

MAYOR'S REPORT - MARCH, 2022



In this month's Mayors report, I would like to highlight the Strategic Priorities for the current year, as documented in Council's approved Strategic Plan. It is important that Mayor and Council, staff and even the public review this document on a regular basis to maintain focus and stay informed on the status of the goals we have set for our community.

The 2022 priorities are as follows:

- ◆ Extension of the Town's sewer system to Greendale Road;
- ◆ Active Transportation Plan, planning and implementation;
- ◆ Assess future staff needs;
- ◆ Renewal of Protocol Agreement with Lake Cowichan First Nation;
- ◆ Prepare for the 2022 municipal election;
- ◆ Orientation of the new Council and review of the Strategic Plan;
- ◆ Revision of the subdivision bylaw and servicing standards;
- ◆ Consideration and review of the Poverty Reduction Strategy;
- ◆ Playground upgrades to Riverside Park, Stone Park, Sahtlam Park;
- ◆ Kasapi Park upgrades;
- ◆ North Shore Pathway construction.

Another important strategic priority carried over from last year is the start and completion of the Town Office and Council Chambers renovation. This project is now well underway as crews are completing the seismic upgrading under the existing structure and will then move on to construction of the Council Chambers and finally the creation of an accessible lobby area for the public and more efficient office space for staff.

You have probably already read in the local newspaper that Council approved a grant application for the final phase of our wastewater treatment plant upgrade. Several years ago we received funding for the first phase of this project and we are hoping to be successful in this round of funding which will be announced in 2023.

Major projects such as our completed drinking water treatment plant and the proposed wastewater treatment plant are key to supporting the growth and vitality of the Town of Lake Cowichan for decades to come.

Speaking of Growth ! There are several multi year projects underway and scheduled to begin in the near future just down the road in North Cowichan. The new RCMP station and the new Cowichan High School are already under construction, soon to be followed by the new Cowichan District Hospital. Also at some point in the near future, we can expect to see the construction of a new weir in Lake Cowichan.

When we think about these major projects mentioned, one can almost predict there will be continued population growth in the Cowichan Valley that will inevitably spill into the Cowichan Lake area. This is something that needs to be collaboratively envisioned and planned for by staff and elected officials municipally and regionally to alleviate as many growing pains as possible so that the servicing of this growth does not become a cumbersome burden to existing property tax payers.

Spring is upon us and public works and park staff are busy cleaning up our streets, parks and campground after the winter season. It is always refreshing to see the plants come back to full colors and the dust picked up from the streets and sidewalks as we all venture outdoors again to enjoy the warm summer season in our beautiful Town.

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Town of Lake Cowichan
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"Building Community Together"