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WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

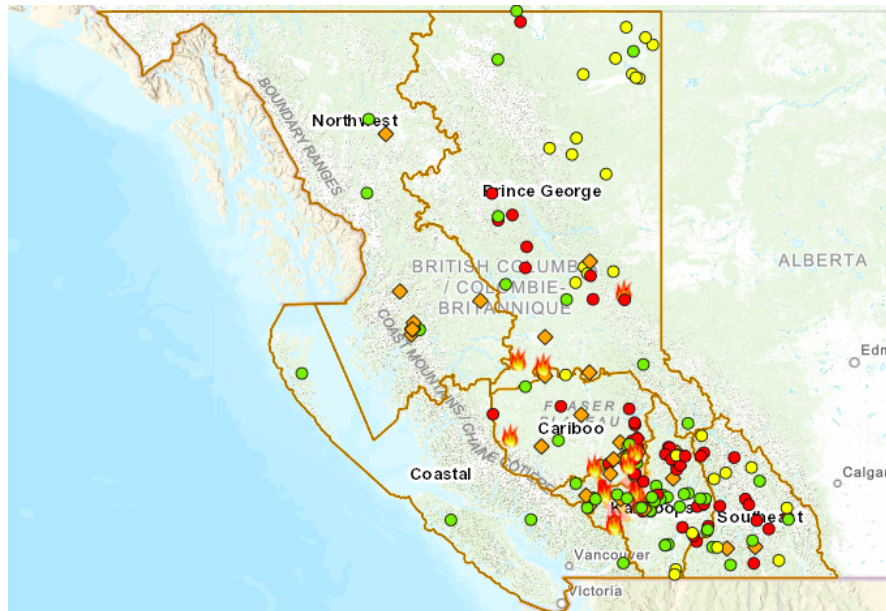
Good morning, Burnaby!


It's nice to be able to think about travel again. Even though right now, we're only allowed to travel within Canada, there are so many incredible places within beautiful BC that I'm not tempted to go too far just yet. But everytime I think about where I'm going to travel internationally for the first time... I'm just dying to go to so many places. I think I've shortlisted Ireland, Italy, and Turkey for my top picks when the world opens up again. Where do you plan to jet off to?

— **Srushti Gangdev, reporter**

HAVE A STORY BURNABY NEEDS TO DIG IN TO?
TIPS@BURNABYBEACON.COM

TODAY'S EDITION:	BC WILDFIRE SEASON	CITIES BUILT FOR HEAT WAVES	AMAZING BBY GRADS
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There are at least 206 wildfires burning in BC right now, and about a third are considered out of control.  BC Wildfire Service

Devastating heat wave, Lytton fire not a one-time occurrence, says BC premier

John Horgan says BC may need to change the way it looks at buildings and homes as heat waves become more common and fire seasons worsen

BC premier John Horgan says it's become clear last week's heat wave is "not a one-time occurrence", and the province needs to prepare for similar events in the future now.

Horgan was giving an update on BC's response to the more than 200 wildfires currently burning, nearly a third of which are deemed out of control, after taking a fly-over of Lytton to tour the damage done by a devastating fire that ripped through the village in a matter of minutes.

Public Safety Minister Mike Farnworth, Minister of Forests Katrine Conroy, and BC Liberal MLA Jackie Tegart were also present.

"It was a moving experience, I think for all four of us, to fly over Lytton to see the devastation there, the damage of a once vibrant community coming together of the Fraser and the Thompson (Rivers) and to see literally nothing left," Horgan told reporters.

"As soon as it's safe, we want to get people back so they can start to bring closure to this most horrific of experiences for them, and then start that long road to rebuilding."

He said while the centre of town was more or less razed to the ground, there were some buildings on the outskirts of the village "where some fire safety work had been done" that were still standing.

Residents will be allowed back into the village to see the damage for themselves soon, but there are currently concerns over toxic elements dispelled by the flames.

There has been no state of emergency declared in the province as of now; Farnworth said that decision lies in the hands of the BC Wildfire Service.

“Their expertise is what decides when it is time to put in place a provincial state of emergency. And they provide that advice regardless of which party or government is in power,” he said.

“When they tell me that it's now time to move to that provincial state of emergency, that is when we do it. It's not a political decision.”

Horgan said while last week's heat wave was unprecedented in this part of the world, the effects of climate change it's likely not a one-time occurrence.

Climate scientists, like UBC expert Simon Donner, agree.

"These heat waves are going to become more common in the years to come. The planet is going to continue warming until we stop emitting greenhouse gases. And so there's no new normal. It's going to keep warming until we stop emitting greenhouse gas," Donner [told the Beacon](#) late last month.

Meanwhile, the heat waves themselves could in turn be a [catalyst for fires](#).

Horgan said BC will take action to work through the winter to make sure fuel sources near forests and roads are clear for the summer.

It also, he said, means possibly changing the way we look at buildings and homes—and he suggested rebuilding Lytton would be a good place to start to make the village “case study for North America, in how we build a community for the future.”

He said air conditioning had never been essential in BC until recently, but that things have changed over the years.

“Lytton had the highest temperature, was hotter than Saudi Arabia [last week], one of the firefighters said to me today, and that that is something that we need to manage going forward. The town of tomorrow will not be the town of the past. The community is ready for that and the province stands ready to help them do that,” he said.


“Our CleanBC plan does envision the buildings of the future being climate friendly and ready to take on the challenges of a changing world. But that's going forward—we have infrastructure and dwellings that are historic, and we need to take time to figure out how we best address those issues.”

—By **Srushti Gangdev**



FEATURE STORY



Renderings of the Señákw development, by the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw, show towers adorned with vegetation—one thing experts say can help reduce the amount of heat that is trapped in the city.  Señákw / Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw

Can white paint make heat waves more bearable?

We look at that and more structural solutions to the "heat island effect" in which urban settings trap heat in the community

This is the final instalment of our 3-part series on preparing for heat waves in Burnaby. Read Part 1 [here](#) and Part 2 [here](#).

Canadian cities—especially temperate ones like Burnaby—generally aren't designed for the heat.

Architecture and planning in the country have largely been geared more towards surviving the cold, according to Andreeanne Doyon, associate professor in SFU's school of resource and environmental management.

In yesterday's newsletter, the Beacon went over some of the ways in which urban planning can create a "heat island effect"—by densifying neighbourhoods and building with more concrete, steel, glass and other materials, the heat often gets trapped down in the community.

And that can be problematic during the summer and especially during a heat wave.

"We haven't really thought about that. The Vancouver approach is having big, tall buildings that are all built out of glass, and they look beautiful against the mountain backdrop, but they're not great for our current conditions, with the

heat wave,” Doyon said.

Two’s company, tree’s a crowd

But cities like Burnaby have begun to think a lot more lately about trying to mitigate climate-related issues, including heat islands created by city architecture, especially looking at things like planting trees.

Joe Keithley, the city’s lone Burnaby Green Party councillor and the chair of the city’s environment committee, said the city is looking at the issue from 2 angles—the long-term solutions, involving tackling climate change itself and the short-term solutions that seek to mitigate the immediate effects of a heat wave.

Burnaby has had its Tree4Free program since last year, and Joe Keithley, the city’s lone Burnaby Green Party councillor and the chair of the city’s environment committee, said he’s hoping to expand that more aggressively.

In fact, he said he’s bringing forward a notice of motion to next week’s council meeting that would call for “getting much more aggressive on planting trees.”

“We have a lot of trees, but they’re not evenly spread out. I would say that there’s more tree clusters, with some exceptions, in North Burnaby than there is in South Burnaby,” he said—although without firm data to confirm that, he noted that is just an observation on his part.

“So where are people having a hard time? Well it’s in Edmonds, in the Metrotown area, Maywood, and places like that.”

Keithley said he would like to see the city just take initiative and plant trees without waiting for the public to apply for the free trees program, but there is a need for public buy-in.

“I love trees. I imagine you’re probably a fan of them, too, and the majority of people are. Some people don’t like trees because they drop leaves on their car, their boulevard. They have to rake them up,” he said.

Some developments are applying that principle beyond simply putting trees in the ground.

Renderings of the Señákw development, a major development by the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw in the False Creek area of Vancouver show towers adorned with vegetation, including green roofs.

“We are seeing more of that in different parts of the world, particularly in parts of the world that have had to think of heat much more urgently than we have here,” Doyon said.

“Urban greenery, urban forest green infrastructure has been proven to help reduce the urban heat island effect. So we know that if we include more green spaces in our cities, our cities will not be as hot.”

Can't we just paint over it?

Doyon said reducing the heat island effect can go beyond simply more vegetation. And in fact, if cities plan to continue densifying neighbourhoods for the sake of walkability and affordability, they're going to need to look beyond that.

And the solutions, she said, range from as simple as a bit of paint to as significant as the very architecture of buildings.

Starting off with the easy work, Doyon, who achieved her PhD at the University of Melbourne, said the colour of buildings can make a difference.

"In Australia, there is a really big push for all roofs to be white. So instead of having the sun beaming down and heat buildings or houses, you want really light-coloured surfaces that will actually reflect the sun," she said.

"Whereas, in Canada, historically, we've actually really liked dark roofs because in the winter, we actually collect the heat that the sun brings down, and then it goes into our buildings. So it helps to maintain a certain level of comfort in terms of heat in the winter."

And that's not just a theory. Doyon pointed to work on this very topic, which has shown systematically exchanging dark surfaces with white surfaces could lower the maximum temperatures of heat waves by 2 to 3 C.

According to [the Yale Environment 360](#), fresh asphalt reflects just 4% of sunlight, compared to up to 25% for natural grasslands and up to 90% for a white surface, such as fresh snow.

Doyon said there is even research out there looking at which [types of paint and materials](#) are more effective at facilitating cool roofs..

"Most existing buildings don't have the structural integrity to handle green roofs," she said, adding that it's something that can be looked at more seriously for newer buildings.

"But the white reflective paint is something that anyone can do. Anyone can go on top of a roof and paint it. Particularly ... on big, multi-storey buildings, so commercial buildings, apartment buildings, where they have flat roofs, and you can go up there. And that makes a huge difference."

A new archetype for architecture?

Beyond that, Doyon said there are more structural solutions that can be considered, including adding awnings or different facades. And some architects have begun designing their facades or awnings in a way that takes into account the positioning of the sun throughout the year.

"So either facades or different awnings are built onto apartment buildings

where you get the most amount of light in your unit during the winter, and it blocks the most natural light in the winter when you don't want it," Doyon said.

"Rather than having these perfectly lined-up houses on streets, there might actually be a call for thinking about ... positioning our buildings a little bit differently."

And like adding more trees to urban settings, these types of passive solutions have the added benefit of mitigating climate change itself by reducing the reliance on energy-intensive devices like furnaces or air conditioners for heating and cooling buildings, she added.

The issue of air filtration and ventilation came up during the pandemic in terms of ensuring people aren't breathing recirculated air that may carry a transmissible virus. But Doyon said it would also be a big help for buildings that don't have enough air flow.

"The building that I work in doesn't have air conditioning, but it does have an air filtration system," she said. "So yes, I'm sitting here in shorts and a T-shirt. But I'm actually comfortable, I'm able to work all day, because there still is an air flow. And those systems are less taxing in terms of the amount of energy used compared to an air conditioning unit."

Asked about the solutions presented by Doyon, Keithley said he's interested in exploring that aspect of climate readiness as well, although it's not something that has been talked about extensively in his time on the environment committee.


"There are a few initiatives that we're working on with SFU. It hasn't really formed yet, but one of them is making cities more resilient," he said.

As a baseball fan, he compared the issue of positioning buildings according to sunlight to how baseball stadiums are built.

"And this would be a lot more practical use than a baseball stadium," he said.

—By **Dustin Godfrey**

BURNABY BULLETIN

 **New affordable housing units to be built in Edmonds:** The new building on 18th Ave will include 25 1-bedroom, 2-bedroom, and 3-bedroom units "for people with moderate and low incomes" within walking distance of Edmonds Community Centre and the Skytrain. Funding for the project will come from the federal and provincial

governments, while the City of Burnaby is leasing the land at a nominal rate to the New Vista Society, which will operate the building. The building is scheduled to open next fall.

— **IHIT investigating after child found dead in Surrey home, woman stabbed:** Homicide investigators have been called in after a 5-year old child was found dead in a Surrey home that had been set on fire. The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team said police first responded to the Guildford-area home Monday night for reports that a 42-year old woman had been stabbed inside. She was able to flee and call for help, but the 5-year old child remained inside. The suspect, known to both victims, allegedly set the fire inside before fleeing the scene. He's believed to have then jumped from the Port Mann Bridge and is presumed dead. Surrey Fire crews extinguished the house fire, but tragically, the child was found dead inside.

➔ **Mary Simon named Canada's first Indigenous Governor**

General: The Inuk leader and former diplomat gave remarks in Inuktitut and English at the announcement of her appointment Tuesday in Gatineau, Quebec. After a stint as a radio broadcaster with the CBC, she has had a long career of advocating for Inuit rights; including work negotiating Canada's "first modern treaty", the [James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement](#) of 1975. When asked Tuesday about her inability to fluently speak French, Simon told reporters that she was denied the opportunity to learn French as a student at the federally-run Fort Chimo day school in Nunavik.



A few of the Burnaby grads who won scholarships this year. 📧 Burnaby school District

Burnaby high school grads awarded over \$7 million in scholarships

From academics to volunteering, these students these class of 2021 grads have been awarded for their incredible accomplishments

The Burnaby School District provided a glimpse into the amazing students who were awarded for their outstanding academics, community service, athletics, and numerous other achievements this year.,

Burnaby North Secondary student Owen Ebose will be attending Harvard University on a full-ride scholarship. Claire Scrimini, also from North, was awarded a \$70,000 TD Scholarship for Community Leadership and her twin sister, Vanessa, won the Queen's Chancellor Scholarship for \$36,000.

Carlos Georgescu of École Moscrop Secondary won the \$80,000 Schulich Leader to the University of British Columbia.

8 Burnaby students were awarded the Beedie Luminarie Scholarship of \$40,000 each, including Burnaby North students Siham Abdelhameed, Michelle Nguyen, and Logan Wilmarth; Burnaby Mountain student Gaeun (Amy) Nam; Byrne Creek students Sana Alzaza and Henok Kibrea Dubus, Emily Wong-Abdul of École Moscrop Secondary; and Younathan Terefe of Burnaby South.

The Clint Morrison Scholarship was a new award introduced this year only available to Burnaby students. The \$500 scholarship is granted to students enrolled in a pre-employment or ACCESS program, registered for post-secondary courses or job training in 2021-2022 who have also demonstrated community mindedness. Megan De Marchi of Burnaby Mountain is one of this year's winners.

COVID-19 UPDATE (TUESDAY, JULY 6)

- 46 new cases. Total 147,797
- 0 new deaths. Total 1,759
- 602 active cases (-50). 87 people in hospital (+2), 22 in ICU (0).
- 7-day rolling average of new cases up slightly to 37.
- 78.1% of people 12+ have received their 1st vaccine dose.
- 37% of people 12+ have received their 2nd vaccine dose.
- 15 new cases in Fraser Health (33% of BC).
- 179 active cases in Fraser Health (-14).

COVID-19 NEWS

- **Burnaby vaccination rate reaches big milestone:** 80% of Burnaby residents aged 12+ have now received at least 1 vaccine dose. Burnaby South is still trailing the north slightly in vaccination rates—the SW and SE quadrants are both at 79%, while NW is at 83% and NE is at 81%. If you've been putting off getting your shot, not to worry: all vaccination clinics in Burnaby are now accepting walk-ins for 1st doses. Meanwhile, the case rate for the NW quadrant was at 0 cases per 100k people this past week! The rest of Burnaby was at 1/100k. Positivity for the whole city was 0.5%.
- **StatsCan data shows visible minorities in Canada twice as likely to have had COVID:** A study found 4.3% of Canadians belonging to visible minorities tested positive for COVID antibodies acquired through past infections of COVID than other Canadians (2.1%). That gap closed slightly when antibodies acquired through vaccination were taken into account, with 4.8% antibody seroprevalence among visible minorities and 3.3% among other Canadians. Meanwhile, the study found a third of Canadians with antibodies had never taken a PCR test, and 3 quarters of those people had never experienced symptoms.




🍎 **Community fridge stocked up and accepting donations** - Last week we told you about a [new community fridge](#) in Burnaby at 4750 Imperial St. Well, we're happy to report that the fridge is looking fully stocked with fresh produce, bread, dairy and other foods to improve food security in our city. If you want to help out, check out what you can donate [here](#) and make sure to follow @burnabyfridge on Instagram to see how they're doing.

📖 **Burnaby Neighbourhood House gets funding for literacy programs** - BNH has received \$30 thousand in funding from the provincial government for its

Can the right colour of paint help Burnaby weather future heat waves?

2021/22 adult literacy program. Find more information on the programs provided by BNH [here](#), which include EAL classes, income tax clinics, and digital literacy programs.

 **Looking for the best Thai yellow curry in town?** - In our humble opinion, you'll have to look no further than the iconic [Green Basil](#) on Kingsway. It's the most fresh and most delicious, and the takeout portions are huge. Don't forget the chicken satay either!



Barnet Marine Park: the perfect place to get on the water right here in Burnaby. 📷 @tourguidebob / Instagram

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