

Mayor's Report

History of the West Road Recreation Site

On October 27th, a milestone was reached when the [Metro Vancouver Regional District](#) (MVRD) Board of Directors endorsed a new licence agreement with the 'Village of Belcarra' for the 'West Road Recreation Site'. Of particular note, the [new licence agreement](#) is for a 25-year term with an option to renew for another 25 years.

Following incorporation of the 'Village of Belcarra' in 1979, and because of resident concerns about park boundary issues and the impact on the community from the public accessing the park, a special 'Belcarra Joint Planning Committee' was established between the new municipality, the GVRD, and the Anmore–loco portion of Electoral Area 'B'. Almost four years later after countless meetings, discussions, debates, negotiations and compromises, agreement was reached and published as the [Village–GVRD Agreement Package](#).

The 'Agreement Package', as it came to be known, established the location of proposed park boundaries for [Belcarra Regional Park](#), and addressed park management issues. The agreement also gave special attention to the protection of watersheds, the scale of park facilities in order to minimize impacts on the community, and the commitment to construct a separate park access road (Tum-Tumay-Whueton Drive) as a pre-requisite to future development at the [Belcarra picnic grounds](#).

The [Agreement Package](#) marked the completion of three years of negotiations between the parties, and was documented in 35 pages of maps and text, with another 27 pages of appendices. One of the commitments was that the "land near Bedwell Bay waterfront at West Road will be leased to the Village for recreational use". The 'Agreement Package' was subsequently ratified by Belcarra and the GVRD in May 1983 and was subsequently included as an appendix to Belcarra's [Official Community Plan](#) (OCP).

Following ratification, a 25-year lease for the 'West Road Recreation Site' was negotiated which included an appendix entitled: "Guidelines for Use and Development of the Village of Belcarra's West Road Recreation Site" jointly drafted by the GVRD and Belcarra. The new licence agreement is an extension of the of the original lease agreement.

In 1986, the 'Belcarra Recreation Association' was incorporated with the goal of pursuing recreation facilities on the West Road lease site with an initial plan to construct tennis courts. The West Road lease site was sub-leased to the recreation association but the tennis courts became a burden for the volunteers tasked with maintaining the facility. In addition, the need for general liability insurance became financially onerous and caused the association directors to consider "economies of scale" regarding insurance requirements. As a consequence, the 'Belcarra Recreation Association' merged with the 'Belcarra Community Association' in 1993 to create the 'Community and Recreation Association of Belcarra' (CRAB). Regardless, liability insurance and maintenance of the tennis courts continued to be problematic, and in 2006 CRAB proposed that the [municipality assume operation and maintenance](#) of the facility. The proposal was accepted by the Village, which is where we are today in contemplating future uses.

The [Agreement Package](#) has served Belcarra very well over the years, and the [new licence agreement](#) is but one of the legacies from the original negotiations.

**Ralph Drew
Mayor**

October 29, 2017.