



Memo

To: Chief Administrative Officer
Date: January 15, 2021
From: Dalton Smith, Lakeview Park Manager
Subject: Lakeview Park

As with most tourist destinations during the current COVID-19 pandemic, accepting reservations for the campsite have been put on hold until March 1, 2021 (unlike the previous year) to avoid unnecessary financial transactions to refund fees if camping was not permitted for the 2021 season.

However, our management team felt strongly that it was important to follow through with hiring our local youth and security for a truncated season because we believed that we could deliver a service with health and safety protocols in place according to the best practices' guidelines developed by the Town of Lake Cowichan.

The end result was the hiring of summer students and indeed having a very successful financial year in 2020 after not expecting to generate any funds from the campsite.

I believe that the important message here is that the Town controls a very important community resource that provides employment and is a community economic generator that plays a vital role in the welfare of the community. As well, the public beach access is so very important for locals to enjoy as this is evidenced by the number of people who spend time there on a regular basis.

I hope and expect that we will be able to duplicate the same revenue numbers for 2021 and will provide information and plans for reopening as the season gets closer.

The floating walkway as I have reported since the big flood last year suffered damage to the connecting dock that exited to the forest loop walkway and was recently removed during higher water that the contractor was waiting for to do the work safely.

Last spring, we had budgeted for and carried out repairs to the floating walkway with Centre and park on-call workers and in fact have further plans to do more work this spring. That said, the walkway is indeed very important to our community, is 19 years old and will need a complete makeover within a few years. I would recommend that a discussion takes place with Mayor and Council to formalize a plan. I believe that a strategic plan for rebuilding the walkway is to begin a process that includes researching government grants and or Job Creation projects that has a target start-up date that begins when COVID-19 is under control.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dalton Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Dalton Smith