

Dear Mayor and Council,

I noticed a letter to council by David Guarasci regarding excessive public parking near his home at 6152 Eagle Drive. I write to remind you that this is not a new issue and that it is long overdue for council to decide on a solution. It is clear from his communication that Mr. Guarasci is not enjoying his home in Whistler as he deserves to. It was mentioned in the discussion of his letter in the October 19th meeting that this council is aware of this history and that there are many areas in our community that have similar concerns.

I include the letter I wrote on the topic in 2017 to the previous council where I had similar observations and made some suggestions. The thoughts and concerns expressed seem just as relevant as they did five years ago. At the time my communication was referred to the TAG committee to no apparent avail. This lack of response to a concern from the community is an example that demonstrates that there seems a lack of balance in priorities for residents.

My larger concern, as I have expressed on occasion over the years, is that continued unmanaged growth in the valley has taken priority over maintaining the qualities we associate with Whistler, particularly in summer. A symptom of this is the continued and increasing use of resident neighbourhoods as parking lots.

As again we enter winter parking regulations I hope there will be time to consider solutions and have them implemented by next summer.

In addition I hope that council will, with our already busy valley, consider the natural capacities of our valley and how continued encouragements of visitation, particularly in summer, can impact our natural wildlife habitats, local residents and our guest experience.

Yours truly,

John Wood
8573 Drifter Way
Whistler

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From: John and Karen Wood [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 10, 2017 11:25
To: Mayor's Office <mayorsoffice@whistler.ca>
Cc: jkwood1 Home [REDACTED]
Subject: Restriction of summer Public parking on residential streets

November 9, 2017,

Dear Mayor and council,

Winter regulations are now in force and I write to suggest that before next summer the regulation for summer parking on residential streets be restricted for the use of Whistler residents or tenants, their friends and family.

The increase of vehicles that arrive in Whistler and find public parking lots full or who's owners are determined to avoid the parking fees has been notable through last summers. The free and convenient solution currently is to park in nearby residential areas. Eagle drive is the best (worst) example I can name but I am sure there are or will be other spots. With publication by word of mouth and social media this practice is very likely to expand and I believe it is or will be an unfair imposition to many residents of Whistler.

The residential streets of Whistler must not be considered as an official extension of parking capacity for the resort businesses. In essence this is currently the case as the existence of free residential street parking regulations are posted on the RMOW website and on roadside signage. I write to ask council to amend the residential street parking regulations in the municipality.

May I suggest maintaining the current 9 to 5 no parking on the even side in winter and add no parking 9 to 5 without a permit in summer. This would keep the regulations more consistent and easy to remember. No parking anytime on the odd number side in winter and summer should remain. BTW Parking signage could include clarification of the odd and even sides of the road.

In summer this would facilitate the legitimate parking needs of residents and regular guests on their streets during the day as they would acquire a permit or registration for their vehicles. It would also allow evening parking (for dinner or overnight guests for example) without the need of an extra permit. If an extra temporary short term permit is needed there should be a way to register one either on line or by phone. If a visiting friend or relative happens to be ticketed there should be a way for the resident to vouch for them and have the fine waved.

Another even simpler solution may be to just maintain winter parking regulations year round. There may need to be some discussion how this would affect some members of our community, construction trades for example. I hope that you consider my suggestions and have staff research and consider other ideas.

This program should not create cost or inconvenience to Whistler residents.

The goal is to forbid free public parking on residential streets. The streets outside our homes should not resemble used car lots and if street parking is needed by a resident or visiting friends or family it should be available to them.

- Housing is a well-known issue in Whistler. Many solutions include more use of rental suites in residential neighbourhoods and even the construction of additional cottage homes. I feel residents should have space to regularly park on their own property as much as possible to leave roads for driving, walking and cycling safely. However increased density of residents will undoubtedly create the necessity of some residents, tenants, their friends or family to make use of the street to park their vehicles. If this is needed the street space outside their home should be available to them.
- As many home owners do not live in Whistler full time I hope councillors will join me to speak up for their interest also. I look out over the homes of my neighbours who I know

are weekend or vacation owners. This would become more difficult if our street is filled with many strangers coming and going. I think that when these owners do come for a stay that they should not find their neighbourhood has turned into a parking lot for non-resident vehicles.

- With additional people and vehicles come additional garbage and even pollution from fluids, oils, antifreeze for example leaking from parked vehicles. Public parking lots have systems for dealing with this while in residential areas more parked vehicles mean more pollutants will go directly into the environment.
- Some visitors may not be aware that leaving food scraps around and even inside their vehicle creates wild life attraction which could lead to a bear encounter and possibly the bear needing to be killed. Efforts to control animal attraction in our neighbourhoods become more difficult if public parking is permitted.
- On a safety point many residential streets of Whistler have little if any curb, there are ditches and usually no sidewalks. A vehicle parked on the street often creates a one way situation. Drivers, pedestrians, their children, their pets as well as cyclists need to be cautious when going around parked cars. The relatively low number of vehicles parked on our streets in the past has made this workable. When streets are lined solid with parked vehicles this becomes dangerous. It is an avoidable hazard that I hope our council will recognize.
- A possible consequence of the free bus program on weekends may actually subsidize and make practical the parking of non-resident vehicles throughout the valley. This could include all residential neighbourhoods served by transit and also the parking lots for community amenities like Spruce Grove park and Meadow Park. The inappropriate use of these parking lots will perhaps be another challenge for council and staff to address. The reason I bring the idea forward is to suggest that restrictions may be needed throughout the valley rather than believe the problem is only on for example Eagle Drive and that enforcement on just Eagle Drive would not just move the problem elsewhere. While I speak of enforcement I think active patrols are needed rather than relying solely on complaints to take action.
- Public parking lots are provided and should be used by those coming to Whistler to enjoy our wonderful place. The purpose of introducing fees for the day lots is in part to fund public transportation, to discourage private vehicle use and encourage walking and bicycle use in the valley. Providing free public parking on residential streets is counterproductive to these ends.

Excessive parking by non-resident vehicles creates a concern for the environment, our privacy, security and quiet enjoyment of our homes and neighbourhoods. Clearly Whistler residents are generous and lenient to accommodate visitors. I, and I feel most residents, enjoy welcoming visitors but there comes a point where the volume of visitors becomes imposing. Clearly this issue currently affects some neighbourhoods more than others but I write to speak up for those currently affected and for those who may be in future. If last summer was not too much then I believe the next summers will be worse as this availability becomes more common knowledge.

I hope our council will plan for the future and be proactive to protect the interest of Whistler residents. Please consider my suggestions and make the needed changes in time for next summer.

Yours truly,

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