



Mayor's Report

June, 2016



The BC Community Forest Association Annual General Meeting hosted by the Cowichan Lake Community Forest Cooperative and Pacheedaht First Nation was a great success. The benefits to our community from the 100 plus delegates and others visiting our area for the three day event was a great benefit to the community. The organizing committee did an outstanding job in providing valuable information for their study tour and workshops. The banquet was very well attended with a fantastic traditional First Nations feast, prepared by the Pacheedaht.

From its legacy fund, the Cowichan Lake Community Forest Cooperative funded improvements to the Trans Canada Trail from Greendale trestle to A&W. It was a privilege for me to have participated in the Ribbon cutting ceremony at the Western terminus of the Trans Canada Trail along with Minister of Forest, Lands and Natural Resources, Stephen Thompson, Director Ian Morrison representing the CVRD, and the Chair of CLCFC, Lorne Sheffer. The Town is very appreciative of the Forest Cooperative's donation for the trail improvements and the yellow maple tree it donated to the Town of Lake Cowichan.

Thank you to those who took the time to attend our public open meeting on Monday May 30, 2016. We appreciate your input on important topics affecting our community. Topics discussed included the seniors care facility, the upcoming Sunfest weekend, the proposed Centennial Park upgrades, by-law enforcement issues, the Town Hall renovations, the potential for forest fire fires from such things as yard foliage and need for emergency escape routes, as well as water concerns ranging from restrictions to advisories. We value your input to your/our town very much.

I can't think of a better person to receive a national volunteer award than Margaret Davis. Volunteers like Margaret don't volunteer looking for recognition but it's wonderful to see someone so deserving being appreciated for her dedication to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Thanks to the Kinsman and Kinettes for putting on an excellent Lake Days event. Considering the weather and this being your first year organizing this event, you did a superb job. All your hard work and dedication to your community is very much appreciated.

Congratulations to the newly crowned ambassadors consisting of Lady of Lake Chailyn Vensel, First Princess Alexis Cage, and Second Princess Teresa Melchoir.

We are extremely proud to have the three girls representing our community through to the next year. To Chrystal Bell, Kirsten Macki, and Sidney Fothergail a big Thank you for the outstanding representation of the Cowichan Lake area you have provided during your 2015/16 reign.

Congratulations to Leanne Wilkinson Sirup (Swimmer) and the Lakers 1971-76 Intermediate Hockey Team for their induction into the Lake Cowichan Heritage Sports Wall. Your contribution to sports in our community is greatly appreciated. Thank you to everyone who came out to help celebrate their induction.

The graduation class of 2016 was honoured with a wonderful school leaving ceremony. It was a real privilege for me to address such an outstanding group of young adults as they move on to the next chapter of their lives.

The scheduled 11 hour power outage June 26 th went good by all accounts. BC Hydro has been involved in transmission line refurbishment work in the area for the last 5 years for an amount estimated at \$4.665 million. The work that directly impact the Town was the removal and replacement of towers and poles, with anchors, guy wires and the addition of more lines of wire for the transmission of electrical energy. B.C. Hydro undertook a major upgrade that will enhance service for our community now and long into the future. It is hoped that the upgrading distribution circuit switching options would increase reliability in power Lake Cowichan and allow for Increasing conductor size for heavier load currents. This project included the reconductor along Sahtlam Avenue and the addition of a tie auto switch between two circuits (LCW 25F61 and LCW 25F62) to increase reliability. This should create a loop which offers multiple points of redundancy. All in all, it was a sizeable project that should increase the life and performance of the transmission lines for the next 20 or 30 years.

Our community accepted the inconvenience of a power outage extremely well and it certainly helped that some of our businesses turned an inconvenient situation into a positive one by planning for the shutdown through providing temporary power and assuring that our public's needs could still be fulfilled.

Thank you to our businesses who continued to provide great service, thank you BC Hydro for investing in our community's future with the upgrades, and thank you to everyone for accepting, and in a lot of cases, enjoying the challenge of no power on a beautiful Sunday.

Sunfest will soon be upon us. With the opening of Laketown Ranch we will have a huge opportunity to showcase our community to thousands of visitors. The best way to attract those visitors back is to provide them with a memorable experience so that when they leave here, you want them to have experienced something new. New experiences are what tourists remember and return for. Laketown Ranch is a 172 acre state-of-the-art multi use entertainment complex that is the first of its kind in Canada which is expected to provide our visitors an experience that no place else is capable of and to which they will return. It is our time now to gain recognition for the beautiful place we live in. All we have to do is happily share it with many other fun-searching people looking to enjoy festival weekends.

Simply enjoy your time, help others enjoy theirs, then success and opportunities will come knocking. Tourism events bring huge economic benefits to hosting communities and now we shall see those rewards. Please think positively and act as the good hosts we should be.

To all our visitors and residents, here's wishing you a safe and memorable summer.

Ross Forrest, Mayor