



Summer has arrived and with that comes the sudden influx of visitors to our beautiful Town and surrounding area. On behalf of Council, I would like to thank the staff from our public works and Lakeview park departments for all the work they have done in preparation for this season. I travel around a fair bit and compare how other communities look when it comes to tidiness and attention to detail. As residents, we should all be proud of how our town looks, as it is a reflection of how much we care about our community.

With the sudden rise in temperatures, we need to all be mindful of how to look after ourselves and keep an eye on our neighbours. The extreme temperatures are predicted to only last a few days. Here are some tips to help stay cool if you do not have access to a cool or air conditioned room:

- wearing a damp shawl or shirt
- sitting in a cool or tepid bath to draw heat from the body into the water
- taking a cool shower
- using a damp sheet at night
- putting an ice tray in front of a fan
- using a personal misting fan or spray bottle

There has been several bear encounters in recent weeks which have been feeding on improperly stored residential and commercial food waste. The Mayor and Council will be reviewing a sample bylaw at our next Committee of the Whole meeting. The sample bylaw contains stricter rules and fines when it comes to improper storage of household and commercial waste. Council will have an opportunity at that time to consider updating the current bylaw.

Our municipal office and Council Chambers are undergoing major renovation and staff has now been relocated to the old credit union building on King George Street while crews begin to tackle the major portion of the renovation of our existing municipal hall. We hope to see the project completed before the end of the year. The telephone numbers and hours of business will remain the same during this temporary relocation.

There will be no meetings in the month of August. The next meeting will be Committee of the Whole on Sept. 6 which will be held in person at the temporary location and as usual will be broadcast on the Town of Lake Cowichan YouTube channel. Please check the Town website for the full meeting schedule.

You may have heard that the Province is expanding the Speculation and Vacancy tax to include the Town of Lake Cowichan, Ladysmith, North Cowichan, Duncan and a handful of other communities outside the region. In a recent review, it was found that the tax has had an impact on the creation of affordable and long term rental units in places that have very low vacancy rates. Lake Cowichan is one of those places. If you want more info on how this tax works, visit the Government of BC website.

On August 8, I have been invited to have lunch and meet with our MLA Sonia Furstenu. This will be an opportunity to discuss issues and initiatives in the town and how the provincial government may be able to assist. It is always beneficial to have a good working relationships with senior elected officials no matter which party they are associated with.

Coming up in September, Mayor and Council will be attending the annual Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention, where we will be able to have conversations with provincial cabinet ministers to speak about issues and concerns regarding the Town. We will also be able to network with many fellow elected officials and learn from each other. There is also a full schedule of learning sessions where elected officials and staff can learn about possible solutions and best practices for local government. The most important part of this convention is where delegates from around the province have an opportunity to vote on resolutions that will have a positive impact for British Columbia communities. The resolutions that are endorsed are then forwarded to our provincial government for consideration as policy. This is your local governments chance to help form provincial policy.

For now, I wish everyone a safe and happy August and look forward to getting back down to business in September.

Be Kind, Be Calm and Stay Cool!

Mayor Bob K. Day
Town of Lake Cowichan
Call / Text 250.710.0742

“Building Community Together”