



Mayor's Report

March, 2015



The continued financial contributions that we receive from ICBC just illustrate ICBC's strong commitment and support for the traffic safety improvements we are undertaking within our Town. ICBC has again recently committed money to cost - share with the Town for the following projects:

- * \$4,500 or 75%, whichever is lesser for a second speed reader board;
- * \$15,000 towards two pedestrian-activated crosswalks, one at the Workers Memorial Park, and the other adjacent to the intersection of Cowichan Lake and Darnell Roads; and
- * Have earmarked \$1,300 towards improved street name signs.

Our first speed reader board on South Shore Road just west of Lake Cowichan School has proven to be very successful at reducing speeds in that particular school zone. Continued traffic improvements enhance drivers' ability to be more aware of their visual surroundings thus helping reduce the potential for accidents given that both car and pedestrian traffic numbers continue to increase. We appreciate the terrific support we receive from ICBC and the common goal we share in ensuring traffic safety in our community.

We are close to wrapping up our budget estimates for 2015, as we are now prioritizing our capital projects. As the budget has not been adopted, it would be premature to get into budget details other than to share with you that work in 2015 will include extensive upgrades to our sewer treatment plant. We also continue to process all available information to determine the direction we should take with the type of secondary treatment best suited for our water system. Possible options include sand filtration and ultra violet treatment. We should see a continuation of our road paving and sidewalks program for this year. If we are successful with a grant application we will be upgrading the public washrooms at Lakeview Park and Central Park. Renovations should also commence on the Town Hall with the construction of Council Chambers beginning sometime this year.

The week of March 16-22 was Canada Water Week with March 22, 2015 designated as World Water Day. As we give special acknowledgement to this valuable resource this week, we should also recognize the importance of the weir being put into control earlier than normal this year to manage the river flow. Although we have experienced recent rains, the fact that we have no snow pack will prove critical once the weather becomes dryer. There is much discussion and thought taking place as all the decision makers (technical & political) work towards a long term solution for storage of water.

Our water is far too precious to be not assured of it being available for all of its valued users all year round. On Saturday, April 18 at 10:00 A.M., the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society will be hosting a water safety public meeting.

Congratulations to the Cowichan Lake First Nation and particularly Melanie Livingstone for an outstanding job for organizing and hosting the Health Fair. The feedback on your event has been very positive. Lake Cowichan School will be hosting its health fair on Thursday, April 16, 2015. The venue will be the High school gymnasium. Please come out and support the efforts put forth by our students for their annual event.

The legal transfers are now complete and the property at 61 South Shore Road (Logger Hut) now officially belongs to the Town. When considering the donation of his land, Mr. Kasapi requested that this property remain available for public use. We were pleased to agree and were happy to inherit Kasapi Center as a new town facility. This property has many positive possibilities for our citizens. Thank you Mr. Kasapi for your generous donation. This valuable river front property is very much appreciated.

Kudos to everyone involved in making the Tim Horton's Provincial Juvenile Curling Championships such an enormous success. It takes many volunteers to host an event of this magnitude and our whole community benefits from your contributions. Thank you.

The Town of Lake Cowichan would like to honor all those children, youth and families living with autism by recognizing the month of April as Autism Awareness Month. For the month of April, the Town will be lighting up the entrance to Town in Blue and adding blue dye to the Central Park Fountain, if weather permits.

Ross Forrest, Mayor