

January 6 | 2006

Landslide Risk Assessment Update Blueridge escarpment

In a few weeks, the District will receive the results of a comprehensive landslide risk assessment of the Blueridge escarpment. The District commissioned a Geotechnical Engineering firm to prepare this report in response to the January 2005 landslide. For the past several months, engineers have been conducting a detailed geotechnical analysis of the entire escarpment to arrive at a risk assessment document which is part of our risk management plan.

Local residents have likely been aware of activity on the slope over the past months as engineers conducted soil sample drillings and installed piezometers, which measure groundwater levels. The analysis included surveys and review of historical photographs of the area, along with the examination of groundwater conditions and springs. The study is based on a laboratory analysis of the soil samples and computer modeling to determine risks, which will provide valuable information for future mitigation and risk management options.

The report should be finalized in the next few weeks and will be made available to the public via the District's website at www.dnv.org and through District libraries.

Residents should note that this is only Phase One of the report (Risk Assessment). Phase Two (Risk Mitigation), which will focus on ways to mitigate and manage any concerns, will be completed in six months, and made available to residents at that time.

In the meantime, the District continues to monitor the slope and will be installing an additional 20 piezometers in the next few weeks. This will complement the existing seven piezometers already in place along the slope. The installation will complement drainage improvements over the past year, which includes the construction of a drainage basin at the slope's base. District employees, including plumbing inspectors, have also been working with homeowners above the slope to address rainwater drainage concerns.

Residents should know that Geotechnical Engineers and District staff continue to monitor

rainfall and piezometer readings around the clock. This, combined with Environment Canada five-day weather forecasts, allows for early notification of possible landslide risks due to heavy precipitation. We have systems in place to promptly alert residents if, and when, required.

As one of its Slope Safety Initiatives, the District also embarked on a Storm Sewer Project in September and October. The work consisted of storm sewer upgrading, installing new sections of storm sewer, and providing storm sewer service connections at various locations along the escarpment. This work was fully funded by the District.

In addition, the municipality recently requested approximately 60 residences in the vicinity of Berkley, Lennox, and Layton Streets to connect to the District's storm sewer system. These properties typically discharge their storm water run-off over the bank at the rear of their properties. Geotechnical consultants advise the risk of future slope failure will be significantly reduced if residential storm water drainage is directed to the municipal storm water system rather than over the bank. In addition, District Council recently approved a grant of \$500 to each property owner if they connect to the system before March 31, 2006. Also approved was the refund of the drainage permit fee.

As for the homes impacted by the landslide, the District has now purchased and taken possession of eight properties. One house has already been removed, while the balance of the homes will be removed during the spring. In order to further reduce landslide risk, the top of the escarpment will be reshaped and the area will be landscaped.

Upon release of Phase One of the report in the upcoming weeks, the District will be appointing a Community Liaison person in an effort to answer residents' ongoing concerns and facilitate the flow of two-way dialogue.

Watch District Dialogue for future updates on the District's slope safety initiatives in the upcoming weeks.

communitycorner

Wondering where to take your Christmas tree for disposal? You can visit the NS Transer Station (located at 30 Riverside Drive) for free chipping (up to 100kg). Or, check out the following Charity 'Chip-ups'.

Charity Chipping Locations:

Firefighters' Annual Tree Chip-Up: Jan. 7, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. at Park and Tilford (Rona) parking lot. Chip-up is by donation.

Carson Graham Girls Rugby Team Christmas Tree Chip-Up: Jan. 7 and Jan. 8, 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. at 2145 Jones Ave., North Vancouver. Suggested donation: \$4 per tree.

22nd Seymour Beavers, Cubs and Scouts: Jan. 7 and Jan. 8, 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. at Eastview Elementary. The school is located at 1801 Mountain Hwy. Chip-up is by donation.