

I know you are going to have a meeting to discuss Merritt's snow removal program so I am going to put in my request.

I have had a business at 2052 Nicola Avenue for the past 25 years and every year since I opened, I have been asking for SNOW REMOVAL on Nicola Avenue. I am not talking about pushing three lanes of Nicola Avenue snow onto the sidewalk but actual SNOW REMOVAL. I have asked every Council for all these years to get the snow and ice removed from the street and for twenty five years my requests have fallen on deaf ears. Maybe once every other year the City removes it but usually not. I have sent letters and e-mails to the City over the years. I have taken photos of the snow and ice piled up and given them to the City and the Newspapers, who did publish them. I have photos of First Responders CLIMBING over the ice and snow piles to attend to their duties and have shown them to City and Media but still no action has been taken.

I am tired of hearing the excuse that Nicola Avenue is a highway and that it is the Highway Contractors responsibility to maintain it. I have heard this for years. Nicola Avenue is just that, An AVENUE, and it has been since the City was built. It became a part of the highway system years after the fact and it is up to the CITY to keep it in order and safe for the citizens of Merritt. Do I have to have a heart attack shovelling three lanes of snow off of my sidewalk to get the City's attention. How about Highway Maintenance breaking another one of my big windows pushing the snow off Nicola Avenue so hard they pound the front of my store. Maybe a First Responder breaking a leg climbing over the snow and ice piles trying to do their duty. I have seen cars and trucks end up on these piles of snow and watched people fall over them. In the warm temperatures, like we have now, the ice piles melt and the water is flowing on the sidewalk. The melt water cannot get to the storm drains because it cannot get through the mountain of ice and snow.

Speaking of storm drains, where is all the accumulated sand, gravel and garbage on Nicola Avenue going to end up? In the storm drain when the big melt does come. How much is it going to cost to clean the garbage out of the storm drain system come springtime? Would it not be proper maintenance to pick up the snow pile from Nicola before the drain system plugs and overloads?

The City was pretty quick in cleaning up the downtown area after the last big snow and was quick to pat themselves on the back for doing so BUT here on Nicola Avenue, we might as well be on the MOON for all the clean-up we get.

We have all heard that Government works slow but twenty five years to solve one little issue is pushing it.

I deal with a LOT of tourists in my business and have heard the same comments for years from them. In the summer the comments are about the City's appearance with dirt, weeds and garbage. In the winter, it is, doesn't the City have a snow plow?

I ask the City to do something about Nicola Avenue snow removal. Not next year or the year after that but when it snows and piles up.

Bruce McMurchy