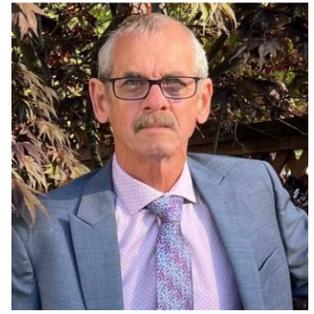




MAYOR'S REPORT

September, 2023
3rd Quarterly



As we resume our work after a much-needed pause during August to recharge, I would like to start by extending our condolences and thoughts to the family and colleagues of the RCMP officer who paid the ultimate price in the line of duty while ensuring the protection of the community.

We have transitioned from the temporary location of the Town Office, back into the renovated Town Hall at 39 South Shore Road. Once we are settled, and all unpacked, we are planning to have an open house to allow you to tour the first standalone facility to house the municipal hall of the Town. In every instance in the past, the operations were in a shared facility.

The Our Health, Our Community survey is an important tool to shape the needs and identify the deficiencies within our area, and I encourage you to take a few minutes to review and fill out the Survey. The deadline for submission is October 3rd, 2023 and the link is <http://www.ourhealthourcommunity.ca/>

This has been an extremely hard year for the supply of water, that affected not only our area, but also the surrounding communities. Many wells have dried up as the water table reaches historical lows. Pumps had to sustain 4.5 cubic meters per second flow into the Cowichan River. This is impacting fish habitat, shoreline vegetation, cultural needs and effluent dilution. Many entities continue to lobby for the necessary resources to complete the improvements to allow for more storage of water.

Our recent attendance at UBCM showcased the needs of all communities, large and small, and the impact of downloading by Senior levels of government onto Municipal and Regional Governments to provide for services that should be their responsibility, with no source of sustainable, reliable funding. We continue to lobby for an equitable funding formula for all to prosper.

Finally, a huge thank you to the many volunteers in various organizations throughout our area, who continually step up to help in whatever is necessary. Without a strong volunteer foundation, many events, and activities would not be possible. Once again, thanks for your tireless dedication.

Tim McGonigle
Mayor
Lake Cowichan



Photo Courtesy of M. Bamfield