

# MUD-SLIDE THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER

By: Kerry Morris - July 23, 2015



Slide-the-City will run down Lonsdale from 8th Street to 3rd Street, on Saturday August 22nd 2015.

Like everyone else, I think the event will likely be a lot of fun for the 6,000 allowed to partake. But for those who come on event day and wish to 'try-the-slide', it may be very frustrating.

Despite all the media attention this event has drawn, it wasn't until after the sell-out that we learned the slide will not be open to come-as-you-

are sales, the day of the event. Only pre-purchased ticket riders will be welcome. That little morsel of information should have been better publicized. In my neighbourhood no one knew this until word of the sell-out arrived.

City of North Vancouver council was told, on Monday night last, the Stage-3 water restriction in play in the Lower Mainland will not affect the Slide operation as the operator has sourced all water from another locale, and will bring in the estimated 75,000 litres of water necessary, in three trucks. Therefore no domestic potable water will be required from the City. Good thing to because Stage-3 does not allow for filling of swimming pools or hot-tubs.

How can the system work on only 75,000 litres you ask? Good question. We're told that Slide-the-City intend to recycle the water using a pump system. The picture above shows what happens when you do that. The brown pool of water in which party goers stand, at another Slide-the-City event, is akin to a toilet bowl, which is apparently the very reason the City of Nanaimo said no to Slide-the-City, calling off the event before the contract was signed.

The City now appears to rely entirely on the oversight of Vancouver Coastal Health ("VCH"), to determine if this event is safe for users. One certified water expert has opined that the water turbidity in the pool base will require a chemical load so high, to drop that turbidity, which in and of itself will pose a health risk to users. An example of what level of water uncleanliness can be expected is evident in the picture shown above.

Slide-the-City is asking all sliders to sign a waiver which relieves them of all liability for everything and anything that may happen as a result of using the slide, including illness which may result from ingesting the contaminated water evidenced by this picture. As the City has now placed the burden of water cleanliness on the doorstep of VCH, recourse for sickness will now 'Slide' south to the VCH office on Esplanade. Dr Lysyshyn, your air-mattress!

I think the lesson here is clear, in a year where environmental conditions leave little or no water for this type of event, compelling recirculating that may put the health and safety of residents in harms way, council clearly discloses a need for more and better leadership. Not only is it incredibly unfair to VCH, it discloses a lack of thought and wisdom. The safety of our residents is the highest responsibility and priority of any municipal government. To set in motion a plan that potentially puts residents in harms way, and then assigns others the burden of responsibility, is a failure of leadership! You'd think an ambulance driver understood that, wouldn't you?