



Environment

This summer our family traveled into the interior of B.C. for the first time since our children were infants. It was impossible not to notice the impact that climate change has had on the environment. The pine beetle has devastated the forests. The honey farm we visited has suffered giant losses to their bee population. Development has changed the landscape.

The environment needs to be a key issue for our township.

Like many parents of young children, I try to find ways to parent in an eco-friendly manner. We grow a little of our own food. We compost. We try to walk or bike when we can. We shop with canvas bags. Sometimes I struggle with how to teach my children to live in a sustainable manner without terrifying them about the future of our planet.

Fortunately, in Esquimalt, there are plenty of individuals who inspire me and who encourage children to take an interest in the natural world around them. Donna, Sara, Barb and a host of other parents at Ecole Macaulay Elementary work hard on a greening committee to give the children opportunities to garden and to design the landscape around them. Several teachers there play a large role too, encouraging the kids to learn about our environment and to tend vermiculture bins right in the classroom. Another parent who inspires me is Jo-Lee who has started a Car Free Friday here in Esquimalt. www.carfreefriday.com.

As a township, we've made some great steps. I fully support the recent strides we've made to adopt an Urban Agriculture Bylaw, a Pedestrian Charter, Green Building Standards and a Pesticide Reduction Bylaw. As a member of Esquimalt's Environmental Advisory Committee this year, I was pleased to find out that our Parks department has been practicing Integrated Pest Management for many years. I'm also very impressed that Bullen Park, our beautiful sports field, which has recently played host to both international rugby and soccer, has been Herbicide free for over 10 years.

Esquimalt is doing some great things for the environment. I would like us to be a leader in Environmental policy.

I strongly endorse:

- Developing and adopting a Community Gardens Policy. There is already a group of people wishing to grow food called the Esquimalt Neighbourhood Urban Farmers (ENUF). They are a committee of the Esquimalt Residents Association (ERA).
- Improving public transportation options along the North/South Corridor from Esquimalt. In particular, the #25 and # 26 bus needs to be more frequent to accomodate travellers commuting from the West Shore, students to Shoreline and students to UVic.
- Encouraging safe alternatives to driving by making pedestrian and cyclist improvements in high traffic areas.
- Promoting safe ways for children and youth to travel to school.
- Adopting a bylaw that will support electric cars.
- Adopting an anti-idling bylaw.
- Encouraging more businesses to move to Esquimalt, eliminating the need for people to leave the area to purchase insurance, clothing, toys or hardware. Maintaining local amenities as well, thus establishing a "complete" community that reduces the need to travel longer distances.
- Encouraging development that improves pedestrian access and meets LEED standards.

Esquimalt to spend \$30,000 to make school corner safer; Lampson closure made traffic worse

Kim Westad. Times - Colonist. Victoria, B.C.:Apr 23, 2008.

The closure of Lampson school last year has caused such safety concerns at the intersection of Lyall and Macaulay streets that Esquimalt will spend up to \$30,000 trying to make the corner safer.

"This may be out of order, but I want to thank you," said Derek Young, standing up at Esquimalt council after they voted unanimously in favour of upgrades at that corner.

Young gathered about 150 names on a petition in two days, asking for safety improvements for students going to Macaulay elementary. One week, the grandfather even acted as an impromptu crossing guard at the corner, where students sometimes have to peek out from between parked cars to get to Macaulay elementary.

"You are out of order, but thank you," said Coun. Lynda Hundleby.

Young, as well as Alison Gaul who represented the Parent Advisory Committee, both asked councillors to do something about the corner and the burgeoning traffic.

About 150 students from Lampson elementary, closed last year by the school board due to declining enrolment, now attend Macaulay elementary.

Ironically, some of the traffic problem at the corner is caused by parents of those students. Many parents were against the Lampson closure because it is too far for their children to safely walk. Instead, they drive and that's adding to the issue, Gaul said. They also park along Lyall to drop off their children, or even just stop on the road and the child hops out.

The municipality's director of public works Gilbert Cote recommended: installing a four-way stop at the corner; implementing a no-parking zone for 45 metres west of the intersection on the south side of Lyall Street; a no parking zone for 36 metres east of the intersection along the north side of Lyall and building a curb extension on the northwest corner of the intersection.

Council approved and the work will likely be done before the end of the school year.

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Health authority heads pedestrian safety day in Esquimalt

Victoria News. Victoria, B.C.:May 27, 2008.

Children walking to Macaulay elementary school will be receiving a little extra help Thursday (May 29).

As a part of Safe Kids week, the Vancouver Island Health Association is sponsoring a pedestrian safety walk early in the morning. Parents are encouraged to walk their children to school at which students, teachers and parents will gather in the back field at 8:20 a.m. for a morning of fun, educational events.

Dr. Richard Stanwick, VIHA's chief medical health officer will be on hand to lead the way. The school's parent advisory committee has also set up four walking groups to pick up children along routes to school.

Macaulay school was chosen for the event largely due to concerns the Esquimalt has had with traffic around the school. The municipality is planning safety upgrades in the area. For more information on the walking routes or the mornings activities please call Ali Gaul at 383-1703 or e-mail aligaul@shaw.ca.

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 29, 2008
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY FOR KIDS

VICTORIA – Crossing the street is something adults often take for granted, but pedestrian mishaps are one of the leading causes of injury-related deaths for children under the age of fourteen.

"Child pedestrian injuries can be prevented and promoting awareness as part of Safe Kids Week 2008 among children and parents or caregivers can help protect our children," said Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services and MLA for Oak Bay-Gordon Head. "Our government is very supportive of this initiative to raise awareness, and we encourage all families to talk about what they can do to make sure everyone stays safe crossing the streets."

"Estimating the speed of an oncoming car - not to mention all the distractions that can accompany a walk to and from school - can be very difficult for younger children when trying to safely cross a street," said Dr Richard Stanwick, Chief Medical Health Officer for the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA). "That's why VIHA is pleased to join with the community, including Macaulay Elementary School and its Parents Advisory Council (PAC), and the Capital Regional District (CRD) Traffic Safety Commission to promote Safe Kids Week with this year's theme of Pedestrian Safety."

Statistics show that children between the ages of five and nine years are at the highest risk to be hit by motor vehicles while playing outdoors, walking to and from school, or walking to friends' homes or other activities.

"This event is another great example of the families of Macaulay and the community of Esquimalt coming together to support our kids," said Scott Thomas, Vice Principal with École Macaulay Elementary School. "With the growing shift towards reducing our carbon footprint, initiatives like the Walking School Bus and the promotion of pedestrian safety become that much more important. We are happy to be working with VIHA and our PAC on this event."

Here are some Pedestrian Safety Tips for parents and children:

- Before stepping out into the street, stop, look left, right and left again, and listen for traffic;
- Make eye contact with the driver before crossing a street;
- Recognize pedestrian crossing signals but do not rely on them;
- Before crossing, be sure the traffic has stopped;
- Be extra alert when crossing when there are no traffic lights;
- Stop at driveways, alleys and areas without curbs;
- NEVER run out onto the street; and

- Wherever possible walk on the sidewalk. In areas without sidewalks, walk as far away from the road as possible, facing oncoming traffic.

"My kids and I love walking to school together. It's a great time to connect and talk about our day," said Ali Gaul, parent and member of Macaulay Elementary School's PAC. "I am thrilled that the Township of Esquimalt has recently committed to improving the intersection at Macaulay and Lyall, and to take part in this event sponsored by Safe Kids Canada and VIHA."

This year's campaign will encourage all drivers to slow down in residential areas. Parents and caregivers will be encouraged to revisit pedestrian safety rules with children and provide children with opportunities for guided practice. VIHA will have more information available at local public health units across the region. "Most importantly, parents and care providers should follow the same rules that they want their children to follow. As adults, we are all role models for our children and they will quickly pick up on our behaviour," said Dr Stanwick.

To find a public health unit near you, please visit: http://www.viha.ca/children/community_resources.htm

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Walking school bus sends message

Published: June 04, 2008 1:00 AM

Flags were waving in the air, children carried school bags and chattered and observantly looked both ways before crossing the street as they headed toward Macaulay elementary school Thursday morning.

The activity in Esquimalt was part of an initiative called Walking School Bus, an idea aiming to raise awareness of the importance of pedestrian safety.

Pedestrian mishaps are one of the leading causes of injury-related deaths for children under 14 years of age.

While crossing the streets is something adults often take for granted, children need to be taught to slow down and consider how to cross safely and judge the speeds of approaching vehicles. Four groups walking from different areas merged behind the Archie Browning Sports Centre and walked onto the lawn of the school where some speakers greeted them.

Ida Chong, Oak Bay-Gordon Head MLA and minister of Community Services, said the B.C. government supports the initiative and encouraged families to talk about what they can do to make sure their children stay safe.

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For Immediate Release

Perfect Storm brewing for Electric Car

Vancouver, BC June 30, 2008 Gas price shock is gripping weary consumers, especially those who can't take transit, car pool, or afford a more fuel efficient car. The Vancouver Electric Vehicle Association has experienced a huge surge of interest in electric technology – something that's been around for more than a hundred years but totally overshadowed by internal combustion engines during the age of oil. Now a perfect storm is brewing as oil is under attack from skyrocketing prices at the pump and devastating environmental damage from the fossil fuel industry becomes obvious.

Interest in the electric car is growing and a number of initiatives supported by VEVA are coming to fruition and aligning at this time:

- VEVA has been working with the **City of Vancouver** to change building codes and bylaws to bring more plug-ins to residential parking spaces, to ensure that future buildings will be prepared for the greater numbers of electric cars within our cities; Last week Vancouver City Council approved **new green building by-laws that require new homes to include the infrastructure needed for electric car plug-ins.**
- At the Canadian Standards Association annual meeting this past week in Calgary, and to be published in the **2009 Canadian Electrical Code**, a new capacity standard has been approved for parking spot plug-ins. These higher energy outlets will allow for about 50% faster battery recharging. VEVA members contributed to this discussion.
- VEVA is providing support and coordination to Swiss adventurer, **Louis Palmer, and the Solar Taxi** as it arrives in Vancouver this week. The Solar Taxi is an electric car that has already driven through 26 countries and 32,000 km primarily on solar power exemplifying the technology readiness for long range travel by electric vehicles. VEVA is sponsoring Louis and his Solar Taxi in two events in the next few days:
 - Canada Day Parade and Celebrations, North Vancouver Waterfront Park – Tuesday July 1st
 - Solar Taxi NA Tour Launch Celebration – Vancouver, Thursday July 3rd. VEVA electric cars will be escorting the Solar Taxi along its route from Canada Place to TELUS Science World. Sponsored by Day4 Energy and the Swiss Consulate General. Members of industry and government will be in attendance.
- VEVA has **doubled the size of its membership** in the past few months, and its **website hits have tripled** reflecting the surge of grass roots interest;
- **Electric Mobility Canada**, is developing the Electric Vehicle Roadmap sponsored by NRCAN and a committee of other federal government departments and industry players. A key meeting took place last week in Ottawa that will set new targets for electric vehicle production in Canada. VEVA contributes and is a member of Electric Mobility Canada.

- The **City of Oak Bay** passed a by-law that allows the use of **Low Speed Electric vehicles such as the ZENN, the E-SUV, and the Dynasty** IT to be driven freely within it's municipality. This is the first city in BC to do so, and we encourage more cities to do so, enabling low cost electric vehicles to be available to all consumers, especially those in rural BC.
- The Vancouver Electric Vehicle Association (VEVA) recently launched its campaign "**My Next Car Will Be Electric!**" to encourage consumers to stop buying new cars until automakers install electric motors as the prime propulsion source. Automakers are too slow in responding to consumer demand for dependable, economical, and zero emission cars and today, electric cars can outperform internal combustion engine vehicles on virtually every metric for urban use.
- And finally, **the BC Carbon tax is here.** For Electric car owners, **our \$100 rebate cheques have just paid for the next 6 months of daily driving electricity!** But all consumers can reduce their exposure to carbon tax by simply driving less, driving more economically, and putting pressure on their favourite car company to make plug-in hybrids and full performance electric cars in the future.

"As soon as ordinary people see what's possible with electric cars, they are totally sold," said Don Chandler, VEVA President. "The electric car is both sustainable, and a real win for consumers."

"Consumers are realizing that car makers aren't producing what they want in a new car," said John Stonier, VEVA Spokesperson. Mass produced electric cars would not be expensive. The technology is already proven -- but they are not found in any car dealer showrooms. "We are trapped with gas thirsty cars with no options" says Stonier.

"For automakers, it's now or never if they want to maintain market share. People want electric cars" said John Stonier, VEVA spokesperson. "Those companies who build them will win out over those that don't."

While Canada is stuck with the internal combustion engine, other countries are moving ahead with electric cars as new companies sprout up building full speed electric vehicles meeting the crash testing requirements that the large auto companies comply with. London England has created a revival in electric cars through exemptions to the inner city congestion tax, and setting up charging stations in parking meters. Europe has had electric vehicles for many years and they are gaining popularity. California has a handful of electric car companies making vehicles that residents there can purchase, but they are not available here in Canada.

"Electric cars are great for consumers!" exclaims Don Chandler, VEVA President. He, like many others, recently converted a small pickup to electric and drives it regularly in Metro Vancouver for just a few cents a day. His total energy cost to drive his truck per month is less than half the cost of just one fill up as a gas car. Chandler continued "Conversions, like custom cars, are only appropriate for a small portion of the driving public – what we need is the main stream car companies to put them in every showroom". If hobbyists can build them, then mainstream car companies can too. With

so many indicators of a shift towards electric cars and away from oil the perfect storm conditions are met and a sea wave of change is imminent.

"My Next Car Will Be Electric!" bumper stickers and T-shirts are available through the VEVA website and at the events listed above.

About the Vancouver Electric Vehicle Association

VEVA is a non-profit society formed by a number of British Columbia electric vehicle enthusiasts in 1988. VEVA advocates the use of electric motors as the primary motive power source for all forms of human transportation from trains, trucks, buses, cars to bicycles and skateboards for a clean, green and sustainable future. Membership is open to the public. For more information go to www.veva.ca

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