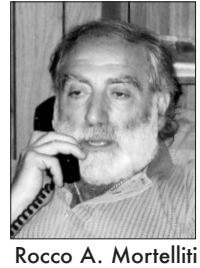


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IN BRIEF

Boil water advisory lifted

The District of Squamish announced Thursday (Dec. 13) that the boil water advisory issued Dec. 3 has been lifted after testing confirmed satisfactory disinfection is occurring in the municipal water treatment system.

Sea to Sky Highway update

The schedule of construction-related closures of Highway 99 is in winter mode, with no night-time closures and minimal delays planned from Dec. 1 to Feb. 29.

There will also be no closures or delays on Dec. 25 (Christmas) or 26 (Boxing Day). The weekday delay schedule for the next 10 days looks like this:

Between Nelson Creek and Horseshoe Bay, expect delays of up to 10 minutes Monday through Friday from 12:01 to 5 a.m. and no more than five minutes from 5:01 a.m. to midnight.

Between Horseshoe Bay and Lions Bay, expect delays of up to 15 minutes Sunday through Friday from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. and up to five minutes Monday through Thursday from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday from 6 a.m. to noon.

Between Lions Bay and Squamish, expect delays of up to 15 minutes Sunday through Friday from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. and up to five minutes Monday through Thursday from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday from 6 a.m. to noon.

Between Whistler and Squamish, expect delays of up to 15 minutes Sunday through Friday from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. and up to five minutes Monday through Thursday from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday from 6 a.m. to noon.

Squamish Transit holiday service

Squamish Transit is operating on a modified schedule from Dec. 24 to Jan. 2.

On Dec. 24 there will be regular service. From Dec. 25 to 26 there will be no service. From Dec. 27 to 31 there will be regular service. On Jan. 1 there will be no service. On Jan. 2 Squamish Transit returns to regular service.



Students from Squamish Elementary gather around a new water channel by Brennan Park. The kids helped release about 200 juvenile Coho salmon into the waterway.

LAURA HENDRICK / THE CHIEF

New channel provides a return to nature

Rewatering ceremony includes fish release

LAURA HENDRICK
LHENDRICK@SQUAMISHCHIEF.COM

There is new life in the waters around Loggers Lane this week after 200 juvenile Coho were released into a new water channel Monday (Dec. 10).

Students and politicians dipped buckets of fish into the shallow waterway early this week as part of a rewatering ceremony at Brennan Park.

The 1.5 kilometre channel was developed with about \$200,000 of funding from Solterra Development. The project was part of a compensation package for the company's downtown residential development, Eaglewind.

The new channel runs toward the RCMP building, where it connects with other channels

linked to Loggers Lane Creek.

Mike Nelson, principal of Cascade Environmental said the small waterways are an important part of the salmon life cycle.

"Coho and Chum like these smaller channels... They need some off channel water to rear in."

The Mamquam River used to flow in similar channels throughout the valley, until it took on its current route after the 1920s floods.

Nelson said the district was working with Squamish Streamkeepers, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Squamish River Watershed Society to rewater some of the lost channels.

A group of Grade 1, 2 and 3 students from Squamish Elementary braved the cold to help release the fish.

Teacher Natalie Mah said the students were currently studying salmon and had already made a trip to the fish hatchery in Paradise Valley.

As the group's second teacher Kelly Smith

dropped fish into the channel, she asked the kids how long it would take for them to return.

They unanimously cried "four years!"

There were several politicians at the event including MP Blair Wilson and Mayor Ian Sutherland. In a short speech to the group, Sutherland described the rewatering project as win-win for the community, developers and environment.

"When these fish come back in three or four years, it's going to be your benefit," he said.

He added that such a collaborative project on Brennan Park property would not have been possible 10 years earlier.

Eaglewind sales administrator Erin Towns said such compensation projects have also helped developments gain community-wide approval.

"It's been really great," she said, noting that neighbours such as residents at Eagle Grove Seniors Housing have had nothing but positive things to say about the development.

Wilson discovers advantages to independence

Conservative candidate demands MP steps aside

LAURA HENDRICK
LHENDRICK@SQUAMISHCHIEF.COM

Sea-to-Sky MP Blair Wilson has found a silver lining to his political troubles. Since resigning from the Liberal party on Oct. 29 amidst allegations of campaign misspending, he says he has enjoyed having more time for his constituents.

"As an independent, it allows me a little bit more freedom and opportunity to be in the community," he said at a Squamish community event Monday (Dec. 10).

While he used to return to Ottawa each week

on a red-eye Sunday flight, he said that trip could now be delayed until Monday.

Although he made no speech at the event, he was far from a wallflower. Wilson joked with the school children taking part in the ceremony.

"Do you think it's cold?" he asked, as the kids leaned over a water channel.

"Yeah!" quipped seven-year-old Georgie Lewis.

It was a far more outgoing Wilson that the one who made only a short statement at the Remembrance Day ceremony at the same place a month earlier. He gave credit to those who are withholding judgment until the investigation is complete.

"It really has renewed my faith in the human spirit. The outpouring from the community, my wife and kids has been wonderful," he said.

Meanwhile, Conservative candidate John Weston has spoken out against Wilson's decision to continue as MP.

"[Wilson] would be wise to step aside until the matter is concluded one way or the other," said Weston in a recent statement.

Weston added leaders should do what is right for the country, not just themselves and friends.

"People in this riding and across Canada expect and deserve honesty and integrity from their elected officials," he stated. "I hope those involved in Mr. Wilson's last campaign will advise him to clear the air."

Follow up calls to Wilson were not returned by deadline. But at the rewatering ceremony, his independent status didn't stop him from taking a swing at the Conservatives when describing Canadian's interest in the environment.

"The push is from our citizens. Our current government is lagging behind," he said.

He also reflected on a priorities shift from health care to the environment since taking office.

DOUGLAS B. CHIASSON

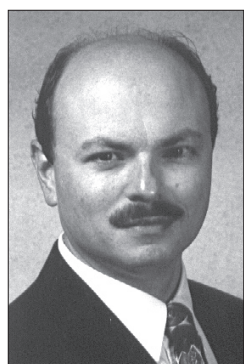
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