



Mayor's Report *May, 2018*



This is the time of year where there is no shortage of activities occurring in and around our fabulous community.

The May long weekend is when we begin to see a conspicuous increase in the numbers of people flocking to the amenities we are blessed to have in our community.

We just experienced a wonderful Heritage Days' weekend and I would like to thank the Heritage Days' Committee and Katherine Worsley, the Events Coordinator for our Chamber of Commerce for all of their volunteer efforts and dedication.

Laketown Ranch welcomed another new demographic group of attendees with its first Laketown Shakedown event. This festival offered a great opportunity for more regionally based bands to showcase their talents in a professional setting. This was a great experience for the musicians and very entertaining for music lovers who discovered the tremendous talents we have in such close proximity. Please follow the Laketown Ranch app and social media to keep abreast of the diverse lineup of events they have planned for this summer.

Prior to the long weekend the Chamber of Commerce held its meeting at the spectacular Camp Imadene on beautiful Mesachie Lake. The evening was an opportune time to socialize and become even more inspired about the place we live in. Guest speakers Alastair Macgregor our Member of Parliament and Karen Elgersma, the executive director of Tourism Cowichan, certainly left everyone in the room feeling very optimistic. MP Alistair, who is the NDP's Critic for Agriculture and Agri-Food, was amazingly informative about how new innovation will enhance opportunities to prosper for the hundreds of businesses in the Cowichan Valley who make their living in the Agriculture industry. Karen was extremely enthusiastic as she spoke on how we in the Cowichan Valley, and certainly our local area, are receiving and gaining world-wide recognition and marketing exposure for the desirable destination we have become. Travel journalists from many of North America's largest cities are touring the valley and are writing glowing reports about their experiences. Thank you to the Chamber of Commerce and Camp Imadene for hosting this lovely evening.

Lake Cowichan Kin-clubs have been enhancing our community through volunteerism since our Town incorporated in 1944. The Kinsmen became charter members of District 5 in 1944 and the Kinettes were first formed in 1951. With Lake Cowichan's Steve Nahirnick recently being sworn in as the Governor for District 5, I was asked to do a short video on the contributions of our Lake Cowichan Kin Clubs. This video was to be viewed at their Kinvention in Port Alberni May 20, 2018. This project was very interesting as I learned so much about the unbelievable volunteer work our Kin Clubs have done to support our community. A piece of our history that many people might not be aware of is our Kinsmen purchased the Lake Cowichan and area ambulance service in 1947. For the next twenty-two years with up to three cars, the Kinsmen operated this service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, on a volunteer basis. They were instrumental in the park improvements and past swimming programs at Riverside Park. Currently they are raising funds to further enhance this park and they are well on their way to completing their financial goal for this project. While the Kinettes took a hiatus for many years this organization re-organized three years ago and along with the Kinsmen are doing amazing things for our community. The Lake Cowichan Kin Clubs are the current organizers and administrators of Lake Days among the many other activities they support in our community. They were partners along with the other service clubs in our Town who were responsible for building Olson Manor. Governor Steve Nahirnick, for a while, served as the Chair of the board which operates this facility. There are just too many other amenities for me to list; and we are thankful for their generous donations of money and/or time. Their mission statement is "Kin Canada is committed to changing lives and making Canadian communities a better place to live". There is absolutely no doubt that they have in the past, and continue to do so today, fulfill this mandate in our community. Congratulations to Steve Nahirnick for his current term as the new District 5 Governor and a huge thank you to our Kin Clubs for your service to our community for the past seventy - four years. The Town is honored to be sharing its 75th birthday with you next year.

Everyone I have mentioned above is equally as important to community building as is new infrastructure, or policies and by-laws. We consider all aspects of community as vital to our future successes and they certainly are deserving of recognition.

We were extremely pleased to see Minor baseball and Slo-pitch playing on the new Centennial Park fields. This project has taken a long time to get to this playable stage but we recognize there is much more to be done to complete this outdoor recreation facility. It took many years to receive the grant that allowed us to proceed with the first phase and hopefully the second phase is attained much quicker. We will be having a naming dedication for the two ball fields and the soccer field on Sunday June 10th, 2018 to coincide with the Midget Lakers baseball doubleheader versus Oceanside, during Lake Days weekend. The dedication will take place between the two games the Midgets play that day which should be at approximately 1:30 PM. Please come out and support your local team and enjoy the naming ceremony as we honor Dawn Coe-Jones, the Apollo's and Dobie Somerville as we dedicate the fields.

*We will induct two more members to our Heritage Sports Wall at the arena on June 16, 2018 at 4:00 PM.
This Induction Ceremony is open to the public and we will be proud to see Ken Calder and Tony Feltrin honored this year.
If you are interested in the history of sports in our community this event is always a memorable day.*

*You are invited to the Town of Lake Cowichan's Creating Our Future, Official Community Plan Review Open House on June 2nd,
between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 pm at Centennial Hall.*

*Council is looking for volunteers to form a committee to plan the 75th Birthday Celebration for the Town in August of 2019.
If you are interested, please email your name and contact information to general@lakecowichan.ca by July 6, 2018.*

*The Hiking and cycling action tourism plan has had tremendous support and engagement from the public and many stakeholders
in our community. This plan eventually can provide a huge impact for eco-tourism throughout our community.
Please watch for the next meeting on this important endeavor and continue to let your voices be heard.*

*Town council has taken a step towards being prepared once cannabis becomes legalized later this year.
Council passed first and second reading of Zoning Bylaw No. 1005-2018 on May 8th, 2018 to amend bylaw No. 935-2013.
This new bylaw would amend the Land Use by amending Definitions and by specifically stating under:*

Part 4, Section 4.20. Prohibited Uses

- (f) the location of a cannabis retail store; and*
- (g) any use expressly permitted or authorized by the Bylaw.*

*First and second reading authorizes council to have a public hearing on this amending bylaw to gauge the public's view on
cannabis retail sales within our jurisdictional boundaries.*

The date for this public hearing will be Tuesday June 19, 2018 at 6:00pm at Town Hall.

*Written submissions are also permissible and can be directed to the Town office by no later than 4.30 p.m. on the date of the
hearing. Verbal presentations will be welcomed at the public hearing.*

*Council members are not permitted to receive further submissions or hear from either a proponent or opponent to the amending
provisions of the Zoning Bylaw once the Public Hearing has been concluded.*

*Informally the public will also have an opportunity to ask questions regarding cannabis legalization and regulations at our bi-
annual Public Engagement Meeting Monday May 28, 2018. This night is intended as a public forum to listen to the public's ideas
and concerns. The meeting begins at 6:30 pm and the second half of it will be set aside to hear about cannabis legalization and
regulations. We will have an independent facilitator for this portion of the night so Council can hear what the public has to say
without the public perception of Council members having a bias. All topics are vitally important to our community and your
engagement and participation is an important part of the governance process.*

Enjoy the summer and please be safe and act responsibly.



Ross Forrest, Mayor