

Reflections - A Lions Bay History Nutshell

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Given that the review of the Official Community Plan of our Village is in full swing, it is appropriate to reflect on where have we come from, and where we hope we are going. The revised Plan that will emerge from the review process will only be as good and effective as we, the residents and Councils of the day, wish it to be.

"The OCP is the blueprint of policy and principle that guides all decisions made by the Council and Administration in relation to our environment, development in the community, social and recreational issues, municipal services, infrastructure, governance ..." (Mayor Max Wyman, April 2007).

The Mayor's statement encapsulates much of what relates to our **Quality of Life**, the factors that brought many of us here in the first place, and our **Vision** for the future.

In the early 1800s the Sea to Sky corridor was known as the Pemberton Trail and was briefly used as a cattle trail that ended at Burrard Inlet. As separate entities, Brunswick Beach and Lions Bay were first surveyed in 1908. The first residents came to Brunswick Beach in 1911. Lions Bay and Brunswick Beach were initially unincorporated Water Improvement Districts, governed in a very limited way by a Board of Trustees. Taxes were paid directly to Victoria.

Lions Bay was granted Village status on January 2, 1971, and Brunswick Beach was joined with the Municipality on October 22, 1999, as a result of a restructure study and referendum. The Village collects and administers a group of taxes (Municipal, School Board, Fire Protection, Water Parcel, Regional District, Translink, Hospital and local fees (Water, Garbage, Recycling), but property assessments are done provincially. The Municipality is one of the 21 members of the Metro Vancouver Board (formerly the GVRD). Our population is 0.1% of Metro Vancouver. Immediately to the north is the Squamish Lillooet Regional District (SLRD).

In the early days, access to the two communities - mostly rural summer 'getaway shoreline cottages' remote from the big city, was by boat until the opening of the railway (in 1954) and the highway (in 1958). These conduits brought about dramatic changes and permanent residences to the young communities on Howe Sound. The first highway was a lightly traveled 2-lane road, crossing several picturesque trestle bridges, devoid of the traffic noise that the modern 4-lane busy thoroughfare now brings to our ears.

According to 2006 census data, Lions Bay has about 1,330 people, a population that has changed very little over three census periods. There are about 530 homes and about 25-30 undeveloped lots. A major expansion occurred in the 1971-1980 period when almost 50% of homes were built. The growth pattern of the Village is shown below.

Period	% built
1946-1960	5%
1961-1970	16%
1971-1980	47%
1981-1985	9%
1986-1990	13%
1991-1995	8%
1996-2000	2%