



OAKCREST PARK ESTATES LTD.

April 27, 2018

Mayor Barb Desjardins
Township of Esquimalt
Municipal Hall
1229 Esquimalt Road
Victoria, BC V9A 3P1

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT		
For Information:		
<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input type="checkbox"/> Mayor/Council	
RECEIVED: MAY 02 2018		
Referred: <i>Anja</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> For Action	<input type="checkbox"/> For Response	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMV
<input type="checkbox"/> For Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council/Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> IC

Dear Mayor Desjardins

Parking in the Gorge/Tillicum Area

I am writing in my capacity as General Manager of Oakcrest Park Estates Ltd. (Oakcrest), although I have interest in the subject of this letter as one of the owners of the Gorge Pointe Pub. You and I have discussed this issue in the past. Oakcrest sublets office space above the Gorge Pointe Pub from GMJ Pub and Liquor Corporation which owns the pub. We have done so for about 12 years and have mostly enjoyed having our corporate offices in Esquimalt, despite carrying out most of our business activities in Victoria, Saanich and Langford.

One area that gives us difficulty, however, is parking for our staff at our Tillicum Road location. As a subtenant of the pub we are permitted to use a certain number of parking spaces in the pub lot, but only when available. This can be a problem if any of our staff arrive at the location during busy times in the pub. Such was the case today when two of us returned during the busy lunch period. The parking lot was full. Legal alternatives are few, and generally far away.

Other options include the "loop" at the entrance to Esquimalt Gorge Park, which is yellow curbed. I chose to park there briefly until a spot opened up in the lot. Your friendly Bylaw officer rewarded me with a ticket which I have paid. Another option is to park in the parking lot for Esquimalt Gorge Park, which is about 400 metres away and, although not signed, is presumably intended for users of the park. My colleague chose to park there.

A third option is to park on nearby streets, most of which are posted for Residential Parking Only. In particular, there is a vast amount of curbside parking on Gosper Crescent adjacent to the park. A very few of these spaces were previously used by staff at the pub and Oakcrest until it became restricted a few years ago. I understand this was on the basis of complaints from residents on Gosper Crescent, particularly during the extended period of envelope remediation at the Gorge Pointe condominiums when many of the trades working there parked either in the pub lot or on Gosper. I walked that piece of roadway at 1:30 today, after receiving my ticket and noted that there were absolutely no cars parked at the curb on either side of the stretch of Gosper Crescent that borders the park. None.

While I understand that residents should not have to compete with employees or customers of local businesses for parking on their residential streets, there were sufficient curbside spots available at that time to accommodate every vehicle in the pub parking lot. This lack of vehicles parked on Gosper is not uncommon, a fact I note almost every day when I walk my dog there. The preservation of these spaces for "residents" seems excessive, and amounts in my opinion to guaranteeing a few vocal residents the unimpeded view of the park and the empty street they think their particular address justifies.

As a business which supports Esquimalt through the property taxes included in our rent and by bringing staff to the Municipality from other parts of the region, we ask that the Municipality and Council reconsider the parking restrictions on Gosper Crescent given the ample parking available there that can not be legally used by employees of local businesses or by would be users of the park. My suggestion would be to remove the restriction from the park side of the street. Maintaining it on the other side where the residences are would provide for ample guaranteed residential parking for those living in the neighbourhood. The usage by non-residents would likely amount only to a few employees of the pub or Oakcrest during the day, but would benefit both of the businesses trying to operate successfully in this area of Esquimalt.

Thank you for considering my request and I would welcome any discussion you, councilors or your staff might like to have on the matter.

Best regards,

OAKCREST PARK ESTATES LTD.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Thomas Burley', written in a cursive style.

R. Thomas Burley, FCPA FCA
General Manager/CEO

RTB/dal

cc: Mr. James Legh, President,
GMJ Pub and Liquor Corporation