

**Summary of
Tourism Stakeholder Sessions
April 1 and April 8, 2021
Via Zoom for each day from 1:00pm-2:00pm**

Discussion Points

- Past and future challenges relating to tourism and the influx of visitors to the Cowichan Lake Area.
- Challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the various ministerial and Provincial Health Officers directives.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE- George Gates

- The Chamber will be putting their efforts into ensuring their member businesses are supported and informed on safe operations during the COVID -19 pandemic during the busiest part of the tourism season.

TS'UUBAA-ASATX - Aaron Hamilton

-The First Nation has decided to not open its tourism operation this season, at this time.

Lake Cowichan Fire Dept. - Doug Knott

-Concerns were raised that members were not vaccinated and that this was affecting routine practice sessions, responses to calls and membership recruitment.

RCMP- Staff Sargent Lita Watson

-As per usual the members would be re-prioritizing their focus to issues around alcohol in public spaces, illegal camping, parking at little beach. Boat patrols will be in place on the lake and physical presence of the detachment will be obvious at trouble spots.

-clear signage regarding alcohol consumption and parking problems would be helpful.

BC AMBULANCE - Mike Wright

-Changes in paramedic scheduling will not affect current service level in the area. Staffing of a second car is not possible. Dedicated helicopter landing pads would be an asset as requirement for helicopter services has increased.

Lakeview Campground - Dalton Smith

- Reservations opening soon. Operations will be similar to last years. Emphasis again will focus on washroom cleanliness and adherence to proper COVID -19 Safety Protocols.

Town Public Works -Jas Sandhu

-Washroom maintenance will be a priority. Weekend staffing will be in place to keep parks clean. This can sometimes be challenging due to collective agreement with labour force. Crowded parking areas was identified as an issue by some residents and some businesses.

CVRD - Director Ian Morrison

-Parking at Little Beach remains a concern and CVRD Bylaw is looking into temporary and longer-term solutions once ownership is gained by the regional district if the property rezoning is approved.

TOWN OF LAKE COWICHAN - Councillor Sandhu

- Concerns were raised about the amount and behaviour of some tubers on the River and in parks. Also, concerns were raised about increased camping capacity with the addition of camping facilities at LakeTown Ranch. Parking Congestion was also raised as a concern.

COWICHAN LAKE RECREATION - Linda Blatchford

- Expressed concerns about public washrooms not being open within the Town. Advised that the Rec. facility would be keeping doors locked to prevent public from unexpectedly arriving to use washrooms within the facility. This was to protect staff and maintain safety for current user groups using the facility.

ISLAND HEALTH - Shannon Waters

- Reported on the status of COVID-19 and the vaccination program. She stated that everything to do with the virus is in a fluid state until such time as all adults are vaccinated down to the age of 18, and the spread of the virus has slowed. The first round of vaccination is said to be hoped to be finished by some point in late June 2021, for the adult population.

Mayor Bob K. Day