Town of Lake Cowichan
Municipal office: PO Box 860, 39 South Shore Road, Lake Cowichan B.C. V0R 2G0
Phone: 250-749-6681 Fax: 250-749-0281 www.lakecowichan.bc.ca

Thursday, June 18, 2026

Lake Cowichan, BC — The Town of Lake Cowichan is very pleased to announce the appointment of **Caroline Von Schilling** as its inaugural **Director of Bylaw and Development Services** commencing on **June 29, 2026**! This is an important milestone as the Town continues to strengthen its capacity to support responsible growth, development, and community planning.

Caroline brings more than 12 years of progressive municipal planning experience to the role and possesses a deep understanding of the Cowichan Valley and its communities. Over the course of her career, she has steadily advanced through increasingly senior roles where she worked on various complex development projects, and primarily in development planning. She has worked across the province including for the City of Fort St. Johns, Prince Rupert, and more recently the District of North Cowichan.

Caroline holds a Bachelor of Science in Planning and a Master of Science in Geography (Urban Systems) and is a member of both the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Planning Institute of British Columbia.

Caroline expressed enthusiasm about joining the Town and contributing to the community's future. Reflecting both her professional passion and sense of humour, she shared a favourite quote:

"Follow your bliss and doors will open where there were no doors before but get a building permit first." Caroline Von Schilling.

Town of Lake Cowichan
Municipal office: PO Box 860, 39 South Shore Road, Lake Cowichan B.C. V0R 2G0
Phone: 250-749-6681 Fax: 250-749-0281 www.lakecowichan.bc.ca

Why is this role important?

The formal creation of this new department and leadership position reflects the significant growth and development activity occurring within the community. It also reflects leadership of Council to authorize the creation of this role. In 2024, the Town approved **17 residential building permits** resulting in **30 new dwellings**. In 2025, that number increased to **23 residential buildings** and **33 new dwellings**. In 2026, we have approved **6 residential buildings, 2 renovations**, creating a total of **9 new dwellings**. We currently have several development files pending review which will ultimately lead to the creation of **11 new dwellings**.

"*Growth is great, but growth without planning is simply a future problem with a current address. Lake Cowichan is building like gangbusters, and what our staff have accomplished over the years with limited resources has been extraordinary. As our community continues to grow, so too must our capacity to support it. This appointment is about preparing the Town for the future. Establishing a full-time Director of Bylaw and Development Services will ensure we are well-positioned to manage growth, support housing development, and provide timely, consistent service to residents, businesses, and developers. After all, preparation may not be exciting, but explaining why you didn't prepare rarely is.*" – John Thomas, CAO

Caroline's extensive experience in land use planning, development approvals, community growth, and municipal processes is exactly what we need. Please join me in welcoming Caroline to our team and community.

-30-

Media Contact:
John Thomas
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Lake Cowichan