



## **News Release**

For Immediate Release

May 21, 2018

### **Town of Lake Cowichan Official Community Plan Update and Open House**

In the fall of 2017 the Town of Lake Cowichan began a review of its Official Community Plan (OCP), a visionary document that defines policies and actions for future land use and development, community well being, and stewardship of the natural environment. The current plan was adopted in 2011 after a lengthy updating process. Since that time, the population has increased by almost 10%, one third of all current residents are newcomers since 2011, and we face ongoing challenges with respect to economic diversity and climate change. It is important that the plan be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure it continues to reflect the values and aspiration of the community.

Over the past four months, upon the direction of the Town Council, town staff has been working with the Advisory Planning Commission and three working groups of community volunteers to review the current OCP. The three working groups focused on different aspects of the OCP: the social environment, the natural environment, and the built environment.

The town invites the community to a drop-in open house on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018 from 1:00-4:00 pm at Centennial Hall – 309 South Shore Road. Topics for information and community input include:

- Town demographics and population growth projections
- Information about future land for housing, employment, playing and shopping
- Housing choices
- Downtown revitalization
- Land use, including employment land
- Economic development
- Transportation and mobility
- Green-ways and blue-ways

Everyone is encouraged to participate and provide feedback and opinions on these important topics.

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