



Mayor's Report

July, 2018



The BC Summer Games was a great event for all of the Cowichan Valley to be proud of. The multitude of volunteers who helped bring this huge undertaking off to near perfection also deserve our heartfelt appreciation for making the entire Province feel so welcome. All of us who live in the Cowichan Valley have the daily advantage and privilege of enjoying our beautiful location and we certainly took the opportunity during the Games to share our knowledge and pride of the "warm land" we call home.

Jennifer Woike, Mona Kaiser, along with their team of directors and incredible leaders made these games a tremendous success. I applaud every individual who helped in any possible way with their hours of dedication to ensure all the immense person-hours required of the event were fulfilled. Big and small contributions were all collectively important. Feeding over three thousand people over four days and having to organize transportation needs for nearly twenty hours a day are two enormous tasks that come to mind. Athletes were housed at schools throughout the valley, including at Lake Cowichan School. Our volunteers, looking after over three hundred athletes for three days and nights, did a tremendous job. Each and every volunteer was fantastic and is most deserving of our recognition and immense thanks.

The Flat Water Canoe and Kayak competitions at Lakeview Park certainly showcased our lake and community to our provincial visitors. Lakeview was one of the many venues of the games spread throughout the entire Cowichan Valley. Well done Cowichan BC Summer Games Team for the value you added to our community. While none of our individual municipalities or regional areas have the capacity to pull off such a large undertaking, it was very rewarding that with tremendous leadership and regional collaboration, all goals and expectations were met and even exceeded. The 2018 BC Summer Games proved that the Cowichan Valley is capable of meeting any challenge with the collaborative efforts of all our regional areas working together for one common goal.

Cathy Robertson of Community Futures, Amy Melmock of Economic Development Cowichan, along with Bev North and Paul Jordan from the Chamber of Commerce, Councillors Carlyne Austin, Bob Day and I did a business walk about here in our business district. We endeavored to reach out to our local businesses to learn more about the important role they play for our community. Each of them received a survey to be filled out with the possibility of winning one of three donated prizes of a \$50 value. We split into three designated teams and covered different areas of the community and all of us reported very positive feedback from the dialogue that occurred with the respective businesses. Engaging our business owners and managers turned out to be a very worthwhile exercise and we look forward to seeing the results of the survey.

There was a good turnout at Ts'uubaa-aastx Town-Square for the Canada Day Celebration. Councillor Carlyne Austin along with the Cowichan Lake Art and Culture Society organized a fabulous event for the community to help celebrate our country's 151st birthday. Thank you to everyone who participated and who made this such a successful event.

A wonderful announcement was made on July 6, 2018 by Premier John Horgan and Health Minister Adrian Dix where the BC Government has now given the green light to proceed with the new Cowichan District Hospital. With the newly approved concept plan they will now proceed to the business planning phase. Many different organizations have been working towards the goal of a new hospital for years and there is a very realistic opportunity for these dreams becoming realized by 2024.

We offer our best wishes and many thanks to Nagi Rizk, Superintendent, Public Works and Engineering Services, as he is leaving his employment with us to take a new job in Powell River. Nagi implemented a standard for our town of not only meeting our infrastructure requirements but absolutely exceeding those requirements by implementing infrastructure upgrades within our system. When Nagi was hired fourteen years ago to oversee our Public Works department he became our first Professional Engineer on staff and he has been responsible for improving our standards to a much higher level ever since.

Nagi along with his wife Nancy and daughter Merryam were totally invested in our community and they will be missed as they return to their former hometown. We will certainly miss you.

Our traffic volumes increase immensely during summer months so please be a little more patient and tolerant to help ensure everyone's safety.

Ross Forrest, Mayor