



# **Mayor's Report**     *June, 2018*



For a change of pace this report follows a different format and includes a synopsis of items that were scheduled during the last month. This excludes impromptu meetings, emails or phone activities. I enjoyed a full schedule of "must attend" events and with an election coming soon I thought that the potential candidates should understand the commitment members of councils are expected to fulfill.

The following is the Schedule of events that have transpired since May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018:

May 22

We had our Regular Council Meeting.  
Minutes are available on Town website.

May 23

A citizen, Michele March, met with me to explain her vision and plans for a Lake Cowichan Area Community Land Foundation and Lake Cowichan Area Community Land Trust. She also provided the Lake Cowichan Area -Housing Needs Survey she had compiled.

May 24

This evening, CVRD elected officials and staff hosted a meeting in the curling lounge by the arena on the topic of Affordable Housing and the possibility of establishing a service function to address regional concerns regarding this issue.

May 26

On Saturday morning, along with representatives from other Cowichan Valley local governments we answered queries from those wanting to know more about local governments and their responsibilities at a booth at the Duncan Farmer's Market.

May 28

This evening a Bi-Annual public engagement meeting was held at the Centennial Hall. We were very encouraged by the terrific turnout for the public meeting.

James van Hemert the Town's contract planner spoke on the importance of public engagement with regards to the Advisory Planning Commission project currently being undertaken on the update of the Official Community Plan which is headlined "Creating Our Future". Public input is paramount in providing the Advisory Planning Commission and the three respective committees as they work on this project with the necessary ideas to help shape the Town's future. (An open house was hosted by the Advisory Planning Commission the Saturday following to gather more public input on this planning initiative.) At the public meeting, members of the public were afforded the opportunity to ask questions to myself or councilors. This exercise was valuable for Council to gain a better understanding of some of the concerns our citizens have pertaining to Council decisions and the Town's operations.

David Sterling facilitated a portion of the meeting that was dedicated to the legalization of cannabis and was specifically intended to hear the public's view on legalization affecting cannabis and the regulations surrounding this drug.

Many who spoke up expressed their thoughts on how the legalization of this product could impact our community.

May 30

I was on an all-day flight to Halifax along with Councillor McGonigle for 2018 Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference.

May 31 FCM

Took part in a Study tour on Rural Resourcefulness: How community partnerships are supporting dynamic rural centers;

I attended a reception in the evening hosted by Mayor of Halifax, Halifax Mike Savage.

June 1

Opening Ceremonies of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities were officiated by MC Catherine Clarke. There were 3,545 attendees of which 2,128 were delegates. This is the largest gathering of Canadian municipal governments.

The Keynote Speaker was Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Took part in a Study Tour of:

4 Pad Arena at Dartmouth; cost \$42 million to build; and  
Build it once, build it right, build it to last so goes the dictum.

Andrew Sheer Leader Conservative Party of Canada was also a Speaker at the conference.

#### Rural Forum: Shaping Canada

Minister Sohi of Infrastructure and Communities indicated the availability of: \$2 billion fund only for rural and northern communities.

Federal funding for communities under 5,000 will be 60% with Province paying a 1/3;

The top 3 Infrastructure projects in the Federal mandate are:

- \* More internet broadband;
- \* RCMP funding; and
- \* Sustain diversity-potential for tourism.

The challenge with so many seniors moving to rural areas is the need for more young people to sustain small communities

June 2

Rural Plenary session dealt with:

Evidence-based decision-making for rural Canada;

Friendship accords with First Nations;

We are all treaty people;

The more rural you are the more costly energy becomes; and

Raising capacity through partnerships

Speaker for the NDP was its Leader Jagmeet Singh where he stressed that:

Municipalities with the least capacity for funds are tasked with the biggest obligations;

We have far more in common than we have differences;

The economy is working but not for everyone - 51% surveyed say they're about \$200 from the brink of financial hardship;

We need accessibility to our infrastructure funding for roads, hydro, water services;

Climate change isn't just an issue of tomorrow, it's happening now; and

Internet is no longer a luxury but a fundamental necessity nowadays.

Plenary Session on Optimizing the Opportunity before Citizen Engagement put yourself in the seat of the citizen you want to engage with;

Most common concerns/ communication, energy and transportation that would Integrate all members into community; real engagement is when all citizens really care in what's happening in city; where does engagement belong? What Committee? Who provides? What is the level of engagement?

Open houses, can't stop doing them no matter the turnout;

Who does communication for the Town? Example, engineers are engineers, who are not necessarily skilled at communication;

Have your biggest complainers on Committees so you can truly inform them. All communities have these chronic complainers.

\* Don't engage your citizens on issues where the decision cannot be made by Council.

June 3 FCM

Forum on "Getting ready for legalized cannabis".

Whether we like it or not cannabis is becoming legal this year. It will require proactive response from Towns. In cities as many as 17 different departments could be affected.

Concerns about consumption affecting workers' job performance.

Working with other Municipalities to control - Is your municipality planning your workforce's drug and alcohol policy taking into account cannabis?

Is your municipality planning on putting in further regulations than what the provincial governments are?

Audience poll was 100% yes.

Can you give a sense of what cannabis legalization will cost your municipality?

Will cannabis be allowed at corporate parties like Xmas party? (alcohol is)

The Province has set where you can consume, if you don't like it the first person you should contact is your MLA.

#### Annual General Meeting

1,800 member communities attended out of 2,010 FCM members. The FCM webpage has conference reports and Federal leaders' speeches.

Talents must be shared

What do you expect from your Mayor? Question to ask at election time.

Speaker Green Party Leader Elizabeth May

Social cohesion, working together was the theme of her speech.

#### Study Tour Fire Service and Explosion

1996 Amalgamated into 36 fire departments into 1 with 51 HRM stations; 4 fireman on duty at all but 2 stations; Amalgamation went from 600 Professional firefighters to 400; less equipment in each station; Only billing is for false alarms.

Plenary Canada 2040

Our communities are hungry for change;

Let's make our communities welcoming and inviting;

Autonomous vehicles are coming soon;

Millennials choose not to get their drivers license;

Ride hailing is all about new ways for people to get around;  
Governments can move quickly if they have good policies in place; and  
Ride hailing companies in the world is an 11 billion dollar industry, none in Canada yet.

Convention reports and speeches from the four Federal Part Leaders can be found on the FCM website.

June 4

Tour of Citadel and flew back home.

June 5

Committee Meetings were held in the evening for:

Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee;

Public Works and Services Committee; and

Ohtaki Twinning Committee.

Minutes available on the Town website

June 6

Cowichan Lake Elder Care Initiative (CLECI) Meeting was held that evening.

June 7

LCS Awards Night

Over \$70,000 in Scholarships and Bursaries were presented to the 2018 Graduates;

7 Students awarded School District Scholarships of \$1,250;

Gillian Longbottom was awarded the Vancouver Island University

President's Entrance Scholarship of \$23,000;

Gillian Longbottom and Mariah Smith were the recipients of the Towns two \$500 scholarships

Congratulations to all of the scholarship recipients of the communities great generosity.

June 8

Lady of Lake Ball

It was a wonderful evening with all nine candidates delivering great speeches.

June 9

Lake Days Parade

Town Steak Dinner-Thank you to Pat Weaver and the many volunteers for all your work. Congratulations to newly crowned Lady of the Lake Keely MacDonald, First Princess Olivia Skinner and Second Princess Amber Eddy. Also thank you Desiree Karlsen, Brooklyn Kruk and Randi Robertson for representing our community so well for the past year.

June 10

Centennial Park Naming Ceremony for the three fields was held that afternoon. It was a proud day indeed recognizing Dawn Coe-Jones, Dobie Somerville and the Apollo's Hockey Team. Thank you to everyone who came out for this special event.

June 11

The Cowichan Water Use Plan (wup) was unveiled at a meeting at Centennial Hall that evening. The 19 - member public advisory group has come to a consensus that the Weir should be raised to hold more water in reserve to feed the river during increasingly drier summers.

June 12

The following Committee Meetings were held during the evening:

Finance and Administration Committee Meeting; and

Economic and Sustainable Development Committee meeting.

Minutes are available on the Town website

June 13

Cowichan Attainable Housing Consultation at Community Hall occurred during the evening.

Thank you hosts Rosalie Sawrie and Michelle Staples for an enjoyable conversation.

June 14

Evening meeting with Chamber of Commerce President Brent Clancy. Thanks Brent for a positive meeting.

June 15

Central South Island Regional Advisory Meeting in Ladysmith

June 16

The Heritage Sports Wall Ceremony was held at the Cowichan Lake Sports Arena. Congratulations to Ken Calder and Tony Feltrin for their Induction into the Heritage Sports Wall of Fame.

The Mesachie Group's 40th Annual Ball Tournament and Auction for Muscular Dystrophy was held this day. Fittingly in its 40th year they raised \$40,781.99 during the remarkable auction event.

June 17

The Mesachie Ball Tournament came to a conclusion.

Well done Mesachie Group! Wow 40 years and over \$800,000 raised!

June 19

Town of Lake Cowichan Annual General Meeting was held at 5 p.m.  
A Public Hearing to deal with amendments to Zoning Bylaw 935-2013 so that input on the proposed amending bylaw 1005-2018, could be gathered, followed.  
Minutes are available on the Town website

June 21  
Youbou Community Meeting was held in the evening.

June 22  
Island Coastal Economic Trust Meeting was held in the morning at Courtenay, BC.

June 23  
2018 Graduation Ceremony  
Congratulations to the Class of 2018 and thank you for allowing me to participate in your ceremony. All the best to an amazing class. Live life to your potential.

June 24  
Cowichan Lake And River Stewardship Society held its Annual General Meeting but I was unable to attend.

June 25  
Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting was scheduled at 9.30 a.m. but I had to extend my regrets.

June 26  
Regular Council Meeting is scheduled.



Ross Forrest, Mayor