

## MAYOR'S REPORT - DECEMBER, 2021



Here we are, nearing the end of another year.

Given all the events of the past 12 months, I would have to agree with what they say, "The only thing we can be certain of, is that we are all another year older."

As I reflect back on this year, the first thing that comes to mind are those who are no longer with us. I would like to send out my warmest holiday wishes to those who have lost loved ones and will spend their first Christmas without those people. Peace be with you.

The next thought I have is how fortunate the Town of Lake Cowichan and the surrounding area have been, not to have suffered the terrible disasters other communities around the province have suffered due to fires or flooding. All of us need to be thankful that we did not have to endure the hardships caused by those events and at the same time not become complacent, thinking that these types of things won't happen in our area.

Next, I think about how the Town of Lake Cowichan, which despite the COVID-19 pandemic, remains a thriving community experiencing growth and renewal that we have not seen for decades. This would be a testament to the many good decisions made by local government in the past and present as well as the willingness of the community to invest in itself. This is also a testament to all the professional staff that manage our property tax dollars responsibly so that Mayor and Council are able to authorize the projects necessary to maintain and enhance our community. This is not a simple mandate, but instead, one that takes much planning ahead to achieve our objectives.

There is also a group of people who keep our Sewer and water systems running safely as well as maintain our roadways and sidewalks as well as possible within tight budget constraints. To everyone mentioned above and all the valuable support staff in each department, thank you for all that you do to serve the public.

To members of Council I must say thank you for all your work and support over the past year. The work we do can be challenging, but that's what we sign up for when we put our names forward as community leaders. That being said, there is nothing more satisfying knowing inside that the decisions we make and the work of staff, collectively make our community a better place to live on an ongoing basis. The smallest projects can add significant value to the day-to-day lives of residents of the Town of Lake Cowichan.

I would like to thank the members of the Advisory Planning Commission and all the volunteer organizations in our community for all the time and effort put forward over the past year that make our Town so unique and special. Finally, I would like to wish the entire community all the best of the holiday season and a happy, healthy new year.

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**"Building Community Together"**