

Community Comes First

Mayor & Council

I am massively dissatisfied by Council's consideration of the selfish and self serving proposal by industry for modifying construction hours in Whistler.

Whistler's construction hours already favour contractor wants whilst all but ignoring neighbourhood well-being.

As Council and staff know, existing construction hours in Whistler "already provide" more hours, earlier, later and weekend works beyond those of many Vancouver area municipalities.

For example with a renovation in my neighbourhood, the construction hours are but one part of the question. Entering year five of construction (let that number sink in!), contractors arrive on scene half an hour before start time slamming doors, dropping "F" bombs, starting up the sound system, exercising their dogs, emptying dumpsters and toilets, blocking my driveway, hindering snow removal and clogging streets with delivery trucks, cranes, private vehicles and contractors etc, etc.

I can't sit in my own front yard or deck to read, entertain or relax due to the cacophony going on now for more than four years - so let's allow builders do that earlier?

I experience that some contractors don't give a 'rat's ass' about the disruption they cause just as long as they stay under By-Law's radar - shedding crocodile tears when rules are enforced.

Where's the balance? Where's the quiet neighbourhood I moved to Whistler to enjoy and deserve to expect?

I am begging staff and Council to reset and not extend current construction hours and instead to "err on the side of community and families" who volunteer here, work here, play here, pay taxes here?

"Some" contractors (and their industry lobbying group) are not Whistler based nor are their workers. Of course the construction industry is an important part of our economy. However, their profits can not and should not be the driving decider over the well being of our special neighbourhoods. They need to work around neighbourhood and community needs and not the other way around.

The highway is busier, the Village is busier, the shopping areas are busier, the bars and restaurants are busier, the Valley trails are busier. Can't we have one sanctuary (our homes) where locals can expect and experience a reasonable degree of peace and quiet and not an erosion of the limited calm we deserve?

These contractors are not leaving town if the permit hours were to be brought into line with the Vancouver norm which often includes no construction on Saturdays and shorter hours.

No, no, no, no - "hell no" to extending earlier start times for construction companies and the degrading of our neighbourhoods already limited quiet.

Concurrently, I believe a comprehensive review of RMOW construction / noise by-laws and enforcement are overdue. For example, building / reno permits should not be allowed to be continually refiled, rubber stamped and reissued ad nauseam. In what universe is it reasonable for Council and staff to allow builders to run out construction timelines to a half a decade and beyond?

It would not be Council overreach to put rules into effect which offer residents an expectation that the mental and

physical stress of an adjacent building program will not have an infinite run.

The pendulum has swung too far in favour of the construction industry and permit holders in Whistler.

Staff and Council must pivot and legislate in favour of neighbourhoods and worry less about the whims and whines of the British Columbia, industrial / construction complex.

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