



# *Mayor's Report* July, 2015



We are very excited to be receiving funding from the Canada 150 for planned upgrades to Centennial Park. The Honourable John Duncan, Minister of State, announced at a meeting here at Centennial Park this afternoon that we will be receiving \$500,000 towards the Centennial Park project. The announcement was well attended by local citizens and others from the adjacent communities. It is indeed fitting that Lake Cowichan was selected as the venue for the announcement of this and the other contributions being made to other island communities. My council and I must thank the Federal Government for recognizing our need for making recreational infrastructure improvements if the health and welfare of this community is to be not only sustained but improved.

Over the years we have listened to many delegations looking for improvements to the ball field. We have consistently answered that additional funding would be required for us to proceed with the necessary work required to bring this field back to a standard that we could all be satisfied with. The acquisition of this additional funding is necessary and we can now proceed to improve this historic asset we have at Centennial Park. Our plan is to have a multipurpose field where we can maximize the use of this facility for all our deserving citizens. Outdoor recreation facilities, not just indoor facilities, are vital for the health of a community. Centennial Park once was a ball field the community was proud of and it is our intension to restore it to a level of excellence again.

Our Vancouver Island Regional Library ( Cowichan Lake Branch) continues to see improvement to their many programs. The summer before the opening of new library (2013) there were 62 children signed up for the Summer Reading Club(SRC) programmes and they have held 6 SRC events. In 2014 ( the first year at the new branch), 139 children signed up for the SRC programmes, and 15 SRC events were held. In 2015, as of July 24, the library already has 138 kids signed up, and have scheduled 35 SRC events for the summer. This year the most popular SRC program has been the stuffy sleep over. Kids bring their stuffy to the library and the stuffies spend the night. The next day when the kids pick up their stuffies they also get to take home a booklet with a story and pictures about their stuffy night at the library. This year 45 "stuffies" spent the night at the library an indication of how popular this program is with the children. It's great to see the success of our library.

With what seems like annual drought conditions we are experiencing and which is related to the current dry conditions, and with all the available information and education we now have available it appears that we are building a culture of conservation. If everyone puts a little more consideration into reducing their water use, thinking about conserving more with every usage, we will all benefit from these small incremental steps. Residents who don't receive a bill for over-usage and are curious on how much water they use monthly are most welcome to contact the town office to find out their monthly use of water. Thank you for your consideration of these dry conditions. Collectively we are making a difference.

On August 8, at 1:00 pm we will be honouring Randy Irving and Marg Radcliffe with their induction into our Heritage Sports Wall at the Cowichan Lake Sports Arena. It should be a memorable event as we welcome Marg, Randy, their families and friends to help celebrate their many accomplishments in sports. The general public is welcome to attend this Induction ceremony.

Thank you to our Ohtaki delegation who recently visited our Sister City in Japan. From all accounts the 14 member delegation, which included 10 students, had an awesome time and represented our community very well. I am pleased that all your hard work fundraising to prepare for this trip led to such a great experience. Sounds like you left a positive impression on your hosts to enhance the strong relationship that has been forged through this longtime exchange.

With the August long weekend approaching I encourage everyone to enjoy themselves in a safe and responsible manner.

**Ross Forrest, Mayor**