



Mayor's Report

April, 2018



Council has approved a 2% property tax increase for 2018. The total budget schedule for Capital Expenses which totals \$10,736,377 can be listed with the following breakdown:

General (included in this is the possible start of Town Hall Renovation)	3,867,000
CLEC	123,000
Fire Department	478,000
Public Works	686,500
Lakeview Park	22,000
Parks	727,945
Total General Capital	5,904,445
Sewer Capital	290,000
Water Capital (mostly for the new water treatment plant)	4,915,000
Total Capital	\$ 11,109,445

Please refer to the Town website for additional details of the 2018 budget.

Centennial Park is in need of some sunshine to ensure the turf is sufficiently matted before user groups can begin playing on the new fields. There is no doubt that Minor Baseball and Cowichan Lake Slo-pitch are anxious to start playing on their new home fields. Additional amenities will be added to Centennial Park as future budgets allow. While the individual ball fields and soccer pitch will be newly named, the entire complex will still be known as Centennial Park. The two ball fields will be named Dawn-Coe Jones Field and Apollo's Field.

Throughout her twenty five year Canadian Hall of Fame golfing career, as well as being a great basketball and volleyball player representing our school in many provincial tournaments, Dawn was Lake Cowichan's ultimate ambassador. When I have introduced myself to other people from across the country and tell them I am from Lake Cowichan, often they will ask, "Isn't that where Dawn Coe-Jones is from?" In all her media interviews Dawn always let it be known that she was from Lake Cowichan and was proud of it. Being the true professional she was, Dawn also gave back to her community by returning home every year to host her Junior Golf Tournament.

The Apollo's were a hockey team named in recognition of William Carpentier who grew up in Lake Cowichan and was best known as the flight surgeon assigned to the Apollo 11 & 13 missions. Apollo 11 was the first manned spacecraft to land on the moon. In the months following the Apollo mission, Carpentier became known as the "world famous physician ". Carpentier is a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which he was decorated for his role in the Apollo 13 mission. When the arena was first opened, Bill's brother Gary's team needed a name as they would begin playing in the Lake Cowichan Rec League. Apollo's would be the name chosen and that team would play together for the next 40 years. The hockey team was the longest tendered team our community has ever had, playing and representing our community in many different leagues for those memorable 40 years. They also contributed a great amount to our economy and community by hosting the Apollo's Annual Slo-pitch tournament at Centennial Park for 30 consecutive years. This tournament brought an average of 50 plus teams per year (often being the largest tournament on Vancouver Island) and a portion of the proceeds from these tournaments supported many charitable needs in our community.

Dawn Coe-Jones and the Apollo's are two names that best exemplified the importance of sports but also how sports through other avenues can give so much back to their home community. The naming of the soccer pitch was deadlocked so Council has requested assistance from the public through its Facebook page posting to decide between Kaatza and Dobie Somerville Field. Kaatza is a First Nation name synonymous with Lake Cowichan. Dobie Somerville was a very prominent volunteer for sports in the Lake Cowichan area and was the person who introduced youth soccer to our community in the 1960's.

We understand some people might prefer the ball fields to be named after people with a baseball background, but too many wonderful volunteers for this particular sport is the dilemma we faced. With baseball being the most prominent sport in Town prior to the ice arena being built, we had an abundance of the best coaches, umpires, and other volunteers you could imagine. Anyone who lived here through this era can easily rattle off 20 plus names deserving of recognition. To name the ball fields after one or two of these great individuals would be overlooking countless others equal of recognition for this honor. Now that the playing surfaces are complete and as we progress with secondary projects around Centennial Park, we hope to have an area dedicated to all of the past volunteers who gave so much of their time to provide a great environment for everyone to enjoy. We certainly know there are countless numbers of volunteers deserving of recognition and we intend at some point to do so.

Here is a continuation of information for the impending cannabis legalization from last month's report.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), in partnership with UBCM, legal experts, and other local governments and local government organizations across Canada, has developed a Municipal Guide to Cannabis Legalization. The guide offers tools to help local governments meet challenges associated with the legalization of cannabis, including case studies, policy options and sample bylaw language. The guide covers key issues consistent across jurisdictions, as well as regional variations, identified by FCM's advisory group of experts from across Canada. This document aims to support work on key areas of local government involvement, including land use management, business regulation, public consumption, workplace safety and enforcement.

Joint Provincial -Local Government Committee on Cannabis Regulation (JCCR)

1. Introduction

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) represents 100% of the local governments in British Columbia (BC), as well as eight First Nations members and has advocated for policy and programs that support its membership's needs since 1905. The UBCM Executive Board is comprised of 21 elected officials from all regions of the Province, who represent diverse communities of all sizes, from rural areas to urban centres.

Since October 19, 2017, UBCM has worked with the Province of British Columbia through the Joint Provincial-Local Government Committee on Cannabis Regulation. The JCCR has provided local governments a forum to share their experiences, knowledge, and discuss issues of interest and concern with the Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat. Among the 12 Local government members are a mix of elected officials, senior staff members, and staff members with specialized skills sets and experience in planning, building inspection, bylaw enforcement and/or public safety.

On November 30, 2017, UBCM, on behalf of the JCCR, released a report addressing specific questions posed to the JCCR by the B.C. Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat. The report broadly examined the following issues:

- * Minimum age to buy, grow and possess non-medical cannabis;
- * Personal possession limits for adults and youth;
- * Public consumption (e.g. smoking, vaping);
- * Drug-impaired driving regulations;
- * Personal cultivation number of plants location, security, etc.);
- * Distribution model; and,
- * Retail model.

2. Overview

The committee began to examine the retail model in greater detail. This follows a December 5, 2017 announcement by the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Mike Farnworth, which states that cannabis would be sold in public and private retail outlets.

With details of the non- medical cannabis retail model still to be determined, committee discussions have focused on where and how legalized cannabis should be sold, and other related issues.

3. Local Government Discussions

Q1: What do local governments need to know about the provincial retail licensing regime in advance of legalization to be adequately prepared?

Decision Points to Consider

- * Responsibility for Regulations;
- * Number of Retail Outlets;
- * Zoning Authority;
- * Co-Location; and
- * Retail Licensing Process

Q2: if the province establishes a similar licensing process to what is used for Liquor Primary Licences (bars), the local government would need to do a public consultation and provide comments and a recommendation (and reason for recommendation) before the Province could grant a license.

a) What factors would be relevant to this process? (Liquor Primaries: location, capacity, hours)

Decision Points to Consider

- * Consultation Process

b) What should local governments have to comment on? (Liquor Primaries: impact of noise on community; general impact on community; views of the residents and how they were collected)

Decision Points to Consider

- * issues for comment

c) Which residents will local governments need to consult with? (Liquor Primaries: must gather the views of residents of an area determined by the local government, if the establishment could affect nearby residents)

Decision Points to Consider

* Consultation

d) How much time should be given for local governments to provide comments to the province? (Liquor Primaries: 90 days, but can be extended)

Decision Points to Consider

* Time Limit to Provide Comment

e) The Lap process allows local governments to “opt out” of doing a public consultation and provide comments and a recommendation. If local governments opt out, LCLB does the public consultation process and considers the factors set out in the legislation (impact of noise, etc.). What impacts do you anticipate (if any), if local governments were not allowed the option to opt-out for cannabis retail licenses?

Local Government Response

* Opting Out: Potentially a longer timeline if local governments cannot opt out. If local governments can opt out, and choose to do so, it may be problematic for elected officials with public backlash.

Q3: Under what conditions should an existing illegal dispensary be eligible to apply for a cannabis retail license?

Decision Points to Consider

* Application Process for Existing Illegal Dispensaries:

Q4: Government is considering collecting information from prospective applicants in advance of legislation being in force. If local governments will have a similar role as they do for LP applications, how soon could you be ready to start reviewing applications?

Decisions Points to Consider

* Applications to Local Government

The JCCR has provided recommendations towards the provincial retail model for non-medical cannabis. The provincial government and its Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat have continued their high level of engagement with local governments.

The Cowichan B.C. Summer Games hosted a Torch-lighting Ceremony on April 19, 2018 to celebrate the 100- day countdown to the Games in the Cowichan Valley. There remains a need for many more volunteers for this event, so please consider signing up to help make these games the best ever. You can register on the BC Games Cowichan 2018 website.



Ross Forrest, Mayor