

## MAYOR'S REPORT - SEPTEMBER, 2022



September once again has signified the end of another busy summer tourism season. We can now transition back to our regular fall and winter routines while our children get back to school and all the various activities offered throughout the community. We have been blessed with some very nice weather this month which has made it very pleasant to enjoy outdoor activities a little longer.

From September 12-16 of this year, your Mayor and Council attended the annual Union of BC Municipalities conference in Whistler, BC. This is where elected officials from around the province gather to network, learn and consider and vote on policy resolutions that will then be forwarded to the provincial government for consideration. Our days normally began at 7:00am and would end around 4:30pm followed by several networking events in the early evenings. The Town of Lake Cowichan was once again well represented at this conference where we worked together and separately to take in as much good information as possible to bring back and apply to the work we do as elected officials.

During the conference, myself and members of council had the opportunity to meet with two provincial ministers as well as the executive of Island Health. Our topics were as follows:

**Minister of Municipal Affairs** - We spoke to Minister Cullen on the need for upgrades to our wastewater treatment plant and asked that consideration be given to our grant application that would fund the project. The minister gave us some good advice to use as we continue to lobby for funding for this important infrastructure project.

**Minister of Forests** - We made the case with Minister Conroy for a stabilized tabular rate structure for community forest cooperatives around the province. The minister was receptive to this idea. Thank you to Councillor McGonigle for his experience as Vice Chair of our forest cooperative as he was able to articulate the importance of this issue to the minister.

**Island Health Executives** - We outlined the current level of healthcare services in our community and then made them aware of some of the gaps in our local healthcare. The service gaps discussed were identified by local service providers before our meeting. A good discussion occurred on ways to build collaborative solutions together with island health that will support our community health care needs.

This Friday, Sept. 30, a delegation from our sister city of Ohtaki, Japan will be arriving for a visit and be leaving Monday, Oct. 3. The delegation consists of 5 adults and 6 students. Your Mayor and Council are teaming up to tour them around the Town and surrounding area. The delegation will be out and about through the community so please take the time when possible to smile and help them feel welcome.

In closing, I would just like to acknowledge that this coming Friday, September 30th is National Truth and Reconciliation Day all across Canada. I would like to encourage the people of Lake Cowichan to reflect on the events that led to the creation of this day. Whether it be reading about the past or wearing an orange shirt as a symbol, please acknowledge the effects of the past on our First Nations friends and neighbours and think of how we can continue to move forward together in a much better way.

Thank You!

Mayor Bob K. Day

Town of Lake Cowichan

Call / Text 250.710.0742

**“Building Community Together”**