

## **PART 4.7 WINTER HARBOUR**

### **4.7.1 Overview**

Winter Harbour, a semi-isolated community, is made up of two small communities located on an inlet of the Pacific Ocean on the northwest coast of Vancouver Island. There is gravel road access to the outside via Holberg. The population of Winter Harbour is as follows: Winter Harbour Village: Year round residents, approximately 5, rising to over 100 during the tourist season, May to October. W.D. Moore Logging Camp, located one kilometer from Winter Harbour Village has an approximate permanent population of 10, rising to 25 during the workweek.

### **Emergency Services**

Royal Canadian Mounted Police – Port Hardy Detachment 9-1-1

British Columbia Ambulance Service – Port Hardy 9-1-1

Nearest Hospital – Port Hardy 949-6161

No medical services “on-site” in this community

First Aid qualified community members

Fire Service - There is no established Fire Department for Winter Harbour, although both W.D. Moore Logging Ltd and the Village have fire-fighting equipment. In the event of fire – contact W.D. Moore Logging Ltd 969-4222.

### **Access**

Winter Harbour has gravel road access to Holberg and other points on Vancouver Island. 30 minutes to Holberg, and approximately 90 minutes by road to Port Hardy.

Air access by amphibious aircraft and helicopter only. There are no Transport Canada licensed airstrips or helicopter landing sites within this community.

### **Communications**

Winter Harbour has hydro electricity, telephone service, internet service (dial up and satellite). Winter Harbour is also serviced by the 9-1-1 emergency services system.

### **Schools**

There is no operating school in Winter Harbour (2005/2006)

## 4.7.2 Contacts

### Winter Harbour Village

Grant Sales  
Greg Vance or Ron Lust 969-4333

Qualicum River Charters  
Ken and Rob Knutson 969-4284

### W.D. Moore Logging

Office 969-4222 or 969-4221

Graham Lasure (Manager) 969-4275 (res)  
604-868-4734 (cell)  
403-997-1077 (sat)

Daniel Gachter 969-4339 (res)  
(foreman – First Aid) 403-997-8176 (sat)

Mike Hurley 969-4254 (res)  
(First Aid)

### Holberg

Western Forest Products - Office – 250-288-3362  
Bernie Clarke (manager) 250-288-3345  
403-987-0173 (sat)

Regional District of Mount Waddington  
PO Box 729  
Port McNeill BC  
V0N 2R0  
250-9556-3301

Winter Harbour is represented by Phil Wainwright, Director Area “B”

### 4.7.3 Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis

A Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis have been completed for the entire Regional District of Mount Waddington, which will include Winter Harbour. The purpose of a Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis is to help a community make risk based choices to address vulnerabilities, mitigate hazards and prepare for response to and recovery from hazard events.

The objective of a Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis is to anticipate problems and possible solutions to:

- Save lives
- Reduce damage
- Speed a communities recovery

Hazards which Winter Harbour may be subject to are:

• Critical Facility Failure	• Dangerous Goods Spill
• Earthquake	• Epidemic – Human – Flu
• Fire – Interface – Wildfire	• Fire – Urban
• Flood	• Infrastructure Failure
• Landslide	• Severe Weather
• Storm Surges	• Major Criminal Event
• Transportation Accident –Air, Land, Marine	• Tsunami

Hazard Response Plans have been developed for these types of emergencies and are included as part of the North Island Regional Emergency Plan.

### 4.7.4 Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Team

As Winter Harbour proper has few people and resources, it is logical that W.D. Moore Logging Camp and staff would be the base for any emergency activities that cannot be dealt with in the Village.

The Federal Government has placed a Mobile Feeding Unit in Winter Harbour. This is a complete and self contained set of emergency supplies and equipment contained in 18 storage crates held in Village storage.

#### **4.7.5 Community Evacuation and Rally Site**

The community evacuation site is the W.D. Moore Logging Camp.

The alternate site is the Village school yard, both locations well above the hazard zone for tsunami threats.

#### **4.7.6 Winter Harbour Evacuation Plan**

*[UNDER DEVELOPMENT]*

#### **4.7.7 Winter Harbour Tsunami Warning and Evacuation Plan**

*[A Village warning siren system is under consideration/development]*

- 4.7.7.1 Tsunamis are caused by earthquakes. It is important to remember that tsunami's are rare events, and that not all earthquakes generate a tsunami.
- 4.7.7.2 Winter Harbour is exposed to the west coast of Vancouver Island, and may be affected by tsunamis generated by offshore earthquakes.
- 4.7.7.3 On the advice of the Provincial Emergency Program and the Canadian Hydrographic Service, the "safe zone" for the west coast of Vancouver Island (including Winter Harbour) is land situated at least 20 meters above sea level.
- 4.7.7.4 A tsunami hazard map has been prepared showing the threatened and safe zones for this community. This map is appended to this plan and this plan should be used only as a basic planning tool.
- 4.7.7.5 Tsunami Warnings and Watches are provided by the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center (ATWC) who in turn notifies the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) in Victoria.
- 4.7.7.6 For Winter Harbour residents, tsunami warnings may come from the following sources:
- Canadian Coast Guard radio – Channel 16 and Weather (WX)
  - Royal Canadian Mounted Police
  - Regional Emergency Coordinator
  - Commercial media broadcasts

- 4.7.7.7 If there is sufficient time to react, the Chair of the Board of Directors, Regional District of Mount Waddington may declare a State of Local Emergency, and issue an Order to evacuate those properties lying below 20 meters above sea level. If a declaration is issued, it will be published and broadcast to local media outlets as well as the Emergency Coordination Centre for transmission to the affected community.
- 4.7.7.8 Managing and directing community evacuations are the responsibility of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Policing jurisdiction for Winter Harbour is held by the RCMP in Port Hardy, as there are no full time police officers posted to Winter Harbour.
- 4.7.7.9 In the event of a short notice evacuation, it is likely that a police officer from Port Hardy may not be available to direct and manage a full or partial evacuation of this community. In this case, Incident Command will devolve to the General Manager, W.D. Moore Logging Ltd. A communication link by telephone or radio between the Port Hardy RCMP and the W.D. Moore Logging Ltd will be set up to keep all parties informed of actions being taken.
- 4.7.7.10 W.D. Moore Logging Ltd has a local warning system with a community telephone fan out, supported by an “air raid siren”.
- 4.7.7.11 In the event of a STRONG earthquake – one that lasts several minutes, and makes it hard to stand:
1. Protect yourself by ducking beneath sturdy furniture, beside a solid inside wall or inside inner hallway and avoid windows, woodstoves, cupboards or any furniture that could tip over. If outside, get away from power lines and outbuildings.
  2. All residents living below 20 meters above sea level should prepare to evacuate your home immediately after the shaking has stopped. Be prepared for aftershocks. Depending on the epicenter of the earthquake, the first wave could hit in 15 minutes (or over 15 hours). An evacuation order phone call **may not** be issued so **do not wait!**
  3. Go immediately to one of the two High Ground evacuation sites: either up to W.D. Moore Logging Camp or to the Village Schoolyard if there is insufficient time to safely reach the logging camp. If the roads are blocked along the way by trees or downed power lines (beware of live power lines), park well off to the side and continue on foot. Once in the safe marshalling points, “head counts” will be taken and key people will begin organizing outside communications and evacuation or billeting plans.
  4. When evacuating during a tsunami, building owners are reminded to turn off main electricity, propane, and fuel valves to prevent further disaster in the form of fire.

5. Once at the evacuation site, monitor your radio or Marine VHF Channel 16 for information and updates.
6. Tsunami Warning Broadcast: - A Tsunami Warning – a tsunami is confirmed, residents should evacuate. A Tsunami Watch – a tsunami MAY have been generated but there is not sufficient evidence to confirm if there is one or not. Tsunami All Clear – it is now safe to return to your homes.
7. Have a plan of action if your family is separated when an earthquake occurs or if you need assistance to evacuate (no vehicle). Lodges will be responsible for the safety of their guests. Pre-arrange and out of area telephone contact person for family members to check in and keep in touch.
8. Depending on the extent of damage caused by an earthquake or tsunami, we should plan to be on our own for a minimum of four days, but logistically we should each carry enough supplies for one week or more.
9. When the Tsunami “ALL CLEAR” is announced we will return to our homes, or if necessary, prepare for full evacuation to Port Hardy.
10. It is important that all tourist operators brief their guests and post the Tsunami Plan in a visible location. Remain on high ground until a hazard inspection has been completed and emergency officials have declared the hazard has abated.

