



VANCOUVER
BOARD OF
PARKS AND
RECREATION

February 1, 2019

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Malcolm Bromley
General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Lumberman's Arch Closure and Inspection – Board Update**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to inform Commissioners about the current closure of the wooden structure at Lumberman's Arch.

Located on the northeastern edge of Stanley Park, the Lumberman's Arch was installed by the Park Board and the BC Lumber Manufacturers Association in 1952 to commemorate the first Lumberman's Arch (originally constructed in 1912 and relocated to Stanley Park in 1913*). The structure is comprised of two horizontal and two vertical untreated cedar logs held in place with concrete. It is a well-known feature and its location is a common place for events and picnics. Moreover, this area was occupied by the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh First Nations for thousands of years. This site, named $\chi wá y \chi w a y \neg$, is known as one of the most important and largest village sites in their territories. This area is well-documented as having significant deposits of archeological remains.

The structure was last inspected by a professional engineering team in August of 2018. The engineering team reported that the logs at Lumberman's Arch have decay and deterioration, which is typical for untreated timber structures of this age. They also recommended prohibiting any climbing on the structure to limit further deterioration. "No Climbing" signs were posted on the logs in September of 2018.

In January 2019, Real Estate & Facility Management's (REFM) carpentry shop conducted a regular inspection of Lumberman's Arch and expressed concerns about the stability of the structure. An independent engineering assessment is underway and targeted for completion by mid-February. As a precaution, the area has been fenced-off pending the outcome of this review. Further information will be provided on the condition of the structure when it becomes available and the future of this feature and area will be given full consideration in the Stanley Park Comprehensive Plan.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Bromley'.

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

tm/an/sm/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team, PB Communications, Manager - Park Development

* From <http://vancouver.sun.com/news/local-news/this-week-in-history-1947-lumbermens-arch-is-demolished>