

## Summerland Couple Happy with Fully Electric Vehicle

### Locals share their EV experience



David Jonsson bought a 2019 Chevrolet Bolt, a fully electric vehicle (EV), with a recommended retail price of \$48,000, in December 2018. He lives in Summerland with his wife Linnea Good and their two sons. They are both professional musicians and Linnea teaches. Typically they use their Bolt to drive to the coast about once a month and occasionally to Calgary.

It takes about nine hours to fully charge the Bolt's battery using a standard home 120-volt outlet (Level 1 charger) but at a fast-charging Level 3 station, it takes 30 minutes.

To help others understand what it's like to make the switch to an electric vehicle, David shared his experience with the District of Summerland:

#### **Why did you choose to go electric?**

We have been concerned about the impact of gasoline-powered vehicles on the environment for many years. We considered hybrids like the Prius but decided to wait until an all-electric vehicle that had a good range came on the market.

#### **How did you decide what car to get?**

We wanted the maximum range we could get and, at that time, the Bolt had the best on the market (383km) other than the extremely expensive Tesla. We test drove it and liked it.

#### **What do you love most about having an EV?**

Mainly it's knowing we're not adding to environmental pollution. Also it's a peppy little car; with 205 HP, passing others on the highway is no problem.

**What don't you like about your EV?**

As others have noted, the Bolt is pretty basic with regard to upholstery and interior outfitting. We really don't mind that but the seats are not exactly luxurious. Just good enough.

**What have you noticed with affordability/maintenance costs since you got it compared to your previous gas vehicle?**

Freedom from gas stations! The cost of charging is very low, much lower than gas. Some charging stations are still free as well. There is very little maintenance on the EV and that cuts down on costs.

The Chevy dealership in Penticton has been great in fixing the few minor problems we've had. With the warranty there has been no cost to us. There is currently a recall on the battery, which Chevrolet is working on, but there is little worry there as the battery is fully warranted for eight years. In the meantime, they've done an adjustment on the charging range to compensate for the problem.

**Where do you charge?**

Mostly at home. We have a level two home charger, which we got for free through a non-governmental organization called ZapBC.

**How convenient do you find the location of chargers?**

It's pretty good. On the road there are more and more chargers being added everywhere. Petro-Can now has them coast-to-coast, which is great. We're not too concerned with amenities; we usually have snacks or a meal with us and something to read or do while we wait.

**Do you meet other people when charging? Is there a certain type of person who goes electric?**

Yes, for sure, we meet other EV owners as well as people curious about the car and EVs in general. People might have different reasons for buying an EV but mostly I think they are concerned about the environment and want to be done with fossil fuels.

**How does your EV fit in with your lifestyle?**

Since COVID we do very little travel so there is no worry about getting to charging stations on long trips. In the past we would have to plan carefully and add on time for charging if we were going to the lower mainland or Alberta.

**Tell us about some longer trips where you have taken your EV.**

I always tell people, regardless of the Bolt being an EV, it's a great little car. It handles well, has great visibility, lots of power, and is very quiet. The quiet is much appreciated on longer trips. We've driven it to Calgary a couple of times, charging in Revelstoke, Golden, and Canmore.

Travelling in the winter is more of a challenge as the heater uses a fair bit of battery. If it's not too cold we try and just use the seat warmers and heated steering wheel, which run off the separate regular car battery. In the summer the range is way better.

We also have taken the car to the United States a couple of times; once to Oregon and once to Seattle. There was no real problem with finding chargers. Washington State has what they call 'The Electric Highway' down much of the I-5, with lots of chargers available. A dealership in Wenatchee let us use their charger for free. It's not uncommon for car dealerships to do this; we did that in Calgary and Kelowna as well.

**What do you tell people who ask about owning an EV?**

One of our closest friends bought their EV (a Hyundai Kona) shortly after we bought ours and they love it. I like to think we were pretty influential in that decision! We have loaned our car to friends when we've been away and they're pretty much all converted to at least the idea of owning an EV.

**Anything else you want to share?**

It's amazing that some countries are on track to eliminate gasoline-powered cars completely in just a few years. General Motors just announced that they will be manufacturing ONLY electric vehicles by 2035. That a North American car company is this committed is amazing. They see the writing on the wall, as it were.