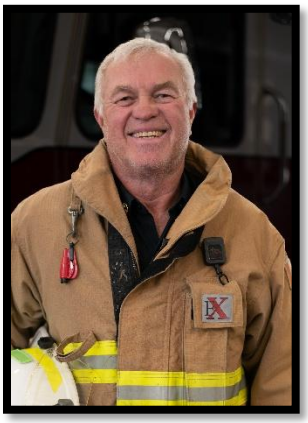
RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT
DOUG KNOTT, FIRE CHIEF



September 21, 2026

The Town of Lake Cowichan is proud to recognize the upcoming retirement of Fire Chief Doug Knott following an exceptional 48 years of service with the Lake Cowichan Fire Department, including the past 17 years as Fire Chief.

Throughout nearly five decades of service, Chief Knott has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the Department and the Lake Cowichan community. As Fire Chief, he has provided steady leadership through periods of growth, change and increasing demands on local fire and emergency services, while working alongside generations of firefighters, municipal staff, emergency-service partners and community members.

During Chief Knott's tenure as Fire Chief, the Department achieved several important milestones, including:

- advancing NFPA certification and professional training for firefighters and officers;
- achieving Fire Underwriters Superior Tanker Shuttle Service Accreditation;
- developing the Department's training centre and training program;
- supporting the restoration of the Department's historic No. 1 fire truck and the development of the fire service museum;
- advancing the community's FireSmart program which resulted in two grants totaling $600,000;
- strengthening the Department's financial position while maintaining and modernizing its equipment and apparatus; and
- continuing to strengthen the professionalism, readiness and capacity of the Lake Cowichan Fire Department.

Chief Knott's service has also been recognized through significant honours, including a 45-year fire service medal and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for service. The Town extends its sincere appreciation to Chief Knott for the extraordinary time, energy and commitment he has devoted to the Fire Department and the residents of Lake Cowichan. Serving as Fire Chief carries significant responsibility, and the Town recognizes the dedication required to lead a fire department, supports its members and remains

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responsive to the needs of the community over so many years.

On behalf of Council, staff and the community, the Town sincerely thanks Chief Knott for his 48 years of service and wishes him good health, happiness and every enjoyment in retirement.

Chief Knott's retirement also marks an important period of transition for the Lake Cowichan Fire Department. The Town has been considering the Department's future leadership structure and organizational needs to ensure that local fire and emergency services continue to evolve alongside the needs of the community.

As part of this transition, Chief Knott has generously offered to support and mentor his successor to help ensure continuity of leadership, the transfer of institutional knowledge and a smooth transition for the Department and its members. The Town is grateful for his willingness to continue supporting the Department in this capacity as it moves into its next chapter.

A further announcement regarding the future leadership and direction of the Lake Cowichan Fire Department will be provided in the coming days. For now, the Town's focus is on recognizing an extraordinary record of public service: 48 years with the Lake Cowichan Fire Department, including 17 years leading the Department as Fire Chief.

John Thomas
Chief Administrative Officer