



Mayor's Report

August, 2018



August 16, 2018 was an exciting day for myself, Council, and many of our citizens as the first two Columbarium units were delivered and installed at the River's Edge Memorial Garden. The process for arriving at this stage took time, first at identifying a suitable location, then purchasing the property, amending the zoning bylaw, and meeting many legal requirements which included passage of the appropriate bylaw dealing with columbaria and obtaining provincial approvals to arrive at what once seemed a long ways away to now close to completion. Just a little more tweaking to the existing "Town of Lake Cowichan Cemetery and Columbarium Bylaw 991-2017" and the Municipal office will begin receiving payments for interment niches. Thank you to our Advisory Planning Commission, staff, and the many people who have brought this project and great community amenity to fruition.

For the second year in a row our Lake Cowichan Fire Department is supplying a truck (Tender#2) and two firefighters doing one week shifts to help battle wild fires that are plaguing our province. The first assignment had 1st Lieutenant Steve Vatcher and Firefighter Ray Bourassa driving the truck to Fort St. James to provide support. Steve and Ray completed their one week shift and have been replaced by 3rd Lt. Monroe Grobe and Firefighter Tyson Smith. So far the Lake Cowichan crew has been working in the Fraser Lake and Fort St. James area. Our deepest appreciation to all of the firefighters who are not only protecting us locally every day, but are also lending assistance and support to our provincial neighbors, as well.

The Cowichan Lake River Stewardship Society did a superb job once again with the Annual River Clean-up. The event was well organized and attracted 125 volunteers who participated in the clean-up and bottle drive. It gives me great optimism when I see so many people donate their time to help protect this valued asset in our community. People are definitely demonstrating more respect for the river as less garbage is picked out every year. The general conversation amongst the people using the river for tubing or swimming was of gratitude towards the volunteers. Thank you to the CLRSS and all the volunteers for your awesome stewardship of our precious waterway.

The Vancouver Pickle Ball Championships hosted in Lake Cowichan was a tremendous success. Tournament Chairman, Dennis Peters, and the team of volunteers from the Cowichan Lake Pickle Ball Club deserve to be recognized for the outstanding accomplishment achieved through their hard work and superb organizing. They had every detail planned out to counter obstacles that might have been placed in their way. Rain was certainly an unforeseen impediment during the first day of competitions. On more than one occasion the volunteers had to delay games, cover the courts with tarps, and blow off excess water with leaf blowers. When the rain became too much, they postponed the games to Sunday, which was Day Two of the championships, and this completed the schedule. Great games were played on the Sunday with optimal weather and competition was intense. The success of this event was a huge boost to our community and really spiked the enthusiasm for pickle ball amongst both players and spectators. Well done by the Pickle Ball Club whose membership continues to grow. It's very encouraging to see its membership exceed one hundred in such a short period of time.

A big shout out to Rachel Zalinko for organizing the August 11, 2018 Cowichan Lake Show N' Shine & Community BBQ. This event provided an opportunity to partner with the Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock team and help support kids battling cancer. Former cancer patient, ten year old Jaxson Zalinko, was Lake Cowichan's honorary mayor for the day and did a terrific job hosting the car rally and guests. Proud of you Jaxson.

In August of 2019 the Town will be celebrating its 75th birthday. August 19, 1944 was the date of incorporation and a committee has been formed to plan the celebration. Loretta Puckrin and Paul Jordan will Co-Chair the committee tasked with organizing this special event.

The delegation from our sister city of Ohtaki-Date City will be arriving on October 10, 2018 and will be staying until October 14, 2018. Preparations are well underway to host their delegation of 10 students and 7 adults. Most of the home stays are spoken for but there is a need for a few additional host homestays. Please contact Town office if you are interested in participating in this wonderful cultural experience.

Ross Forrest, Mayor