



Mayor's Report

September, 2016



The delegation from our sister city of Ohtaki - Date City Japan will be arriving October 6, 2016 for a four day visit. Finding home stays has been difficult because of it coinciding with the Thanksgiving weekend. The Japanese party arrives on the Thursday night and leaves on the Monday morning. If anyone is interested in taking a home stay please contact our office. These exchanges provide a fantastic opportunity to learn about the Japanese culture. It also gives us an opportunity to teach them about the culture we are familiar with. Many lifelong friendships have been forged through these short but memorable exchanges. We are also looking for students interested in being part of our delegation to visit Japan in July, 2017.

An invitation for tenders for the Centennial Park upgrades was issued on August 31st, 2016. The closing date for bids was September 23, 2016. Once the tender is awarded the successful proponent is expected to begin work on the new playing fields on October 11, 2016.

The Town received four proposals for the engineering work on the water treatment plant upgrades with Stantec Consulting Ltd. being awarded the contract.

The Town is establishing a bylaw for a revitalization tax exemption programme to encourage accelerated private sector investment in residential and commercial projects to achieve a range of economic and environmental objectives. The incentive is meant to encourage improvements without tax increases for assessment increases due to those improvements.

Preparatory work has begun on Ravine Park to locate the community garden at that site. This new location is ideal for meeting the gardening needs of the community garden group for now and is large enough to allow for future growth as community gardening opportunities increase. We wish them all the best as they re-establish their garden.

Congratulations to the Lake Cowichan Secondary School for being ranked as the top public secondary school in the valley by the Fraser Institute. This is a great accomplishment as our school moves up the rankings at a time where more B.C. secondary schools are experiencing declining performances. All students, teachers, support staff and parents should be extremely proud of this tremendous accomplishment.

It is encouraging to hear more and more people seem to be respecting our precious river. While an increase in volunteers donating their time to help out with river clean-ups, thankfully, the undesirable garbage they collect from the clean-ups decreases. Over a hundred volunteers were out cleaning the upper River on August 20, 2016. It was great news to hear they could not completely fill a single pick-up truck with the trash they collected. Another encouraging sign is many of the items they found were cell phones, sun glasses and other items that were accidentally dropped rather than garbage, aluminum cans and other things that were intentionally disposed of. A week later, the seventy + volunteers for the South End river clean-up were also encouraged with the improvements they were seeing with littering attitudes. We can only hope that this positive trend continues to the point where a river clean-up is no longer necessary.

Ross Forrest, Mayor