



Mayor's Report

April, 2015



Congratulations to Aaron Hamilton for being recognized as citizen of the year and to Darlene Weberg-Pohn and Denise Allen who were both chosen as Nicole Stock award winners. All three of these individuals are most deserving of the recognition for their outstanding contributions to our community. We are fortunate in having outstanding citizens like these who give so much of their time to helping others. Good choice, Chamber of Commerce for selecting Aaron, Darlene and Denise this year for special recognition.

The Town has submitted two applications under the Gas Tax Priorities Fund by the intake deadline date of April 15, 2015. We have applied for funding for both water treatment filtration as well as for phase 2 of the Sewer plant upgrade.

The contract for phase 1 of the sewage treatment upgrade has been awarded to David Stalker Excavating Ltd. for the tender price of \$1,555, 970, plus taxes.

The latest weekly water flows update indicates that the lake level is below the crest of the weir. Final adjustments have been made to allow 25cms (cubic meters per second) river flow from the lake to the river. The normal plan is to hold 25cms until May 1 at which time flow target becomes 15cms. There are discussions now taking place to determine if there is a need to sustain 25cms outflow or can a lower minimum flow be set to maximize lake level.

With limited resources for Municipalities to access revenues, the recent Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities conference in Courtenay passed resolutions dealing with this issue, including a resolution introduced by the Town of Lake Cowichan. The Town's resolution pertaining to Provincial Sales Tax Revenue Rebate for Local Governments reads as follows:

"WHEREAS local governments depend almost wholly on property taxation to fund municipal services and are currently facing infrastructure deficits of enormous proportions; AND WHEREAS local governments and their taxpayers are unnecessarily burdened with sales tax charges on the purchase of all goods and services that include emergency equipment; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province be petitioned to provide local governments full rebates of sales taxes on all purchases made as are provided by the Federal Government for the goods and services taxes, (GST) paid by local governments with no commensurate reduction of current revenue sharing programs"

Which was ENDORSED at the conference.

The Lake Cowichan Downtown Renewal Society will be hosting a farmers market every Saturday beginning May 16 and continuing on until September. The market will run from 10:00 - 2:00pm at Ts'uu baa-asatx Square. This event will be a great addition to our community. Please come out and support the vendors, and socialize with your friends and neighbours.

There will be an official opening of Ts'uu baa-asatx Square on Friday, May 15, 2015, followed by the first Saturday Market. The public is invited to the official opening as we recognize everyone's contribution on this new and useful amenity.

Ross Forrest, Mayor