

New co-op car placed at Ambleside property

Relationship reducing costs and footprint

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Thanks to a long-running partnership, North Shore residents are gaining additional transportation options that are positively impacting both their wallets and the environment.

Since 1999, representatives of the Co-operative Auto Network and Hollyburn Properties Limited have worked together, resulting in the placement of a number of vehicles at Hollyburn buildings.

One of the most recent, a red MINI Cooper, has been placed at Hollyburn Plaza in Ambleside.

Staff of the two organizations are currently working to place an additional vehicle at Hollyburn's Marlborough Tower, situated next to the City of North Vancouver's new library.

"For me, every time I see a car being placed it means more opportunities to get rid of cars," says Tracey Axelsson, executive director of the Co-operative Auto Network, a car-sharing organization serving Metro Vancouver.

"Cars are such an expensive object and our biggest, most important, thing that we do I think for people is reduce those costs," she says.

Participation in the program allows foregoing private ownership of a vehicle while maintaining access to one at all times.

New members pay a \$500 share purchase to have access to, at present, 230 cars.

Drivers are charged hourly and per kilometre usage fees which cover all the



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Alisa Aragon, Hollyburn Properties Limited (left) and Tracey Axelsson, Co-operative Auto Network, check out the new MINI Cooper that, through their organizations' partnership, is serving residents in the Ambleside Area.

costs, including insurance, cleaning, vehicle maintenance, permit parking and gasoline associated with the vehicles. The initial \$500 is returned if the member chooses to leave the co-op.

"Most people, they just don't leave, we save them so much money over owning," says Axelsson.

Tenants of Hollyburn Properties Limited receive a discounted rate, asked to pay a \$50 registration cost.

While the Co-operative Auto Network has a number of partnerships with developers, this is their sole relationship with a property management company.

"This whole reason for it is for the benefit of the residents and the environment," says Alisa Aragon, sales and marketing manager, Hollyburn Properties Limited. Hollyburn owns and manages premier residences in the Vancouver area, including English Bay, the West End and South Granville, as well as Calgary, Alta., and Toronto, Ont.

"Our residents are very happy that some of our buildings have (cars)," says Aragon. "Our goal is to eventually have every single Hollyburn building have a Co-operative Auto Network car."

According to Aragon, in 1992, Hollyburn made a commitment to decrease energy consumption to minimize the environmental impact of its operation. A corporate energy management team was formed and Hollyburn has achieved a reduction in energy consumption in all of its buildings.

To date, the efforts to reduce emissions are equivalent to removing approximately 75 cars off the road, she says.

The cars placed at Hollyburn properties are able to be accessed by the general public for the regular share purchase fee.

For more information on the Co-operative Auto Network, visit www.cooperativeauto.net.

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