



# Mayor's Report



**January 2015**

The Town is working diligently towards the installation of a secondary water treatment facility that will not only be the most effective at achieving good quality water but also be hopefully achieved through cost sharing with other funding partners. Research is ongoing to identify the Town's exact water treatment requirements which will include looking into the value of sand filtration as opposed to the ultra violet system. We will be working closely with Island Health to satisfy it's mandate for implementing secondary treatment for water. We will ensure that this is done by maximizing the best value to our community, which is our priority.

The recent boil water advisory caused by high turbidity was the first ever issued to our municipality and it is not something we want to see continue in the future. We thank the general public for their understanding through this recent period of inconvenience.

Council has passed bylaws determining 2015 fees for water, sewer and garbage. In order to keep up with inflation we have increased the fees for these important services by approximately 1%. For the water users who remain under the 35 cubic meters monthly threshold (which is the vast majority of you), the 2015 fees for water and sewer would still be lower than the 2012 rates that were in place prior to metering.

The Town's water consumption shows a continued reduction in use since 2010, as shown in the table below, in cubic meters (c.m.):

2010	Total per year	899,270 c.m.,	Daily Average	2,464 c.m.
2011	Total per year	885,750 c.m.,	Daily Average	2,427 c.m.
2012	Total per year	821,810 c.m.,	Daily Average	2,252 c.m.
2013	Total per year	761,660 c.m.,	Daily Average	2,087 c.m.
2014	Total per year	640,140 c.m.,	Daily Average	1,754 c.m.

Water use has been reduced from 2010-2014 by 29%. All of our residents should be applauded on this achievement as they continue to identify methods of reducing water consumption either through fixing leaks or practicing better methods of conserving this valuable and finite resource. To put this into perspective for those trying to understand the consumption in gallons, 1 cubic meters = 264.17 U.S. gallons; we have, therefore, in the past four years reduced our water usage by 68,410,320 gallons. Well done Lake Cowichan.

We will be hosting a public meeting on February 18, at 7:00 P.M. at the Community Hall. This would be an opportunity for you, the public to ask council about issues pertaining to the town. It is an open forum without fixed agenda.

We, however, would like to initiate discussion on our new garbage collection programme and would like to hear from you on just how well this programme is working for you. We would also like to begin the process of forming a committee to look at the possibility of establishing a Seniors Care Facility for our area. The Choose Cowichan Lake Committee can be used as a template so dedicated people can again work together to achieve the desired goals.

The want and need for such a facility is evident what with our aging population. Now we must work on the HOW to get the necessary partners aligned to pursue this lofty and needed goal.

Now that the two pedestrian-activated crosswalks are operational, a reminder to push the activation button and wait for traffic to stop before crossing. Also ensure that your children are aware of this required procedure. The two pedestrian-activated crosswalks are located at Friendship Trail by Palsson School and the other at Lake Cowichan School. These will help increase the safety of those crossing the busy South Shore Road. Once again our thanks must be expressed to the Insurance Corporation of BC and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for their financial assistance on the construction of the pedestrian controlled signal lights.

**Ross Forrest, Mayor**