

MAYORS REPORT

April 2016



National volunteer week was from April 10-16, 2016 and I would like recognize all of the wonderful volunteers in our community. “Volunteers are the root of strong communities” and are essential for communities to boom. On average volunteers contribute 154 hours a year. Sharing your time and talent is a great way to build a strong community. Volunteers are putting energy back into our town.

Not enough of us understand or appreciate the magnitude of just how many volunteers we have and how their contributions impact not only our community as a whole but each of us in our day-to-day lives. In no particular order, here are some of our valuable volunteer groups or volunteers that I can recall off the top of my head:

Friends working a bottle drive for Brenda Montgomery; Participants in Healthfare at L.C. School; Sunfest Welcome Committee; Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society; Lakeside Players production of "Annie"; Cowichan Lake Forest Co-op; Chamber of Commerce; Minor Baseball; Wilderness Watch (forest roads clean-up); Retreads Hiking Club; Pickle Ball Association; Lady of Lake Society; Kinsmen & Kinettes (spearheading Lake Days and the spin off of volunteers for that special weekend); CL Care Facility Steering Committee; Kaatza Historical Society; LEAD (Lake Cowichan Economic Activity & Development) committee; APC (Advisory Planning Committee); Cowichan Waterboard; CICV Radio 97.5; Fire Department; and the Welcome Wagon.

There are many, but at the same time, just some of the many volunteers who have impacted our community in recent days. I apologize for all the others I may have neglected to mention. Each and everyone of these people deserve recognition because even the smallest act of volunteer effort leaves a profound and lasting trace in the community. The more social capital we create the more people are invested in the town and the things around them. Volunteering is a pure act of good citizenship. Thank you.

Saturday evening, April 23 was a fantastic culmination to the week after having Jonny Harris and the 15 person CBC crew from the T.V. show “Still Standing” be welcomed into our community. The three hundred people in the audience were treated to hilarious entertainment as Jonny presented his stand up comedy act as it related to Lake Cowichan. Three of the show’s writers and comedians: Fraser Young, Graham Chittenden, and Steve Dylan were outstanding acts leading up to Jonny’s feature performance highlighting Lake Cowichan. Having Producer Michael Schultz and the entire CBC entourage staying in our Town for a week provided a huge economic benefit to many of our businesses. It also provided much enthusiasm and excitement for hundreds of our citizens. Everyone I spoke with after the show commented of how they can’t wait for the Lake Cowichan “Still Standing” show to air in 2017. Thank you everyone for the hospitality you have shown and the insights you have provided in helping our CBC guests connect with our community.

Due to significant power outages that have occurred, BC Hydro has made Lake Cowichan a priority area the past couple of years. In total, with both transmission and distribution works, BC Hydro is spending

approximately \$6,000,000 to increase the power reliability for the Lake Cowichan area. This capital investment is a direct result of previous outages to ensure the reliability of power is better going forward. Projects currently being designed and constructed include:

1. Project Cost: est. \$2,000,000. This project is to reconductor along Stone Avenue and add a tie switch between two circuits (LCW 25F62 and PVO 25555) to increase reliability.
2. Project Cost: est. \$665,000. This project is to reconductor along Stone Avenue and add a tie autoswitch between two circuits (LCW 25F61 and LCW 25F62) to increase reliability. This creates a loop which offers multiple points of redundancy.
3. Project Cost: est. \$680,000. This project is to reconductor along MacDonald Road and add two tie autoswitches between to circuits (LCW 25F62 and LCW25F63) to increase reliability. This creates a loop which offers multiple points of redundancy.
4. Project Cost: est. 890,000. This project is to reconductor Cowichan Lake Road to increase capacity and reliability. Projects previously completed in the Lake Cowichan area recently (Total Capital Value: \$1,029,000).

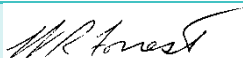
It should also be noted that BC Hydro is also doing a refurbishment of transmission line 60L128 (the only line that feeds Lake Cowichan) and will be spending \$4,000,000 on this project to increase its reliability and resiliency. BC Hydro will be pulling together 14 crews (around Power Line Technicians) from throughout the province to complete this work between June and September. It is a sizeable project that should increase the life and performance of the transmission line for the next 20 or 30 years. We appreciate the substantial investments BC Hydro is contributing to Lake Cowichan and the future of our town going forward. Thank you BC Hydro.

ICBC will be issuing a press release shortly regarding last years Road Improvement Program. Projects that ICBC has cost-shared with the Town of Lake Cowichan include:

- *\$5,000 - pedestrian-activated flashers at crosswalk at South Shore Rd and Darnell Rd
- * \$10,000 - pedestrian-activated flashers at crosswalk at South Shore Rd and Renfrew Ave
- * \$4,500 - speed reader board
- * \$1,300 - Upgrades on street name signs to improve visibility

The Town is very thankful for the for partnership with ICBC for projects both parties deem necessary to enhance the safety of vehicle and pedestrian traffic in our community.

Katherine Worsley reported at the Chamber of Commerce monthly dinner meeting that visits to the Visitors Information Centre have seen an increase of 27% up to the end of March.



Ross Forrest, Mayor