



CHAPTER 12: COMMUNITY WELL BEING

12.1 COMMUNITY WELL BEING

As Port Moody's population continues to grow and change, so will the needs of the community. A healthy and complete community provides opportunities and support for the social development, personal growth, health, safety and education of all its residents. This chapter describes the range of services in Port Moody that contribute to community well being including social, health, education, child care, police and fire protection services.

12.2 COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES

The Ministry of Children and Family Development funds a range of social services in Port Moody and throughout the Tri-Cities area. It delivers child protection and child and youth mental health services and contracts out to local non-profit agencies a number of services related to developmental and support services to children and youth with special needs. These agencies also rely on community fundraising and grants from federal, provincial and local governments as well as charitable organizations in order to provide social services to meet the needs of local residents. Places of worship and local service clubs also play a role in providing services and supporting non-profit organizations already working in the community.

The Ministry of Health, through the Fraser Health Authority, delivers health services to the Tri-Cities. This includes the operation of Eagle Ridge Hospital in Port Moody which provides emergency, ambulatory, rehabilitation, outpatient, long-term care and acute care programs as well as elective and day surgeries. The hospital currently operates 96 medical

and surgical beds and 10 hospice beds. A 75-bed long-term care facility was added in 1994. The hospital has adequate vacant land and it is anticipated to continue to expand as the Northeast Sector's population grows.

12.3 EDUCATION

The future of any community rests with its youth, with paramount importance being placed on their education and social development. There are currently seven elementary schools in Port Moody with an enrolment of approximately 1628 students. In addition, Port Moody has one middle school with 746 students and two senior secondary schools with a total of 2526 students. School locations can be seen on Map 2. Since 2000, two new schools have opened in Port Moody to serve the needs of students primarily on the North Shore.

As a result of declining enrolment since 2000, School District 43 undertook a review of school facilities to determine the need for school closures. As a result of this review, two elementary schools which serve the needs of Port Moody students — College Park and Coronation Park — were closed at the end of the 2006/2007 school year.

Funding has been approved for the rebuilding of Moody Middle School and a new middle school for Anmore which will serve the needs of Port Moody residents, is under construction.

This OCP recognizes the important role of schools in Port Moody and the potential for more intensive use of existing school sites to serve the future needs of the community.



12.4 CHILDCARE FACILITIES

In today's economic conditions, childcare becomes a necessity for many people. Many municipalities have completed childcare studies and developed policies that deal with this important area of community life with one approach being the requirement of day care centres in major developments. The City will encourage developers to provide a demographic analysis and indication of the child care demand produced by proposed new development. The developer would be required to indicate how this demand would be accommodated and, if necessary, contribute towards the provision of daycare spaces.

Given the ongoing demand for childcare in Port Moody, the City has sought to facilitate the creation of new group childcare spaces within existing developed areas by allowing for group childcare as a permitted use in a variety of commercial and mixed use commercial/multi-family zoning districts.

12.5 PLACES OF WORSHIP

Historically, places of worship served an important role both geographically and spiritually in communities. This is evidenced

by the fact that one of Port Moody's oldest buildings is St. John the Apostle Church, which is located in Moody Centre.

As our community becomes more culturally diverse, there may be a need to develop additional places of worship to meet changing needs. New places of worship should be designed with siting and parking layouts to ensure safe access and egress and to mitigate against impacts on adjacent properties.

12.6 POLICE SERVICES

Since 1913 the City of Port Moody has had its own Police Department which currently consists of 52 uniformed members and 19 civilian members. In September 2006, the Police Department moved into a new building designed to meet policing needs for the next 20 to 30 years. The building features an energy efficient geothermal system providing heating in the winter and cooling in the summer furthering Port Moody's commitment to environmentally friendly and sustainable heating solutions.

The Department motto is "no call too small" and this philosophy is reflected in an average response time of less than four minutes to calls for service. The community is proud of their low crime rate and attributes this low rate to the cooperative relationship between the Police Department and the citizens of the City.

The Port Moody Police Department includes a number of specialized teams including the Patrol Section, the Traffic Section, the Emergency Response Team, the Major Crime Section, and the Forensic Identification Squad. The Department also includes youth services officers stationed at Port Moody high schools and the Victim Services Program. A number of volunteer programs are also run out of the Police Department including Block Watch, Crime Watch, Speed Watch and the Stolen Auto Recovery Program. The Department is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for residents and visitors and meeting the demands of a growing population in a realistic and cost effective manner.



12.7 FIRE SERVICES



The role of the Port Moody Fire Rescue is to prevent or minimize the loss of life and property from fire and natural or man-made emergencies. The Department is involved in a number of programs and services including fire suppression, fire prevention, community relations, training, and emergency programs. Fire Rescue staff are involved in reviewing development proposals in areas adjacent to greenbelts, parks and forested areas to reduce the fire risk on residential properties.

There are two firehalls in Port Moody that serve the needs of residents. Recent residential growth within the City places additional demands on the City's fire services to ensure that all neighbourhoods receive timely and efficient fire protection. The new Firehall #1 in Inlet Centre will ensure that Port Moody Fire Rescue can continue to provide all residents with a high level of fire protection services, both now and in the future.

12.8 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Events such as the December 2006 windstorm highlight the need for a coordinated and efficient emergency response to ensure the safety and security of Port Moody residents. The Port Moody Disaster Response Plan includes emergency pre-event planning, emergency event response, training, and disaster recovery requirements to prepare the City to respond effectively in the event of an emergency. The City has also developed an Emergency Social Services Plan to be implemented by City employees, other organizations, and volunteers to provide basic services such as food, shelter and clothing, essential for the immediate wellbeing of the community until regular social services are in place. The City's emergency operations centre, the Public Safety Building, is the command centre for the City of Port Moody's emergency response.

POLICIES

1. The City will undertake social planning studies as required and will liaise with relevant community coordinating

committees provided that adequate funding is available from senior governments for this purpose.

2. The City will liaise with the provincial government and other agencies to encourage the development of local health services.
3. The City encourages community use of schools and to that end will enter into joint use partnership agreements with School District 43 to share facilities and park space in order to better serve the community.
4. The City will continue to work with the School District to ensure that streets around schools are safe for students.
5. The City will provide opportunities for youth to contribute and participate in community life through participation in municipal and community organizations and recreation opportunities available at drop-in centres.
6. In large family-oriented development projects, the City will encourage the inclusion of space dedicated for child and family friendly amenities, such as child care facilities or play space.
7. The City encourages the provision of child care facilities in the community and will support the inclusion of childcare space as part of mixed use and multi-family developments.
8. Through the development process, the City will encourage the development of community care facilities which provide for children and those with special needs as well as seniors' housing and care facilities to meet a range of needs, including independent and assisted living, in a suitable location and with appropriate amenities.
9. The City will support the development of places of worship in appropriate locations when a positive contribution is provided to the City and potential impacts on neighbouring properties are addressed.
10. The City will continue to support a variety of safety initiatives and programs to combat crime and provide for safe neighbourhoods.
11. The City will continue to ensure that all neighbourhoods receive timely and efficient fire protection.
12. The City will continue to utilize crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles in the review of new developments.
13. The City will identify community amenities needed as a result of future growth throughout the city and explore mechanisms to support the provision of these amenities.
14. The City will support cultural and arts related programs that lead to the enrichment of community life.