



Mayor's Report

December, 2017



As this year comes to an end, we are pleased to report on the Town's remarkable progress and the steady and manageable growth that can be associated with it. We have witnessed many new investments in our community from both the public and private sectors recently and this bodes well for our future.

In some aspects, 2017 has been a year like no other for the Town of Lake Cowichan. The capability to proceed with an unprecedented amount of capital projects just seems to reflect our capacity for aligning critical important improvements in an organized manner. These improvements will enhance and secure the needs of our community well into the future. Partnerships are crucial for communities with limited tax bases and we have been extremely fortunate that the senior levels of governments have recognized our growth potential and the attendant infrastructure needs that go with that growth. With the assistance of our Federal and Provincial Governments we have had the ability to undertake many projects and continue, at the same time, to update deficiencies in our aging infrastructure.

Here is a brief synopsis of some of some of the projects we undertook in 2017:

The largest project and the one that certainly will affect and benefit all of us is the six -plus million dollar water treatment plant now being constructed on Indian Road, next to our water reservoir. Under the Gas Tax Strategic Priorities Fund program, the Town received a grant for \$5 million towards this state of the art water treatment plant. It is imperative that our water quality be of the highest stringent standards. This new treatment plant should help alleviate the turbidity issues that have required frequent boil water advisories of recent years.

New water mains were completed on Wilson Road and, Park Road and a new water main is being installed on Greendale Road and all of these with grant funding from the Clean Water and Waste Water Fund.

We issued tenders for proposals to relocate the water mains that cross the Cowichan River at the Duck Pond and at Greendale Trestle. The tenders came in over budget and we have asked for an extension on the deadline from the funding program before we complete this phase. We speculate that the late time of the year and the construction industry being robust as it is contributed to the tenders coming in too expensive for us to accept. It is imperative that costs for these projects reflect the value and scope of the respective works and we'll have to wait until these fit our budget estimates before we proceed with the two river crossing water main projects.

Phase one of Centennial Park is complete and the two ball fields and soccer pitch will be ready for use in 2018. This project sat on the shelf for years while we sourced out funding opportunities and we are pleased to advise that once the fencing is completed, these fields will be available for use prior to the next baseball season. A \$500,000 grant for these much needed new playing fields was provided by the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Programme and was the stimulant we required to move forward with the Centennial Park improvements.

We are truly blessed with the outstanding individuals who sit on all of the different committees and who lend their valuable expertise to the Town. We are a much better place because of your contributions to the community. The staff and employees of the Town do an amazing job on the day-to- day operations of the municipality. Thank you all from Council as our successes would not be attainable without all of you.

Wishing a joyous holiday season and a very happy New Year to everyone.

Ross Forrest, Mayor