work shifts -- even average homeowners -- to abide by this bylaw???

The NS Black Bear Network's mission statement is "*supporting the co-existence of black bears & humans living in harmony.*" Since the District supports the Black Bear Network then I can only assume that Council agrees with the organization's goal of bears and people living in "harmony", but to what extent? The Black Bear Network claims that it has "*information on how to prevent the (over 1,000) bears killed in BC each year.*" Does this number include bears that were legally hunted? If so, is the District's support for the Black Bear Network and the hiring of Robert Cobo, the North Shore Bear Aware Program Delivery Specialist, indicate that Council has taken a moral position against hunting bears in BC?

As you can probably gather, this is one citizen who is getting more than a little fed-up with my elected representatives having more concern over the interests of bears than the average tax-paying homeowner. Perhaps I'm way off base, but I do not have a garage (and neither do the vast majority of homes in my area) to store my garbage and I refuse to keep it indoors. Furthermore, I believe that I should have the uninhibited right to grow a productive fruit tree, berry bush, or vegetable garden, or feed song birds on my property if I choose to. If a bear should wonder onto my property, I do not expect to be fined, I expect to be protected! I also do not expect to be told that I can only place my garbage container at the curb during the very limited, early morning hours on collection day.

My neighbourhood has been built-up for over 50 years and certainly predates any bears alive today. Bears are encroaching upon our territory, not the other way round. Please be mindful of this fact when you consider such onerous bylaws.

Sincerely,  
Brian Platts

Ph. 604-988-5594