



Mayor's Report

June, 2015



This past month has been one that has seen great public participation in the many social activities that have occurred in the Town. The celebrations of the many events which by bringing people together help strengthen and unify our community. The public celebrations should help cement good and friendly relations between neighbors to make this the wonderful Town it is.

The Lake Days Society, led by chairperson Jackie Cummins, should be commended again for stepping up to the forefront by continuing the long-time honoured tradition of celebrating Lake Days. This event always reunites many people who come back to visit friends and family during Lake Days.

It was really a pleasure to participate in this year's parade with representatives of other groups as one group united with a common purpose. It was nice to have people put aside their differences to come as one. Thank you to our Ts'uubaa-asatx First Nation, Area I & F directors Klaus Kuhn and Ian Morrison and our Chamber of Commerce and Cowichan Lake And River Stewardship representatives for walking in the parade together with us under the theme of " Working Together is SUCCESS". It was fun to see the enjoyment people were having during our walk on the parade route.

Too often we dwell on the negative aspects and forget the many great attributes we do have and of which we should be proud. Here are a few positive examples of why we are fortunate to live where we live:

- Once again the fireman's ball tournament raised over \$30,000 for Muscular Dystrophy. This was accomplished even though there were some fire calls during the weekend event. The continued success of this tournament speaks loudly about the drive and character of our many firefighters and their support for their fellow men and women. The time and generosity shown by all firefighters to their community is very much appreciated.
- The Secondary School graduation ceremony was also an example of people coming together and showing strong support for the 2015 graduates. In the packed auditorium it was very apparent throughout the ceremony what superb individuals this class has produced and how appreciative these students were of their families and of their community for the many opportunities presented them throughout their school years. Congratulations to all the graduates and I was very impressed to learn of the many scholarships and bursaries you so deservedly received. It is nice to see your achievements being recognized.

A big thank you to everyone who showed up and participated in the age-friendly workshop as well as those who took the time to fill out the survey and submit them. Your input will be helpful to the study. As part of the age-friendly study there was eight members of the focus group who walked strategic areas of the town to conduct a mobility audit. The results of this audit should be available you, soon.

We are very pleased to be advised the approval of the Job Creation Programme (JCP) which should help us in getting some much needed upgrades to the Town. To begin, we will be replacing the washrooms at Central Park with new facilities. There is some additional work that has to occur at the museum as well as the Education Centre and we will also be upgrading the Lakeview park washrooms, once the camping season concludes. Receiving JCP grants like this allows us the opportunity to proceed with projects that will provide long term benefits to our town at affordable costs.

Work is well underway for the digging of a third cell for our sewage treatment plant. The contractor David Stalker construction has taken precautions to cause minimal inconveniences to the public. This major upgrade is possible through government funding previously approved for this project.

Phase 1 of the Waste Water Treatment plant was approved for gas tax funding as follows; \$350,000 from the Regionally Significant Fund and \$1,001,200 from the General Strategic Priorities Fund - Totalling \$1,351,200

Because of the extremely dry conditions we are experiencing the town along with the other local government jurisdictions of the Cowichan Valley are already under stage two water restrictions. Please do your best to help conserve water. Everyone working together to conserve water can only have a positive effect on our watershed.

Our staff have done a great job preparing the Town's year-end report for 2014. It was presented to Council at a special meeting June 16, 2015. I encourage people to read this document to review and better understand your Town's financial position and its state of affairs.

In closing I would like to compliment the twelve girls who participated in the Lady of the Lake program. All of the speeches from the contestants were absolutely inspiring. It is amazing the skills these girls have developed over a short span of three months. Congratulations to our new royalty, Lady of the Lake Crystal Bell, First Princess Kirsten Maki and Second Princess Sidney Fothergill. Truly all twelve of the girls were winners and should be extremely proud of their accomplishments. We will once again have three great ambassadors representing our community. Thank you to our outgoing royalty, Lauren Frost, Madyson Young and Marigold Arbic for your great representation this past year as our ambassadors.

Ross Forrest, Mayor