

5 Things That Infuriate Me About Vancouver

(Spec work)

By Grant Simms

Vancouver is an amazing place, but no place is without its flaws. There are things in this city that, as a resident, make little to absolutely no sense to me, and if they were changed would make this city a lot more enjoyable than it already is.

First off, this is one that I have never been able to wrap my brain around. Why are there no down escalators at Skytrain stations? You can go up with an escalator, but God forbid we go down. It's not like this is something they do everywhere. In any country I've been to with a metro I've seen both up and down escalators. If you're only building the escalator one way it almost seems pointless. Why even have an escalator at all if you're just gonna do half the job. Fix it Vancouver.

Second, although I don't drink the stuff, my girlfriend loves coffee, and occasionally I'll get her some if I'm in a giving mood. Her order is: a dirty chai latte. At my local JJ Bean that costs around 9 dollars. 9.9 dollars. For coffee. There should be some law, or government subsidy, that any caffeinated drinks should not cost more than 6 dollars. 9 is too much. Do better Vancouver, and do better Canada.

Third, it's always a big hullabaloo every summer with BC specifying which beaches you are and aren't allowed to drink at. Especially because nobody respects those rules anyway, and most people drink wherever they want to. I can understand why the government wants to restrict drinking in public though, and especially drinking at the beach. It creates unwanted noise, and tons of litter. However, I think I have a solution that will satisfy both parties. Pop up beach bars. Allow people to get permits to sell liquor at the beach. Then make all vendors responsible for collecting any waste caused by their business. Boom.

A solution that boosts the economy, keeps Vancouver beaches fun, clean, and for once has everyone honest about what's going on there.

Fourth, if you go on Google maps, hover over downtown Vancouver/slash surrounding areas, and type in "Grocery Stores", places like Nesters, Urban Fare, Choices, and Save-On-Foods will come up. The only problem with that is that all of those places are owned by the same company. In fact, the only affordable grocery stores close to downtown seem to be the ones in Chinatown, by 49th and Main, or near Nanaimo/Commercial Drive. It occurs to me that rent prices aren't exactly that different between downtown and most of those areas. So how is it that I can get strawberries/blueberries at one place for 3 to 4 dollars, but at Choices they cost 9 dollars? Expensive grocery stores are the bane of my existence. Please stop.

Fifth, if you've ever tried to get to English Bay Beach there are a few popular ways to do so. One is to take the 6 down Davie, another is to take the 5 down Robson, and then there's the 23...oh the 23...I feel so bad for those of you that have ever decided to take bus 23. Only true Vancouver locals will know that if on a sunny day you do decide to take the 23 to English Bay, or really take it anywhere, you have to go all the way to the Main St Skytrain station to get it. That's the bus's first stop. If you don't get the bus there, it's highly likely you're not gonna get a seat, and you likely won't get one on the next bus either. This is because the 23 bus is very small, and it needs to be in order to navigate some of the narrow streets it drives on. However, most people don't know this, and are shocked when the bus, full after one stop, just drives past them waiting in the hot sun without so much as an I'm sorry honk. What needs to change is the frequency with which the bus appears. However, because the 23's business levels are weather dependent, it's very unlikely this will ever happen, and therefore, it will likely always be one of the most annoying parts about the city of Vancouver.