



# **Mayor's Report**      *October, 2018*



After ten years of monthly reports this is undoubtedly the hardest one to present. Obviously I feel some disappointment, but to a larger extent my pride in our community has never wavered. The 49% voter turnout which is much larger than Provincial average, speaks to the participation of our citizens. Well done candidates for engaging so much interest in our civic election and thank you to our citizens for your response.

Congratulations to Mayor-elect Rod Peters and our new council consisting of Carlyne Austin, Tim McGonigle, Kristine Sandhu and Lorna Vomacka. I wish you nothing but success as you continue to better our community.

I have had the absolute privilege of being associated with caring, respectful and dedicated Councillors for the past three terms. Thank you to Councillors Austin, Day, Hornbrook, Ingram, McGonigle and Vomacka for all of your contributions. I cannot emphasize enough how much I looked forward to Tuesday nights where I could learn from each of you as we attempted to arrive at the best decisions for the Town. Thank you all for your past and future devotion to our community.

Leaders must have positive characteristics and most of all trust in the process; Google positive characteristics and loyalty is near the top. Loyalty has always been a strong characteristic of mine. My loyalty to our staff, overseen by CAO Joe Fernandez grew everyday as my trust in them and the process became increasingly stronger. It was a pleasure to work together with these professionals on a daily basis. Due to their experience and astute management of our finances, we as council were provided with the ability to accomplish many major infrastructure improvements to our Town. You can't undervalue how much money (\$millions) all of our taxpayers were saved through the skills of our exempt staff. The Town's financial position is strong and is available for everyone to see. My only wish is more people would actually take the time to make themselves familiar with the Town's encouraging financial position and not listen to uninformed opinions. I have the utmost respect for how hard our dedicated staff has worked for the betterment of the Town while realizing how unappreciated they are to the uninformed. I applaud all of your contributions to assist in making our many accomplishments achievable.

Our employees have also made major contributions to our successes. Municipal workers are also under appreciated for the work they do stemming from the fact that they are always in the public eye. I thank each and every one of our employees over the past ten years for everything you have contributed to make our Town more livable every day.

Our essential services are terrific. Thank you to our RCMP Detachment for your service to Lake Cowichan and our outlying neighbors. You have a large catchment area and you serve it well. Thank you to our Fire Chief Doug Knott and his Officers who have taken that department to its highest standard. Our highly trained firefighters and first-class equipment provide a level of comfort and professionalism that our community should be highly proud of.

My family has made huge sacrifices during my time as Mayor to fulfill my passion of serving our community. I am thankful that my wife Tracy, for the most part, encouraged me to leave the politics at the Town Hall and away from our home. I love each and every one of you and I can't thank you enough for your understanding and support. I hope I can make up for the lost family time of the last decade.

I want to end my report by thanking all of the citizens of this great Town for your support and respect for our Councillors and myself over the years. We can only hope our newly elected Council is treated equally as well. Trust in the process, and our Town will flourish. Together we are all winners.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross Forrest".

Ross Forrest, Mayor