



## National park working on potholes along highway

BY YASMIN ABOELSAUD, SPECIAL TO WESTERLY NEWS FEBRUARY 17, 2011

Orange bags currently mark large potholes along the highway into Tofino, but according to the national park the potholes should be patched as early as next month.

The stretch of road with the largest potholes is within Parks Canada's boundaries which means the park is responsible for maintenance.

"I would expect by the next few weeks most of the potholes should be filled," said Dave McVetty, superintendent for Pacific Rim National Parks Reserve.

Weather is an issue.

"It's very difficult to do maintenance on the road when it's raining all the time," he said. "[With] that said, we're trying a new product now that allows you to patch pavement and significant potholes in almost any weather condition."

The product McVetty speaks of is EZ Street.

EZ Street's website states the product is "a polymer-modified cold asphalt guaranteed to permanently repair potholes, utility cuts, overlays, and edge repairs in asphalt or concrete."

The website also states the product works in all weather conditions, "it even works in water."

McVetty uses the highway often and says he used to hit a pothole almost every day on the bridge over Lost Shoe Creek heading north into the park.

"We put the new patch on there and it's holding up very well," he said. "The nice thing about that is that it's unlike regular patches, you can put [EZ Street] on in virtually any condition and it will hold up much longer than traditional patches."

McVetty says filling the potholes takes time.

"They have to cut them out and there's a fair bit of work needs to be done to do it properly," McVetty said.

He said he would rather not do a quick fix, which will need more repair later. Instead, he believes in taking the time to do a thorough job, "do it once and do it well, and have it last for a few years."

With limited staff resources, McVetty said the potholes are being filled on a priority basis.

"It is a matter of weather, [but] we're expecting that by early March most of the potholes should be fixed," he said.

Although the highway will eventually need to be resurfaced, McVetty said patching is the best solution for now.

As for when complete resurfacing may be done on the highway, McVetty said "not in the near future."

--reporter@westerlynews.ca

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