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The Parksville Qualicum Beach News

QUALICUM BEACH

Town lights too bright

Council seeks solutions

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BC Hydro has informed the Town of Qualicum Beach it will not take part in a pilot project designed to address complaints about street lighting in the community.

The town had requested BC Hydro address light trespass complaints received from residents in certain locations in the community. A LED pilot installation project was planned in March but following an assessment, BC Hydro decided not to proceed.

Town engineer Bob Weir reported BC Hydro's decision to council at its regular meeting on April 6. He said Hydro found Qualicum Beach not ideal for the project because technical staff are based in Vancouver.

Weir said he is disappointed as the trial he proposed would have addressed many of the complaints.

"The elephant in the room certainly is that Qualicum Beach is by far the outlier in the province when it comes to the volume of complaints," said Weir. "We are an order of magnitude out of step with the rest of the province, however we are not out of step with our choices of specification. Like most small communities, we opted for the equivalent wattages identified by BC Hydro."

Weir noted Sidney, Nanaimo and Kamloops have opted to increase the wattage of their street lights for safety reasons, similar to that of Qualicum Beach.

An eagle immediately flies away after being released by North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre staff member Andrew Cotton on April 6. For a full story, see Page A44. For more photos and a video, visit www.pqbnews.com. (Michael Briones photo)

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