



Town of Lake Cowichan Mayors Report - November 24, 2020

On November 10th, I was sworn in as the Mayor of The Town of Lake Cowichan. As acting Mayor, I met with each Council member to gauge their thoughts on key issues moving forward so the transition would move as smooth as possible.

The Highlights of this months committee meetings are as follows.

-Council was presented a project schedule for the anticipated renovation of the Municipal offices and Council Chambers. I am happy to report that the project is on schedule with Novembers task of the completion of schematic drawings. The next phase is the completion of the design drawings to be completed by year end with final completion and occupancy in Jan. 2022.

-Council was also happy to hear that the Town has been Granted 1,158,000 million dollars from the Provincial Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing under the COVID 19 safe restart grants for local governments.

-Council discussed the creation of a Strategic Planning Committee of Council that will meet on the first Tuesday of each month to regularly check in on the Towns Strategic plan which Council has also agreed to put aside a day or two in the near future to discuss any amendments which may have to take place due to changing priorities.

Outside of Council, I am happy to report that I have reached out to our local Ts'uubaa-asatx First Nation and they are eager to get together and renew our protocol agreement as soon as possible.

in other news Cowichan Tribes was awarded 24.2 million dollars to support the Cowichan Watershed Resiliency program from the Federal Ministry of Infrastructure and Communities. This funding will be used to address the issues around severe drought and flooding in the Cowichan Watershed.

This past week I participated in a zoom meeting with the Cowichan Leadership Group. The discussion this month was the presentation of the concept plan for the new High School in Duncan to be located in Cowichan place which is the property where the Aquatic Centre, the Arena and VIU are located. This presentation was followed by a round table check in from all members. I spoke briefly about our derelict school issue asking what our Council could do to support the school districts funding requests to demolish the 2 derelict school buildings owned by the district.

In closing, we can not close this meeting without a serious reminder that we are in the midst of a worldwide pandemic which has now established itself within Island Health with substantial increases of infection rates daily. It is my personal opinion that everyone needs to follow the provincial heath guidelines to their fullest and I would even ask everyone to also go beyond that whenever possible. To not only protect themselves but everyone around them and the entire community as well. It is not entirely a mystery how this virus spreads and we need to acknowledge what we know, to help us slow the spread while we await a vaccine. Finally, I quote - "Be kind, be calm, be safe."

Mayor Bob K. Day
Town of Lake Cowichan

