



TOWN OF LAKE COWICHAN

Economic and Sustainable Development Committee
Tuesday, July 11th, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. – Council Chambers

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Page #

INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS (if applicable)

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

3. **BUSINESS ARISING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

(a) **Recent Items:**

- (i) Sustainable Waste and Composting – Next Steps.
- (ii) Alternate Boat Launch and Boat Trailer Parking.

(b) **Ongoing Items Still Being Addressed:**

- (i) Possible expansion of Saywell Floating Dock.
- (ii) Business Walkabout.
- (iii) Campground Development.

4. **DELEGATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS**

- (a) Cindy Lise, CVRD, re: Opioid Crisis.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

6. **STAFF REPORTS**

None.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

- (a) Doug Griffiths, re: The Changing Part of Change.

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8. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

9. **PUBLIC RELATIONS ITEMS**

10. **MEDIA/PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

11. **IN-CAMERA**

- (a) Section 92 of the *Community Charter* requires that before a meeting or part of a meeting is closed to the public, the council must state, by resolution, that the meeting is to be closed, and
- (b) The basis on which the meeting is to be closed falls under the following:
 - s.90 (1) (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;
 - and (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

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The CHANGING PACE of **CHANGE**

Adapting to what was ... and what will be



We all know Canada is the most wonderful place on Earth. We have a rich history, beautiful landscape, and prosperity and security. We are the envy of the world, and the most desired place for those seeking refuge and hope for a prosperous future. We have faced many challenges and have risen to overcome each. Throughout our 150-year history a lot has changed, and yet the pace of change will grow faster with each new year. The change that is coming will impact communities profoundly and may in fact change our very notion of what a community is. It is important to be prepared for what is coming.

A Changing Society

First, however, think for a moment about what life was like in your com-

munity 100 years ago. You were lucky if you had a horse that could take you into town. Your kids walked to school. Your politics were based on how long it took the news of the community, and the local politicians, to travel to see you. Your economy was centred on the nearest town because that is where you bought supplies and sold your goods. Then, the world began to change.

We built wide roads and long driveways for our cars. We took the porches off the front of our homes and replaced them with three-car garages. Our back alleys, where the garbage was taken to rest under ugly power poles, were replaced with recreational backyards. We went from finally having a bathroom inside the house, to having many, with multiple sinks

in each. We went from "party line" phones, to multiple phone lines in one house, to many new homes having no phone hook ups at all because of the prevalence of cellphones.

Shopping in town was replaced with shopping in the city, which has now been replaced with shopping online. Communities of the future need to focus on downtown being the social core of the community, not just as a location for businesses and storefronts. Frankly, that has always been the case for successful communities. That is why the whole family always wanted

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to “go to town,” even when they didn’t have business to attend to. It was always about socialization. Now, however, you need new reasons for them to come downtown to socialize. Too many communities are still implementing 20-year old strategies that recommended building a downtown core focused on retail operations – but, that is the past.

Education is changing dramatically too. I was an elementary student when computers first entered our school. However, 10 years later, I still had to do my senior high math class via correspondence. Several years later, as a teacher, I couldn’t possibly see how computers could ever replace a teacher in the classroom. Now, I see it won’t be teachers that become absent from the education system, but the school building. My eight-year-old goes on YouTube to get help with math lessons when I am not around to help. He taught me that, too, and I used the same technique through my MBA. We all rail about how important having a physical school is to our communities and neighbourhoods; but, I wonder if my son, or his son, will feel the same when they are already so used to learning online. Will the building matter to a community’s future, in the future?

Healthcare may be the next big change. As communities, we provide incentives to attract doctors to our communities; and then, as patients, we wait for days or weeks to get an appointment to see them. The online

world may soon change that system. New affordable, high-tech diagnostic tools are coming that will simply plug into your computer’s USB port and can be used remotely. How long will it be before your appointment and your diagnosis are done online with affordable tools and technology by doctors available in other provinces or countries? Our payment schedule is the biggest hindrance to that evolution; but, imagine how competition and technology could effectively ensure you get affordable and quality care when you really need it. The future isn’t as far away as you think it is.

Autonomous Future

A lot of folks think we are decades away from having autonomous vehicles dominate our highways. However, the average of estimates predicts a 35 percent uptake in autonomous vehicles within 10 years, and 85 percent within 15 years. As much as we struggle with technology as individuals, collectively, society gobbles up every new gadget and integrates it into our daily lives quickly. Autonomous vehicles are being tested by almost every major vehicle manufacturer. Autonomous vehicles are already delivering semi-truck loads of beer, hauling rock and ore in mining operations, cultivating and seeding thousands of acres of land, as well as taking people to visit their grandma. They are here to stay.

Autonomous vehicles will likely cause more changes to our com-

munities in the next 15 years than every other piece of technology has in the last 150. Imagine a city full of autonomous vehicles. The biggest risk to public safety would be human drivers who aren’t tied into the system. People may not be allowed to drive in that system – to prevent the human element of chaos disrupting the order. An entire network of vehicles all talking to each other would be exceptionally safe. The first things to go, without humans driving, would be stop signs, merge signs, and traffic lights.

Imagine how many fewer vehicles you would need on the road and how many fewer parking spots you would need – if you need any parking spots at all in a city entirely made up of autonomous vehicles. With so many fewer vehicles, we would no longer need the wide multi-lane roads we are currently building. But, that isn’t even the beginning. Imagine autonomous electric cars that run on highly-efficient batteries that are charged entirely by those new clear solar panels invented at Michigan State University in 2015. A driverless car, requiring no refueling, with virtually no maintenance, always on the road – wow.

In a few short years, you could be using an app on your phone that calls up that car. An algorithm in the network would help it determine where it should be, so it is never too far away and doesn’t leave you waiting long. As well, the vehicle would have very low operating costs.

CHANGE, cont’d on p. 40

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CHANGE, cont'd from p. 22

Imagine how cheap and quick it would be to take one of these from one end of the city to other — and you get door-to-door service no less. What does that mean for public transportation? The chatter is often that autonomous vehicles will destroy the automobile industry, but it may have much more impact on the transportation industry.

Why would you buy a ticket for the subway when you can take one of these new autonomous vehicles already appearing on our roads, door-to-door for the same price? Could you imagine the embarrassment felt by municipal leaders who spent billions on a subway that takes year to construct only to have no one show up at the ribbon cutting or to ride it from the first day on? That doesn't mean we shouldn't build subways; but, are we even considering the changes coming that could cause such an investment to be a waste?

Will three-car garages be necessary in a world where autonomous vehicles are so prevalent and affordable? The costs of owning a vehicle averages about \$10,000 per year, for something that is parked 95 percent of the time, on average. Is that investment worth it? I talk to the generation after me and they seem to have very little interest in owning a vehicle. I know vehicles are still a status symbol for many of us, but so too was wearing wing-tip shoes, or a bowler hat. Symbols change, and status symbols do, too.

Accelerated Change into the Future

The world has changed dramatically over the last 150 years, and it has impacted how we design communities and how we live in them. You need to realize as community leaders, the world is going to keep changing, and that change will only come faster from here on. You also need to consider the challenges and the opportunities those changes will create for your communities and the families that live in them.

Failure to do so may not only mean your community *lives* in the past, but may also *become* the past. **MW**