

# AGENDA

## *COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE*

**Monday, November 9, 2015**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Council Chamber, Municipal Hall**

**355 West Queens Road,**

**North Vancouver, BC**

**Council Members:**

Mayor Richard Walton

Councillor Roger Bassam

Councillor Mathew Bond

Councillor Jim Hanson

Councillor Robin Hicks

Councillor Doug MacKay-Dunn

Councillor Lisa Muri



NORTH VANCOUVER  
DISTRICT

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## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

6:00 p.m.  
Monday, November 9, 2015  
Council Chamber, Municipal Hall,  
355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver

### AGENDA

#### 1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

##### 1.1. November 9, 2015 Committee of the Whole Agenda

*Recommendation:*

THAT the agenda for the November 9, 2015 Committee of the Whole be adopted as circulated, including the addition of any items listed in the agenda addendum.

#### 2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

##### 2.1. October 26, 2015 Committee of the Whole

p. 7-10

*Recommendation:*

THAT the minutes of the October 26, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted.

#### 3. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OR STAFF

##### 3.1. Mountain Interchange Update

p. 13-15

File No.

*Recommendation:*

THAT it be recommended to Council:

THAT staff be directed to inform the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure that:

1. The District is generally supportive of Mountain interchange construction proceeding next year, on the condition that the structure can be easily adapted with the upgrade of the Lynn Creek Bridge to provide access from Lynn Valley southbound on Mountain Highway to eastbound Highway 1.
2. The District encourages the Ministry to advance easy to implement improvements like better traveler information, traffic monitoring, variable speed limits, and perhaps ramp metering on existing Highway 1 near the Second Narrows bridgehead.

3. Before there can be an agreement on funding and the package of improvements at Lillooet and Dollarton interchanges, more information is needed on how the design can best meet municipal objectives.

**3.2. 2015 Summer Park Report**

**p. 17-33**

File No.

*Recommendation:*

THAT the October 19, 2015 joint report of the Manager – Parks and Senior Park Ranger entitled 2015 Summer Park Report be received for information.

**4. PUBLIC INPUT**

(maximum of ten minutes total)

**5. RISE AND REPORT**

*Recommendation:*

THAT the November 9, 2015 Committee of the Whole rise and report.

## MINUTES

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**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Council for the District of North Vancouver held at 6:04 p.m. on Monday, October 26, 2015 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Present:** Acting Mayor D. MacKay-Dunn  
Councillor R. Bassam  
Councillor M. Bond  
Councillor J. Hanson  
Councillor R. Hicks  
Councillor L. Muri

**Absent:** Mayor R. Walton

**Staff:** Mr. D. Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer  
Mr. B. Bydwell, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits  
Mr. G. Joyce, General Manager – Engineering, Parks & Facilities  
Mr. A. Wardell, Acting General Manager – Finance & Technology  
Ms. H. Turner, Director of Recreation & Culture  
Mr. D. Milburn, Deputy General Manager – Planning & Permits  
Mr. J. Gordon, Manager – Administrative Services  
Ms. L. June, Manager – Community Recreation Services  
Ms. J. Paton, Manager – Development Planning  
Ms. S. Dal Santo, Section Manager – Planning Policy  
Mr. J. Rice, Cultural Services Officer  
Ms. S. Dale, Confidential Council Clerk  
Mr. K. Zhang, Planning Assistant

**Also in**

**Attendance:** Mr. Peter Klinkow, OCP Implementation Committee  
Ms. Krista Tulloch, OCP Implementation Committee

**1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**1.1. October 26, 2015 Committee of the Whole Agenda**

**MOVED by Councillor MURI**

**SECONDED by Councillor BASSAM**

THAT the agenda for the October 26, 2015 Committee of the Whole be adopted as circulated, including the addition of any items listed in the agenda addendum.

**CARRIED**

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**2.1. September 28, 2015 Committee of the Whole**

**MOVED by Councillor MURI**  
**SECONDED by Councillor BOND**

THAT the minutes of the September 28, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**2.2. October 5, 2015 Committee of the Whole**

**MOVED by Councillor MURI**  
**SECONDED by Councillor BOND**

THAT the minutes of the October 5, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**3. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OR STAFF**

**3.1. New Arts and Culture Grants Policy**

File No.

Ms. Heather Turner, Director of Recreation & Culture, provided an update on the proposed Arts and Culture Grants policy.

Ms. Turner noted that the key elements of the new Arts and Culture Grants policy are as follows:

- One comprehensive and consistent policy replaces the current mix of five separate and often conflicting policies;
- Language has been developed that aligns funding criteria with appropriate policy direction in the Official Community Plans;
- Authority to approve grants is delegated to the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission. Delegation of authority to the Commission creates efficiencies in the administration of grants; excludes the risk of the two Councils differing in their decisions; and, eliminates Councils' exposure to lobbying and criticism by applicants;
- Establishment of a Commission appointed Grants Review Committee, comprised of impartial and qualified individuals with experience and expertise in appropriate areas of arts, cultural and community-based practices and in accordance with recognized best practises;
- Introduction of multi-year funding in targeted and appropriate areas of the program supports the arts community in their planning and generates efficiencies in grants administration; and,
- Incorporates more definitive eligibility and evaluation criteria, requiring applicants to reduce reliance on municipal funding for programs, projects and festivals while still supporting innovation and development.

Ms. Turner advised that staff are preparing for implementation of the new policy, including advising the arts and culture community of the changes to the program and processes. The main changes are targeted to come into effect for the 2016



grant programs and the administrative changes will be phased in over the next year.

Council requested that the policy be reviewed in one year.

**MOVED by Councillor MURI**

**SECONDED by Councillor BOND**

THAT it be recommended to Council:

THAT Council adopt the Arts and Culture Grants policy as attached to the October 16, 2015 report of the Cultural Services Officer entitled New Arts and Culture Grants Policy;

AND THAT the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission Delegation Bylaw be amended to delegate granting authority to the Commission.

**CARRIED**

Opposed: Councillors BASSAM and HICKS

### **3.2. OCP Implementation Committee Recommendations for OCP Progress Monitoring**

File No. 13.6480.01/005.000

Ms. Sarah Dal Santo, Section Manager – Planning Policy, provided an overview of the OCP Implementation Committee Recommendations for OCP Progress Monitoring.

Ms. Krista Tulloch, OCP Implementation Committee, advised that the OCP Implementation Committee was established in January 2014 with a mandate to encourage meaningful community engagement in the implementation of the new OCP and to provide comments to staff on the direction of implementation plans to ensure they support the community's vision as expressed in the OCP. Specifically, the OCP Implementation Committee provides advice regarding:

- Community engagement in implementing the OCP network of centres;
- The direction of centres implementation planning and other key planning strategies based on consistency with the OCP vision; and,
- A monitoring program to measure progress on OCP targets.

The OCP Progress Monitoring Working Group, a sub-committee of the OCP Implementation Committee, was established in July 2014 to provide focussed effort and resources to advance the OCP progress monitoring and reporting. This Monitoring Working Group has held approximately fourteen meetings with staff to review and provide input to OCP progress monitoring.

Mr. Peter Klinkow, OCP Implementation Committee, commented that the OCP progress monitoring is a useful tool for the community and Council to measure progress towards achieving the community vision as articulated in the OCP, to inform decisions about the long-term future of our community, and to build awareness and understanding of key planning issues. The OCP Implementation Committee Recommendations for OCP Progress Monitoring 2011 - 2014 report

provides an important and initial framework to guide OCP progress monitoring and reporting. Mr. Klinkow noted that Council's input on this report will be used to inform the next steps.

Council thanked members of the OCP Implementation Committee for their hard work and requested that this item be brought forward to a future meeting for a more detailed discussion.

**MOVED by Councillor MURI**

**SECONDED by Councillor BASSAM**

THAT Council receive the October 15, 2015 joint report of the Section Manager – Policy Planning and Planning Assistant entitled OCP Implementation Committee Recommendations for OCP Progress Monitoring 2011-2014 and refer it to a future meeting for further discussion.

**CARRIED**

**4. PUBLIC INPUT**

Nil

**5. RISE AND REPORT**

**MOVED by Councillor MURI**

**SECONDED by Councillor BOND**

THAT the October 26, 2015 Committee of the Whole rise and report.

**CARRIED**  
(6:59 pm)

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Mayor

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Municipal Clerk

## REPORTS

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**Briefing Note**  
**Mountain Interchange Update**  
**October 29, 2015**

**Recommendation:**

THAT it be recommended to Council:

THAT staff be directed to inform the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure that:

1. The District is generally supportive of Mountain interchange construction proceeding next year, on the condition that the structure can be adapted with the upgrade of the Lynn Creek Bridge to provide access from Lynn Valley southbound on Mountain Highway to eastbound Highway 1.
2. The District encourages the Ministry to advance improvements like better traveler information, traffic monitoring, variable speed limits, and complete a review of ramp metering on existing Highway 1 near the Second Narrows bridgehead.
3. Before there can be an agreement on funding and the package of improvements at Lillooet and Dollarton interchanges, more information is needed on how the design can best meet municipal objectives.

**Reason for the report:**

At the November 9<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole, staff will update Council on the Mountain interchange. Staff from the Ministry of Transportation also plan to attend.

**Background:**

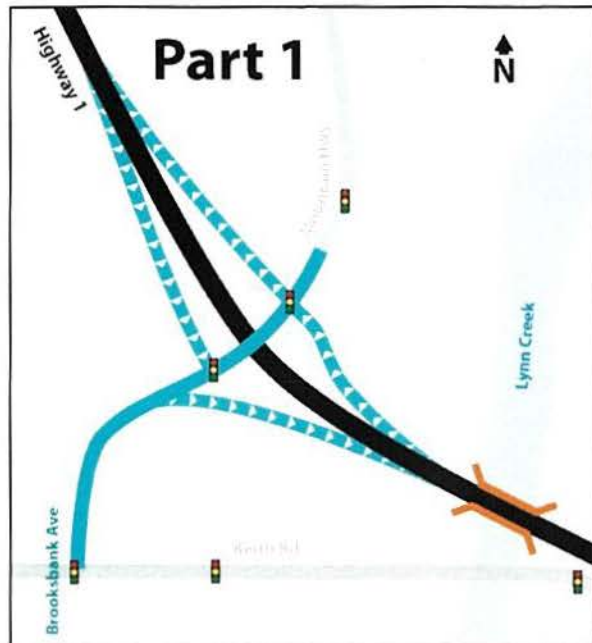
The Ministry of Transportation is leading the Lower Lynn interchange improvements at Mountain, Lillooet, and Dollarton interchanges. The interchanges are over 50 years old and next in line. The Ministry indicates upgrades are needed to accommodate future widening of Highway 1, including Lynn Creek Bridge. The scope will also include improvements to address merging/weaving which impacts traffic flows and causes accidents.

From the District's perspective, the interchange upgrades are an important opportunity for the community **to improve east-west traffic flow on the municipal road network and to improve conditions for walking and cycling.**

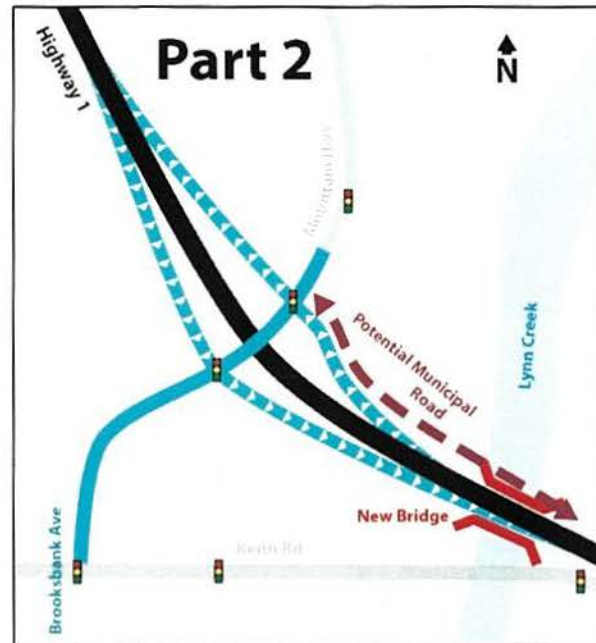
The interchange upgrades are **not the single solution to congestion at Second Narrows bridgehead.** It is recognized that demand-side investments will still be important, e.g. transit, walking and cycling infrastructure and land use strategies that put more services closer to home.

## District's Perspective on the Investment Package

Mountain interchange design is well underway and the Ministry intends to consult the public about the design this Fall. **Staff generally support Mountain interchange construction proceeding next year, on the condition that the structure can be easily adapted with the upgrade of the Lynn Creek Bridge** to provide access from Lynn Valley southbound on Mountain Highway to eastbound Highway 1, as illustrated below.



**Part 1 - Earlier work for 2018**



**Part 2 - Upgrade package with Lynn Creek Bridge**

While there has been some discussion concerning advancing the Lynn Creek Bridge upgrade sooner, funding is not secured and timing is unknown.

The Ministry's recent work with Parsons consulting indicates potential improvement to east-west traffic access to Seymour by **advancing easy to implement improvements like better traveler information, traffic monitoring, variable speed limits, and perhaps ramp metering.**

For Lillooet and Dollarton interchanges, staff is continuing to develop our understanding about what the best solution for the east-west traffic flow on the municipal road network and what connections for bikes and pedestrians might look like. Staff intend to hire a consultant this Fall to consider possible improvements to the design that would work best for the municipality. Traffic interplay between local roads, Second Narrows Bridgehead and highway operations is complex.

**Before there can be any agreement on funding and the package of improvements at Lillooet and Dollarton interchanges, more information is needed** on how the design can best meet municipal objectives. Several studies have been completed and much more work is still underway or scheduled for this Fall, as summarized in Attachment 1.



## Attachment 1 - Process to Confirm Investment Package and Funding Agreement

	Study	Lead	Consultant	Timing
<b>Completed</b>	Lower Lynn Interchanges Options Evaluation Report	MOTI	Urban Systems	2013
	MOU between MOTI and DNV	MOTI		Spring 2015
	Funding announced (\$150 million, 3 interchanges)	MOTI with Build Canada and DNV		November 2014 and April 2015
	Review of Mountain interchange design options	DNV with MOTI and CNV	Urban Systems	Spring/Summer 2015
	Mountain interchange -functional design	MOTI	Urban Systems	July 2015
	Highway Operations Review	MOTI	Parsons	June 2015
	North Service Road Options Evaluation	DNV	Binnie	July 2015
	Highway 1 Operations Review –Mitigation Measures (draft)	MOTI	Parsons	September 2015
	Lynn Creek Bridge conceptual design	MOTI	Urban Systems	October 2015
<b>Outstanding</b>	Mountain interchange -50% detailed design	MOTI	Associated Engineering	Scheduled for Fall 2015
	Peer Review of interchanges concept	DNV	Binnie	Scheduled for Fall 2015
	Mountain interchange – public engagement	MOTI with Community Working Group and public open house		Scheduled for Fall 2015
	Mountain interchange land impact analysis and pricing	DNV		Scheduled for Fall 2015
	Lillooet Interchange functional design	MOTI	McIlhanney	Scheduled for Fall 2015
	Highway 1 corridor study (not committed)	MOTI		Not scheduled
	Consultation with Build Canada regarding cost share agreements	MOTI with input from DNV		Not scheduled
<b>Final investment package</b>	Funding Agreement	MOTI and DNV		Not scheduled (inadequate information)

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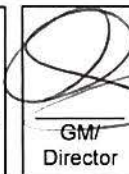
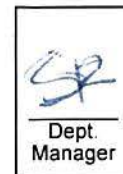
## AGENDA INFORMATION

☐ Regular Meeting

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Committee of the Whole

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

October 19, 2015

**AUTHOR:** Susan Rogers, Manager of Parks  
Andy Robinson, Senior Park Ranger

**SUBJECT:** 2015 Summer Park Report

### REASON FOR REPORT:

That Council receive this report as information

### SUMMARY:

The District Parks were very busy during the summer of 2015, supporting a wide range of outdoor recreational activities, including special events, hiking, mountain biking, boating and swimming, to name a few. The following report provides an overview of key park areas the Parks Department managed through the peak summer months, from June to September. The District of North Vancouver Park Ranger Program plays a key role in managing and monitoring parks and beaches, including the Fromme and Seymour natural parkland areas.

The park ranger program is based out of Lynn Canyon Park and has been in operation since 1993. There is one full time senior ranger position, which is supplemented during the summer months from May to September, by 6 seasonal rangers who focus on Lynn Canyon, Deep Cove and Cates Park/Whalley-ah-wichen, as well as the Alpine trails on Fromme Mountain and Mount Seymour, and community parks.

This year the ranger program developed a seasonal lead park ranger position to direct park seasonal rangers in their duties and support the senior ranger in investigations. Rangers were involved in team building work programs and extensive training in first aid, swift water training, high angle rescue, bylaw enforcement and working with RCMP and District Fire and Rescue Services.

The goal of the park ranger program is to ensure the safety of park visitors to the District of North Vancouver, primarily Lynn Canyon Park. The park rangers act as first responders, and also educate and inform the public on safety, by-law, park ecology and wildlife issues. Park rangers monitor and patrol District parks, hiking, mountain bike trails, playgrounds, beaches, sports fields, marine access areas and 5 District wharves.

**Cates Park/Whey-ah-wichen and Deep Cove – Managing Wharves, Boating & Swimming**

Boating is a popular and growing recreational attraction, and during the hot summer weather, both Gallant Wharf and Cates Park Boat launch were busy with over 4,000 tickets purchased. In Spring, the park rangers worked with Transport Canada in Cates Park to inform boaters of the boat safety program. The program included a free safety inspection for boat owners to inform them of safety equipment they require on their vessels.

On a pilot bases, during the months of July and August, one seasonal Ranger was dedicated to monitor the Baden Powell Trail/ Quarry Rock, Panorama /Deep Cove and Cates Park ( Attachment #1 provides a detailed report). This successful program strengthened the District's presence, and helped to document and monitor issue areas such as parking, swimming, wharves, trails and special events. The Gallant Wharf had consistently high traffic through the summer season. At the beginning of the season, there were many boaters who refused to purchase mooring permits. The ranger performed the duties of a wharfinger, and after issuing warnings and enforcement, compliance to purchase tickets increased significantly by the end of August.

The Cates Park boat launch frequently reached capacity in July and August on the weekends. It was a busy and sometimes congested area. Increased ranger patrols helped to keep traffic flowing, and repeat offenders who did not purchase tickets received bylaw violation notices.

Overall by the end of the season there was an increased level of compliance at both Cates and Gallant Wharves. The only issue that has yet to be addressed from the previous season are several squatter boats which were anchored for the season in Deep Cove.

Quarry Rock was a popular regional destination for hikers with over 4,000 visitors using the trail a week. Fire & Rescue Services was called out 18 times to the Quarry Rock area to assist in rescues between May and September.

**Fires Season in DNV Parks**

In 2015 during the hot summer season, the Fire Chief posted a high fire hazard rating that restricted fires and barbecues in parks. Through regular patrolling, the rangers stopped a number of illegally set fires in District parks and greenbelts. Hastings Creek Park was a site of 13 individual arson fires during 1 night. Park rangers supported District Fire & Rescue Services and RCMP by monitoring fire sites, cleaning up and routinely inspecting the area for any additional fires. With support of DNV Fire Services, rangers patrolled Alpine trails and community parks for any signs of spot fires. The rangers helped to post fire signage, and provided information to the public as it related to high hazard fire regulations in parks.

**Wildlife and Fishing:**

In 2015 crabbing issues were reduced significantly, due in part to more frequent monitoring by rangers, and to the revised regulations that no longer permit crabbing before dusk. Crabbing is also closed on municipal wharves from mid-April to Mid-October. During the season, there were numerous cougar sightings from the Alpine and residential areas. Cougar warning signs and information was posted throughout the District by park rangers. Rangers monitored complaints and conducted patrols on trails and in areas of cougar sightings. Conservation and RCMP officers attended and investigated all reported sightings. On the evening of August 6<sup>th</sup> 2015, there was a cougar located at a residence in Deep Cove. The animal was deemed dangerous to the public, and the RCMP and Conservation officers were on scene with park rangers when the animal was



dispatched. Other wildlife issue included sightings of coyotes and black bears. The number of bear complaints in the District was down from previous years. The rangers support Conservation where required, and reported a bear cub sighting which was taken to Critter Care for rehabilitation.

### **Management of Park Parking Lots & Gates**

Park rangers monitored parking lots and gates at Lynn Canyon, Cates, Panorama, and Fromme. Lynn Canyon parking lots reached maximum capacity on a regular basis, and during all weekends. The overflow parking on the gravel service road was opened on a daily basis to manage the volume of cars. The rangers issued tickets where illegally parked vehicles were blocking rescue and emergency vehicles. With increased patrols and enforcement action, there was a reduction in illegal parking, resulting in improved traffic flow.

The Fromme Mountain parking lot opened in July and was monitored by the rangers to support gate and parking management. Vehicle counts between July 30 and September 21 indicate 10,000 vehicles per month accessed the new parking lot. During peak periods, 2,500 vehicles parked during each weekend. The new 75 stall parking lot has helped to relieve recreational parking on roadways in the Upper Lynn Valley neighbourhood.

Park rangers also monitored parking in Deep Cove during July and August, and with the additional use of Cove Cliff School parking lots during special events, there were expanded parking opportunities.

### **Lynn Canyon Park Ranger Seasonal Statistics ( May – Sept )**

The rangers retain daily notes on park activities in Lynn Canyon Park as illustrated in the chart below. The jumpers and divers refer to the number of people observed cliff jumping at 30 ft, 90 ft and Twin Falls pools. Under the "informed choice" concept, the rangers advise groups of the dangers of the activity, and discourage them from diving and jumping. Signage and boundary fencing is also in place to advise the public of the risks. Social media sites, however, are attracting regional users to visit Lynn Canyon, specifically to jump and dive, and rangers witnessed a dramatic increase in popularity of these jump sites. There were 13 rescues by Fire and Rescue Services in the summer.

The tour and school group statistic refers to the number of groups observed in Lynn Canyon Park, with approximately 21 companies identified this summer.

Alcohol incidents refer to the total number people observed with alcohol in Lynn Canyon. Rangers advise park users with alcohol to leave the park, and RCMP attends as required. Bylaws warnings refer to verbal or written warnings in regards to dog, noise, camping and parking issues.

<b>Year</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Jumpers and Divers</b>	13049	17061	15,569	10,859	8,861
<b>Swimmers</b>	18705	19324	16,696	10,929	10,727
<b>Cliff Climbers</b>	6126	9137	12,862	7,632	10,994
<b>Visitor Inquiries</b>	15471	17046	20,766	18,957	12, 336
<b>Tour Groups &amp; School Groups</b>	912	1027	976	931	241
<b>Alcohol Incidents</b>	1602	1045	880	638	537
<b>Bylaw warnings</b>	1903	1406	1,670	739	-
<b>Bylaw tickets</b>	79				-





This year there were a number of incidents requiring RCMP attendance. The RCMP undertook routine patrols to support the rangers in Lynn Canyon Park, issuing tickets for drug and alcohol violations. In 2015, there was an increase in alcohol incidents from 2014, with 1602 verbal warnings by the rangers, as well as 1470 alcohol pour outs. The rangers noted there was also an increase in theft, with visitor back packs stolen while visitors were swimming.

Injuries and Rescues		
	2015	2014
1. Minor Injuries	121	82
2. Severe Injuries	17	6
3. Fatality	1	0

The rangers attended 121 minor injuries from cuts and bruises, bee stings, and sprained ankles. The rangers supported a number of rescues related to heart and stroke conditions. They responded to 17 severe injuries where Fire & Rescue and ambulances were called to attend. These injuries included head, lower back, leg and shoulder and broken ankle injuries. These incidents largely occurred due to cliff jumping out of bounds. There was 1 fatality in Lynn Canyon Park in 2015.

### Commercial Buses

The rangers observed an increase in commercial bus activity in 2015, with up to 21 different companies parking thru the season. Tickets were issued to companies who did not purchase a parking ticket. The types of companies included small eco companies, to senior home buses, large bus companies, school and day camps.

**Homeless Camps and "Hot Spot" Sites**

The rangers patrolled and managed approximately 38 "hot spot sites" across District parks which included homeless sites and "party sites". Rangers responded to calls for homeless sites around the District to remove debris from sites and patrol parks and greenbelts for illegal camp sites. The number of homeless sites in the District Parks remains consistent, and repeated sites occur in greenbelts close to the industrial areas. Under the District Homeless Protocol, the rangers worked in co operation with the social agencies to support those requiring assistance in finding accomodation.

**Surveying Visitors & Trail /Vehicle Counters ( July – Sept )**

This season, the Parks Department tracked a number of statistics including trail and vehicle counts at high use parks in the summer, specifically Lynn Canyon Park, Fromme Mountain, Cates Park/Wheya-h-wichen, Deep Cove/Panorama and Quarry Rock. In addition, an informal visitor survey was undertaken to help develop a more informed visitor profile at the above noted parks and trails. Some key notes of interest from the informal survey include:

- 50% of visitors come to District Parks to hike, with 25 % cycling
- 75 % of visitors stay a minimum of 2 hours, with a significant number staying over 3 hours
- 50 % of Lynn Canyon Park visitors are international and Canada wide based
- Lynn Canyon Suspension Bridge sees a max # of 6,622 visitors a day during peak times
- Baden Powell Trail Quarry Rock Trail sees an average weekly use of 4,200 visitors
- Fromme Mountain Parking Lot sees a monthly average of 10,000 vehicles

**GPS Trail Inventory - Fromme and Seymour Alpine Area – "Dark Side" Unauthorized Trails**

The rangers also undertook to GPS the trails at Fromme Mountain to upgrade the inventory and reflect trail modifications undertaken. At the same time, they inventoried a number of unauthorized trails in the Fromme area. The Seymour area is also becoming a popular location for mountain biking, and BC Parks and the District identified a number of additional unauthorized trails within the forests. With landowner discussion, a number of high risk public trails were decommissioned by the rangers in the summer.

Respectfully submitted,



Andy Robinson  
Senior Park Ranger



Susan Rogers  
Park Manager

**REVIEWED WITH:**☐ Sustainable Community  
Dev. \_\_\_\_\_☐ Development Services \_\_\_\_\_☐ Utilities \_\_\_\_\_☐ Engineering Operations \_\_\_\_\_☐ Parks \_\_\_\_\_☐ Environment \_\_\_\_\_☐ Facilities \_\_\_\_\_☐ Human Resources \_\_\_\_\_☐ Clerk's Office \_\_\_\_\_☐  
Communications \_\_\_\_\_☐ Finance \_\_\_\_\_☐ Fire Services \_\_\_\_\_☐ ITS \_\_\_\_\_☐ Solicitor \_\_\_\_\_☐ GIS \_\_\_\_\_☐ Real Estate \_\_\_\_\_

External

Agencies:

☐ Library Board \_\_\_\_\_☐ NS Health \_\_\_\_\_☐ RCMP \_\_\_\_\_☐ Recreation  
Com. \_\_\_\_\_☐ Museum &  
Arch. \_\_\_\_\_☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attachment # 1**

**Deep Cove/Panorama and Cates Park/Whey-ah-wichen Ranger Report**

**July – September, 2015**



## **Introduction**

Deep Cove, Panorama, and Cates are all extremely popular waterfront parks maintained by the District of North Vancouver. The three parks attract thousands of users throughout the summer months, and are a major draw to patrons from within and without the District.

Deep Cove and Panorama can be categorized together as one park, and are located at the eastern most edge of the District. Cates is approximately 4 kilometres west of Deep Cove/Panorama. All three parks are popular for beach activities and water sports, such as kayaking and paddle-boarding. The parks are also exceptionally popular places for family picnics or group gatherings.

This study began in the beginning of July 2015, during the busy season for the parks. A review of the functionality of the parks facilities and an analysis of the demographics was desired in order to determine the effect of District presence in the parks, and to evaluate present concerns with the parks.

## **Objectives**

This report seeks to illuminate major issues that each park faces, the demographics, and the key activities taking place in each individual park. Through observational and statistical data, this report will provide a written and visual analysis of the major obstacles each park encounters.

## **DEEP COVE/ PANORAMA**

### **Park Use**

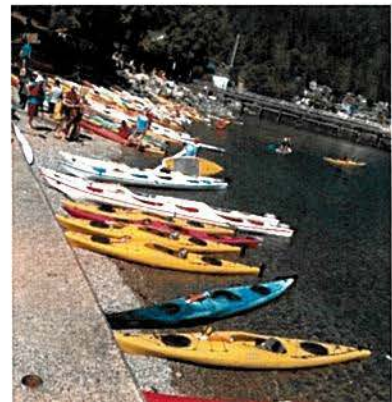
Deep Cove/ Panorama have several primary uses:

- Picnicking
- Hiking
- Beach use
- Kayaking and paddle boarding

Outside of every day park use, visitors often come for special events, namely the concerts managed by the North Vancouver Recreation Commission. These concerts attract a large number of attendees, mainly residents of Deep Cove. Other events included running races, and had a lesser impact on park use. These events are discussed in detail under the section labelled Events.

### *Deep Cove Canoe and Kayak*

Deep Cove Kayak is one of Deep Cove's foremost businesses. It attracts locals and tourists alike, but presents certain challenges for the public parks. Deep Cove Park has limited beach area, and has been



**Figure 1** Deep Cove Beach being overrun with rental equipment from Deep Cove Kayak.



further reduced by the business and their rental equipment. Often, the entire beach is covered with kayaks and paddleboards, deterring park users with their own equipment from using this side of the park. Additionally, rental groups are usually unaware of Gallant Wharf and its activity, which can pose a safety concern for those who kayak too close the boaters.

One incident on July 12, in which two women were hit by a boater, illustrates the potential safety hazard.



Figure 2 An example of the proximity between kayakers and boaters

### Demographics

Week days and weekends in Panorama and Deep Cove differed greatly in the number of patrons and the composition of the user groups. Week days consisted of mainly District residents, while weekends drew in park users from all over the Lower Mainland. Day camps were also frequent users of the parks.

Private events had a substantial impact on the park usage. The type and time of event influenced the demographics of users and spatial usage of the park. The main events held in the parks were:

- Knee Knacker (50 km running race); ran from mid-day until the early afternoon
- Buckin' Hell (50 km running race); ran from mid-day until the early afternoon
- Concerts in the Cove; ran from 19:00-21:00

The concerts, held in Panorama, attracted patrons from the Deep Cove side, leaving it relatively empty. However, the 50 kilometre races were mainly attended by members of the running community, and did not attract attention from regular park users.

### Traffic and Parking

There are 236 parking slots as follows:

- Deep Cove/ Panorama: 115 parking stalls
- Cove Cliff Elementary: 40 parking stalls
- Myrtle Park: 81 parking stalls

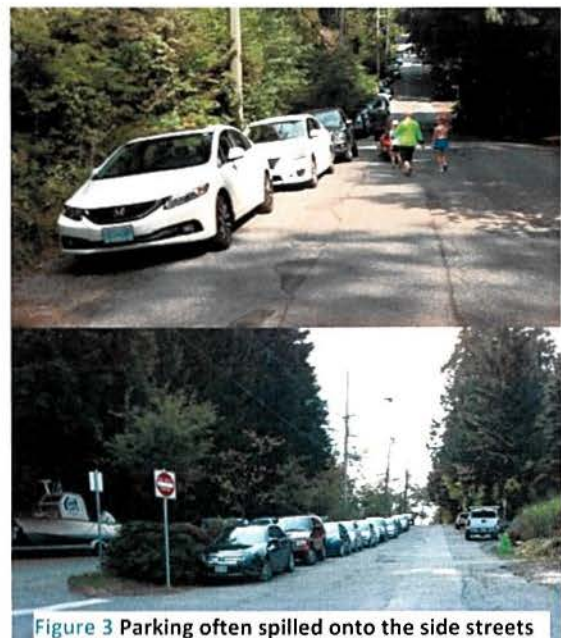


Figure 3 Parking often spilled onto the side streets of Rock Cliff Road and Raeburn

- Visitors who do not use the parks, but arrive simply to dine or purchase goods, also need to be taken into consideration when regarding traffic and parking. As parking on Gallant Avenue is limited, these patrons will move to park in the closest lots. Factoring in the vast numbers of park users, parking has proven to be the main obstacle for Deep Cove/ Panorama.



Figure 4 Congestion in the back lot of Cove Cliff Elementary

On July 28<sup>th</sup> 2015, signs directing drivers to overflow lots were installed at Cove Cliff Elementary parking lots, the entrance of Myrtle Park, the intersection of Raeburn Road and Rock Cliff Road. These signs appeared to have an impact in a minor way, especially for the Cove Cliff lots. The Myrtle overflow lots went largely unused.

### **Gallant Wharf**

Gallant Wharf was largely abused by boaters who did not purchase tickets to moor, taking advantage of the lack of District presence in the area. The wharf is used for loading and unloading of supplies and mooring for park visitors. To a lesser extent, the wharf is used as a means for people to reach their place of work in North Vancouver. These boaters are often from outside the DNV, usually arriving from Belcarra.



Figure 5 Gallant Wharf depicted on a busy day in mid-August

At the start of July 2015, approximately 44% of boats moored had failed to purchase a ticket or permit. This number dropped towards the end of the summer, as more boaters started to use the wharf for loading and unloading, or purchased a ticket to moor. By the end of August, 29% of users failed to pay. Full statistics are reported in Appendix A.

### **Quarry Rock**

Quarry Rock is a local hike on the eastern edge of Panorama that has recently become popular amongst tourists.

- Approximately 2000 hikers a day on weekends and holidays
  - Still very busy with hikers on warm week days
  - Locals will mainly use the trail on week days
- Steep slopes pose a hazard for injury: 18 trail rescues performed by fire fighters between the months of May and August

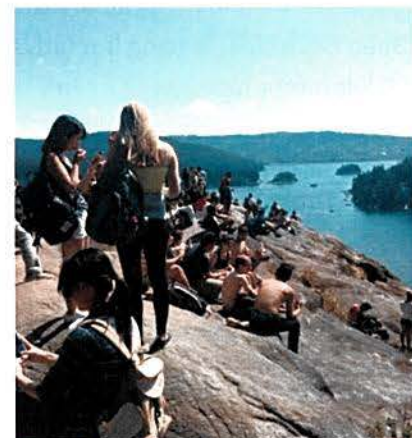


Figure 6 A busy, warm day on the top of Quarry Rock



## **Special Events**

### *Concerts in the Cove*

The concerts are organized and set up by the North Vancouver Recreation Commission (hereafter referred to as NVRC), and boast approximately 250-300 attendees. Each concert takes place at 19:00 and runs till 21:00, with set up taking place around 18:00 and take down lasting until 21:30. Parking during these concerts was a non-issue as NVRC provides information on both the Myrtle and Cove Cliff parking lots on the concert pamphlets.



**Figure 7** Many people attended the popular Concerts in the Cove

### *Races*

The Knee Knacker and Buckin' Hell were the two, 50-kilometre races that took place this past summer. The set up and take down was left entirely to the sponsors, who also provided their own first aid attendants and clean-up crew. Similar to the concerts, the sponsors issued pamphlets/pre-race information that highlighted Myrtle and Cove Cliff as being the main parking lots for the events. The Buckin' Hell sponsors provided a shuttle that took both the competitors and spectators to the Myrtle parking lot.

Again, similar to the concerts, parking proved to be a non-issue due to the flyer sent out by the sponsors.

## **Main Issues**

Throughout the summer months, several issues were established:

- Lack of parking
- Gallant Wharf:  
lack of user pay, however this issue appeared to be ameliorated with the presence of a park ranger
- Quarry Rock:  
Hot-spot for injuries. As Park Rangers are often first responders to an emergency, they can provide an invaluable service to hikers and their safety. Approximately 18 trail-rescues were performed by fire fighters between the months of May and August 2015.

## **Recommendations**

Parking in Deep Cove/ Panorama is extremely limited, and is in need of a new solution. Several ideas to alleviate the traffic and parking issues include:

- Shuttle busses from Parkgate or Dollarton Village to Deep Cove
- Signage at the far east end of Panorama parking lot, indicating available parking at Myrtle and Cove Cliff

In terms of increasing co-operation with ticket purchases at Gallant Wharf, applicable resolutions include:

- Increased Park Ranger presence at the wharf
  - Appendix A shows the impact of park rangers on ticket purchases
- More online information regarding the wharf: both dnv.org and deepcovebc.com should provide specific moorage prices

Quarry Rock, with its potentially hazardous conditions, should be monitored throughout the summer months. Temporarily, an online page detailing the hazards of Quarry Rock and providing suggestions for proper attire may decrease the number of trail rescues.

## **CATES PARK/WHEY- AH-WICHEN**

### **Park Use**

Cates is a popular picnic spot for both North Shore residents and visitors from other cities, and is primarily used for this purpose. The majority of patrons use the picnic and playground areas, although many families take their food and equipment down to the eastern beach shore.

Kayakers and boaters also take advantage of Cates; kayakers using the eastern side of the beach as a launching point, and boaters using the western pay lot to launch their boats and subsequently park their trailers.

### **Demographics**

Similar to Deep Cove/Panorama, the general demographics of Cates Park varied depending on time of day, weather, and time of week. The demographics can be analyzed generally by separating the time of week into weekends and week days.

- Weekends:
  - Mainly tourists (those arriving to the park from places other than the North Shore)
  - Very few locals
  - Private user groups (Deep Cove Music Concert Series, Whey-ah-Wichen Canoe Festival)
- Weekdays:
  - Mainly locals during the day
  - Tourists arrive after 16:00

- Local day camps
- Local dog owners

### **Traffic and Parking**

Parking at Cates was a non-issue. Most patrons found parking available, as many large groups travelled and arrived together in one vehicle. On busy days, such as weekends or holidays, the lot would reach capacity, but patrons travelling in a vehicle appeared to have no qualms with parking farther away and walking to the park.

### **Boat Launch**

Similar to the parking lots, the pay-to-launch boat launch and parking lot was respected by the majority of boaters. One concern observed regarded boat owners. Unwilling to pay, these patrons parked their trucks and trailers along Dollarton Road, occasionally blocking residential driveways. Although this was rare, it was noted on several occasions.

### **Dock**

In similar fashion to the parking lots and boat launch, the Cates Dock was used solely for its intended purpose. Almost 100% of boaters using the dock used it strictly for loading and unloading, either of cargo or passengers.

### **Little Cates**

Little Cates is used primarily by locals, who enjoy the tennis courts, playground, beaches and trails. The Malcolm Lowry trail is popular amongst dog-owners, who proved to be the least co-operative user group. Little Cates also appeared to be a popular hangout for teens and young adults. Interestingly, Little Cates was very rarely frequented by tourists, and mainly used by North Shore residents.



**Figure 8 Evidence of burning at Little Cates**

### **Events**

#### *Whey-ah-Wichen Canoe Festival*

- July 10-12, 2015
- Primarily attended by band members of competing First Nations tribes
- Tents, RV's, and local vendors set up on southern side of the park

The event was well run and professional, as all supporters and competitors assisted in take down of the tents and clean-up of the park. The poor weather during the festival decreased spectator attendance, making the event small and manageable.

### *Deep Cove Music Concerts*

- Every Saturday in July and August from 14:00-17:00
- Approximately 30-80 spectators

The concerts were often plagued by poor weather, and may have been the cause of the low attendance. The concerts did not interrupt or disturb other park users who were picnicking or partaking in different activities.

### **Main Issues**

Cates, although close in proximity to Deep Cove/ Panorama, was challenged by different sets of obstacles. While parking and traffic were a main concern in Deep Cove/ Panorama, Cates struggled with non-compliance of park users, especially regarding temporary bylaws dictating barbeque usage. As shown in the graphs in Appendix B, barbeque numbers increased drastically on warm, sunny weekends. Interestingly, the majority of patrons abusing this bylaw were from outside the district, and stated that they were unaware of the barbeque ban.

### **Recommendations**

Cates can benefit from Park Ranger or bylaw presence during the summer months in order to protect the park. As most bylaw offences, especially with respect to barbeques, occurred on weekends, Cates would benefit most by district presence in the park on weekends and holidays.

### **APPENDIX A.**

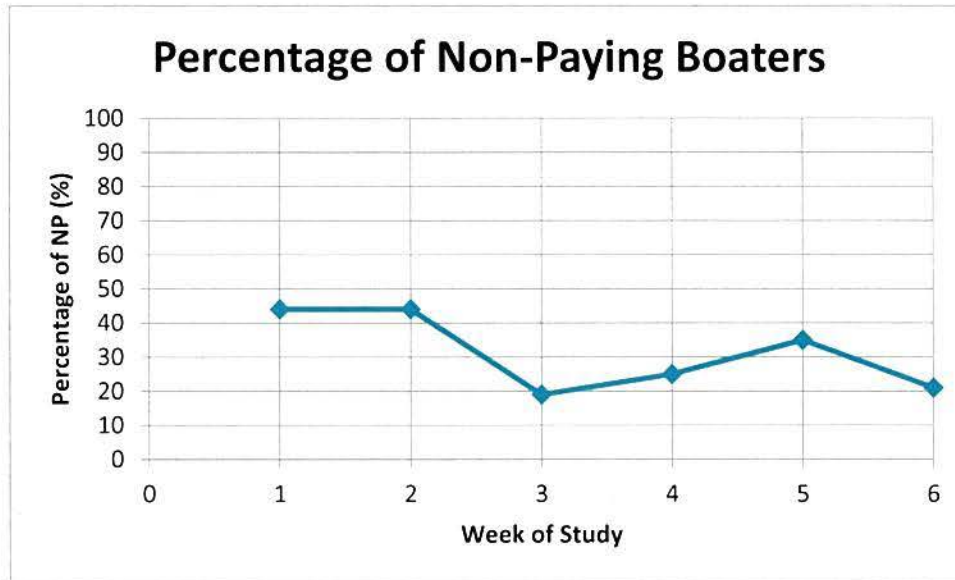
Tables and graphs outlining the effect of Park Ranger presence on Gallant Wharf usage.

Table 1.

Summary of Gallant Wharf moorage: includes number of boaters who failed to pay (No Pay), boaters in possession of a permit (Permit), boaters who purchased a ticket (Ticket), boaters loading and unloading (Loading), and the total number of boats observed for the study.

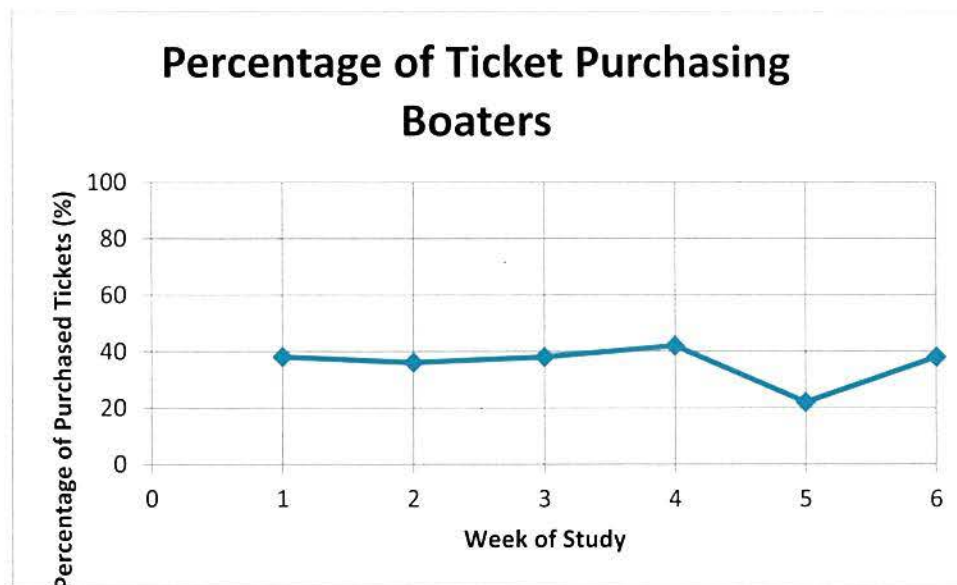
	No Pay	Permit	Ticket	Loading	Total
Week 1	17	7	15	0	39
Week 2	11	5	9	0	25
Week 3	7	12	14	3	37
Week 4	5	5	10	3	24
Week 5	8	7	5	2	23
Week 6	5	7	9	2	24





Graph 1.

Percentage of boaters who failed to pay to moor (NP), over the course of six weeks, week 1 being the first week of Park Ranger presence at the wharf. The graph shows a general declining trend over the course of the study.

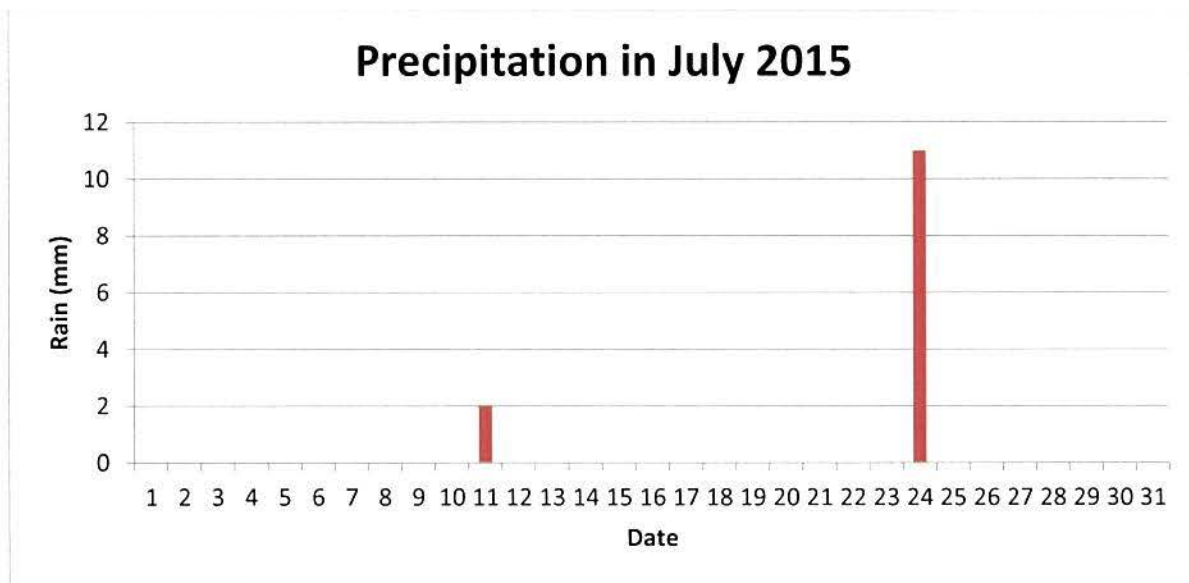


Graph 2.

Percentage of boaters who purchased tickets. Interestingly, the number of ticket-purchasing patrons did not increase vastly with a decrease in non-paying boaters. It seemed throughout the study that the majority of non-payers were simply abusing the 15 minute loading zone regulation; compliance with this time period allowing loading and unloading increased throughout the study, and may be a confounding factor when looking at the percentage of tickets purchased.

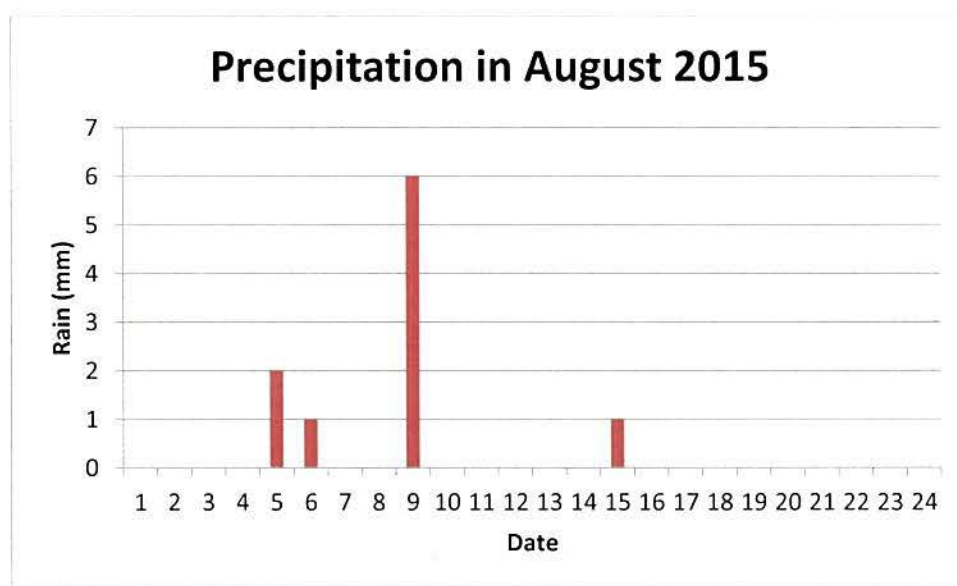
## **APPENDIX B**

Graphs detailing the temperature and precipitation patterns throughout July and August 2015. Number of barbeques observed was also graphed to determine if weather had an effect on the number of barbeques.



Graph 1.

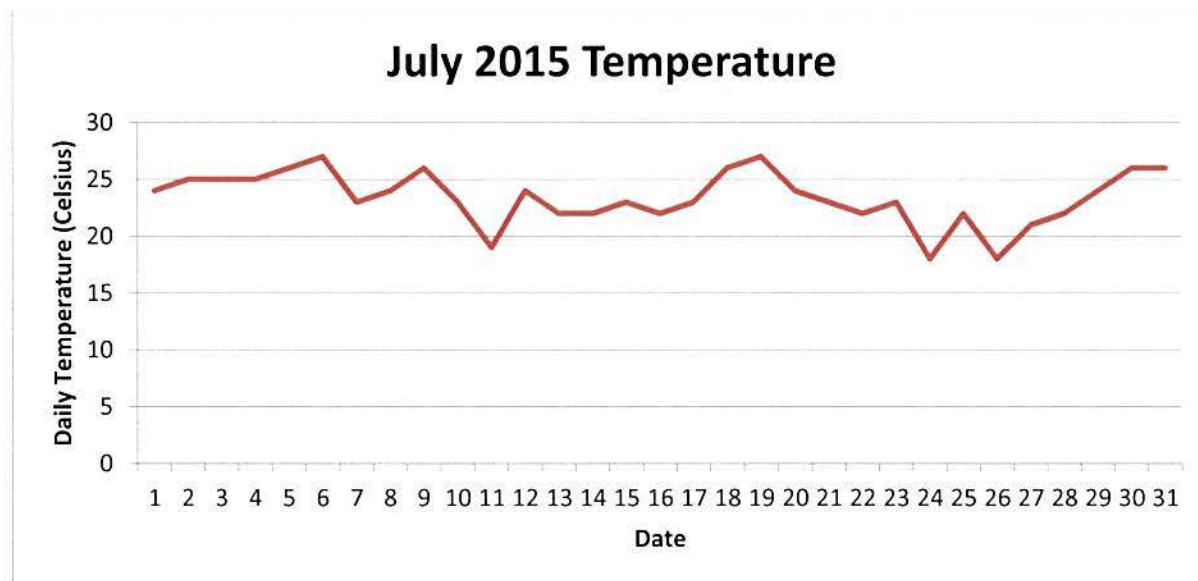
Precipitation levels throughout July 2015. Significant amounts of rain were observed on July 11 and July 24.



Graph 2.

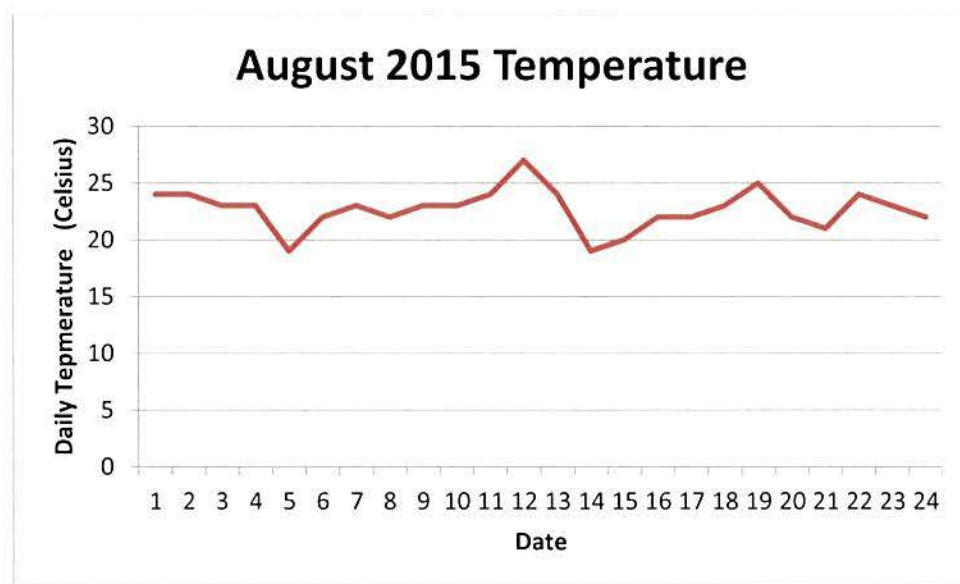


Levels of precipitation observed from August 1-August 24. August 5, 6, 9 and 15 saw measurable amounts of rain.



Graph 3.

July 2015 temperatures. July was a warm month, with temperatures being usually above 20 degrees Celsius



Graph 4.

August 2015 temperatures. August was more variable in temperatures and not as consistently warm as July.

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