



Mayor's Report

September, 2015



Council has bestowed the honor of Freeman of the Town upon Pat Foster. Pat's commitment to our community goes back as far as 1984 when she was first elected to local government as a School Trustee for School District # 66 where she served until 1990. In 1990 Pat was elected as an Alderman for the Village of Lake Cowichan until 1993. In 1993 the elected office of Alderman was changed to Councillor across the Province of British Columbia. The Town became a Town in 1996 the year Pat was elected Councillor where she would remain for four consecutive terms until 2008 when she decided to hang up her hat as an elected official and dedicate her time to family. While Pat may have ended her political career she still continues to dedicate her time to public service. She is still very much involved with the Cowichan Lake Community Forest Co-op, the Kaatza Museum and Communities in Bloom. She also served in other capacities regionally and locally. Of note is her service as Chair of the Cowichan Lake Economic Development initiative for the Cowichan Valley from 1998 to 2000. At various times she served as a member on both the Economic Development Commission and the Transit Committee of the Cowichan Valley Regional District. Pat was Chair of Community Futures Development Corporation for the Cowichan Region during the period 1992 to 1999 and vice- chair of the Community Futures Development Association of BC from 1994 to 1999. She was President of the Cowichan Lake and District Chamber of Commerce from 1995 to 1996 and Chair to the Cowichan Lake Forest Co-operative from 1997 to 2002. It is no surprise that Pat was awarded Citizen of the Year in 1994.

Congratulations Pat for your most deserving designation as Freeman of the Town.

Congratulations to Fire Chief Doug Knott who received the British Columbia 35 - year Long Service Award in recognition of his commitment to the fire safety of his community. Fire Commissioner Gordon A. Anderson sends his congratulations and best wishes for Doug attaining this milestone. He said in his letter "Your contribution to the fire service is greatly appreciated. It is individuals such as yourself who make British Columbia a safer place to live". Doug began his service as a volunteer fireman with the Town of Lake Cowichan on March, 1980 and has been in the service of the community in that capacity since. He became Fire Chief on December, 2009 and still currently holds that office.

Thank you Doug on behalf of the Town; your long-time contributions are greatly appreciated.

On September 27, 2015 long-time resident George Auger will be celebrating his 100th birthday. George moved to Lake Cowichan around 1965, raised his family here and has remained here ever since. Congratulations George for reaching this tremendous milestone. Happy 100th birthday.

The Cowichan Lake Community Forest Co-op has made many contributions to our community through their legacy funds. The primary project they funded was the Forest Workers Memorial Park. The memorial bricks are very popular with the public and the Co- op ensures that they are updated annually with new contributions. Most recently the Forest Co-op hired Zak Stoltz to refurbish the murals that are displayed in the park. Thank you very much for the generous donation and contribution for this project; the new enhanced murals look fantastic.

Council once again dealt with a request to allow backyard chickens and council chose not to initiate a change in the bylaw. It was felt that we have not seen enough interest from the general public to rewrite the bylaw to serve just a small portion of our residents. There is a cost that comes with changes to any by-law as well as added enforcement responsibilities that council is not prepared to undertake at this time.

Please note Stage 3 water restrictions will be downgraded to Stage 2 on Friday, September 18, 2015. The recent rainfalls have helped us make that transition. I would like to thank all residents and commercial businesses for their water conservation efforts these past few months. It made a difference and thanks for the individual sacrifices made in an otherwise wonderful summer.

September is Distracted Driving awareness month, as well as "back to school" month. As we move into the new school year, please be very aware of the school children on our streets. Their safety and ours must be safeguarded by taking steps to avoid being distracted while driving. ICBC advises that distracted driving, as in the use of cell phones, is the second leading cause of crash fatalities ahead of impaired driving and is a leading cause of crashes involving motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians. Show your support for ICBC's campaign for engaging in "no distractions while driving".

Ross Forrest, Mayor