ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
September 22, 2021 regular Council meeting
Agenda Item 10. c) Sebastion Road Beach Access

District of Lantzville Staff and Councillors

September 1,2021

Regarding: 10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
131-133 c) Sebastion Road Beach Access
THAT staff be directed to move the no-post barriers and the bollard to the North at the Sebastion Road beach access to provide room for one accessible parking stall.

We are in fact puzzled by this direction under unfinished business, since there was no directive during the July 21 Council Meeting "to provide room for one accessible parking stall."
This therefore appears to be a new directive?

Having now had the opportunity to closely observe people and traffic patterns over the busier summer months, we can definitely say that the **"Drop Off Only"** solution you have implemented is working much better that the impossible, chaotic and unregulated bottle neck of before.

The beach access continues to be busy and well used. In fact, there is more access to everyone now with the drop off spots available. There are people who choose not to obey the No Parking signs, however for the most part, most visitors respect these signs.

One local resident without the use of both legs now rides a scooter several times a day to access the beach, feeling safer now, as there is no chaotic parking to navigate. It is many years since I have seen him down here, and it is good to see he feel safe enough to come on his own.

At night, the road end area is attracting fewer: people idling engines for long periods of time, couples on romantic-trysts (read: sex in cars), party-ers playing loud music, etc. likely because of where the "Drop Off Only" and "No Parking" signs are. For first time in many years, we are usually able to sleep through the night without loud noises at all hours as it seems people are more respectful of area.

Particularly as a result of the Search and Rescue team present for much of Friday Aug 13 and Saturday August 14 between approx. 1pm to 7:30 pm it is clear that **this entire area is needed in an emergency.**



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It is confusing to hear statements at district meetings that safety and access is top priority and then direct staff to explore more parking options.

Access must be available 24/7 for emergency and service vehicles and driveway access. Parking must be secondary at all times to safety!

Sebastion Road is designated as an Urban Local Road. Traffic lanes are designated to be 3.5M. Due to narrowness of Sebastion the traffic lanes are actually 3.25M and narrow to 2.5M below Venture Road to the beach access. After Venture, the road has been moved over toward the E, while on the W, there is 20 - 24' green space from the retaining wall to the property line of 7193. The drive to access 7193 is almost wholly on DoL property. This puts the traffic burden significantly on 7186 and to a lesser degree 7180 as well.

If any parking were to be put here, there could only be 1 or 2 spaces at most: we believe that would lead to more people trying to park, and this road end bottle neck again being plugged up, dangerous and chaotic. This area is extremely tight in any configuration and changing parking to "drop off only" frees the area up as much as possible. If 1 Special Access Parking space were to be accomplished by moving concrete barriers North, how will this also allow for "Drop Off" space for visitors? How will this allow for emergencies and access to our driveway?

Incorrect comments have been made that no one "blocks accesses or driveways": for us this was happening on a multiple times per day basis. An additional comment: "there have never been emergencies at Sebastion Road end": In the last 13 months, there have been 3 emergencies that we are aware of: 2 Ambulances transporting injured persons off the beach, plus most recently, a 2-day Search and Rescue operation. Anecdotal and incidental observations do not reflect the full picture of what goes on regularly at the road end. Because of the opportunity we have to observe the area carefully at all different times of the day, night, & times of the week, it is possible to see many consistent patterns.

There are challenges for us as well: we need to move a 40lb locked bollard to access our drive, there is no adjacent parking for our house visitors, however these challenges are worthwhile for improved accessing /drop off only, no traffic jams and ultimately a much higher level of safety of all kinds in this small area.

This summer, we have seen the results of the heat dome and the death of something like a billion filter feeders along the coastline. Climate change is before our eyes, and as a District we really need to be looking at reducing our carbon footprint. With our carbon footprint in mind, it is hard to understand the constant clamour for more parking. Bike racks rather than car parking at the Road End seem more appropriate. As well, there is in fact plenty of nearby parking.

Why is there a constant clamour for more parking at the Sebastion Road End? Removing a bottleneck problem does not deny anyone access, but in fact creates reasonable access for all with parking close by.

With a call to reduce our carbon footprint everywhere, should we not encourage walking/biking? Are we not doing that already with a sidewalk down Sebastion Road? We need to be sending a consistent message to residents. We need to have safety and access as our first priorities.

We look forward to your reply on this important issue.

Sincerely, Orah and Young Ho Chaye, 7186 Sebastion Road, Lantzville BC V0R 2H0