

5327 Susan Way
Halfmoon Bay, BC,
V0N1Y2
February 2, 2007

Mr. Michael Shanks
Chairman, Parks and Public Works Committee
District of Sechelt
PO Box 129
Sechelt, BC, V0N3A0

Dear Mr. Shanks

I wish to commend you, your Committee, and Council for using full cut-off street lighting on Wharf St., around the Credit Union and at the Davis Bay residential development. You may have noticed that I instigated an article in The Reporter to draw attention to your good works.

Our/your work is not done however. I have noticed several instances where situations exist that argue in favour of the District of Sechelt having a cohesive, all-inclusive outdoor lighting policy that is contained in an actual Bylaw. I will mention them now, not to complain about them specifically, but to illustrate the diversity of situations that would be remedied by a Bylaw.

For a number of months before they were turned out for this Christmas lighting season (maybe they have been on all year), the two very bright, upwardly aimed flood lights, in the cenotaph park, were still on, despite my drawing them to Mr. Parfitt's attention, at Christmas a year ago. Remember, this is not a criticism of Mr Parfitt; it is meant to illustrate the need for a Bylaw that would have led to those lights being extinguished long ago.

There are two locations where highway lights and light poles are part of highway renovations. One is at the Davis Bay multiple family dwelling site and the other is at the 101 Norwest Bay Rd. widening. In a recent discussion with Mr. Tang, it seemed that it was ambiguous as to who was responsible for requesting that the new /relocated lights should use full cut-off fixtures, Sechelt or the Developer. It also seemed unclear as to whom the request should be made, Department of Highways or BC Hydro. I believe that a Lighting Bylaw would articulate that it was the right and responsibility of Sechelt District to make the request for that part of the highway going through its community, and would describe the process clearly.

Finally, there is the matter of a very intrusive non-compliant light on the west side of the new Car Wash, on the east end of Inlet St. This is a new building the approval for which must have been fairly recent relative to my submissions to Council and its Planning Committee in early 2005. It is worrisome that the approval process allowed this type of light, as now it seems that one can only request, not insist, that this light be changed.

In summary Council has changed one aspect of its policy regarding lighting and is doing a brilliant job of installing street lighting that is consistent with an environment and streetscape that is liveable. However in other areas, it seems that its lighting paradigm has not shifted and it is still taking a reactive approach by acting only when citizens complain. An all-inclusive, cohesive lighting policy with the weight and authority of a bylaw would allow Council to take a proactive, even educational role regarding outdoor lighting in its District.

I hope my observations will inspire Council to spend the resources necessary to preserve this often overlooked determinant of the quality of our environment.

Yours sincerely,

S. Brian Lucas

Cc: Mr. Warren Allan
Vice Chairman,
Parks and Public Works Committee

Mr. Barry Poole
Chairman,
Planning Committee