# Municipal Update

***Friday, January 8, 2016***

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## From the Mayor's Desk

Happy New Year Lions Bay!

Thanks to Anka Vlad and Kim Taylor and the amazing Lions Bay Events Committee chaired by Kate Pratt for another authentic Lions Bay Sea Lion Dip 'N Dash. No one suffered hypothermia far as I know, and while bracing, it didn't feel as truly awful as last year, to me anyway. The fire, the hot choc, and the open hearted joy of Lions Bay is the reason we do it, of course.



***Defying death, Lions Bay style 1/1/16 (photo Maeya Jones)***

Peter DeJong, our new Village Manager (Chief Administrative Officer in municipal parlance) started on Monday, and has jumped in feet first, meeting with many of our Village's constituencies and stakeholders. He and I just got back from meeting our new MP, Pam G-J, where he brought up with all sorts of federal issues Lions Bay faces, including CN, navigable waterways, LNG. I brought up provincial intransigence on funding, Ministry slowness, and sang our praises. If you see an approachable, competent-looking guy hanging around the seat of power with his head spinning, that's Peter, so please say hello.

You may have seen this week's piece in the Sun on Lions Bay's property assessments rising more than 18 percent this year, the highest increase in the GVRD. Well, they did, with the province rising 10.8 percent overall. And Lions Bay's share of the total provincial assessments this year is 6.9 percent higher than last year.

"More taxes!," I hear the yells. Well, not necessarily. Back in old Lions Bay, our revenue comes from grants, loans, reserves, fees and...property taxation. The revenue we need is set in the annual budget, and property taxation historically funds about half. Our individual contributions to the property taxation part are determined by our relative property values. Properties with higher assessments pay for more of the pie than properties with lower assessments. And if a given property's value increases more than the average property value increase in a given year, it pays a bigger share of the pie than it did before. Since Council is only now beginning setting the 2016 budget, the size of the pie needed to run the municipality is not yet known. Sneak preview? Both the Infrastructure Master Plan and staff's preliminary budget recommendation will be presented to Council on January 19, and then we'll all start getting a sense of how much money we're going to need to run Lions Bay for 2016.

As you might suspect, that's not the full story. Beyond Lions Bay municipal taxes (which also include a flat parcel tax to pay for water and sewer investments), our properties are taxed at a provincial or regional rate, mostly based on value, for provincial and regional levies for schools, police, Translink, regional district and BCAA (no hospital tax in the GVRD for high political reasons). Last year these non-Lions Bay taxes were 47 percent of the property tax we paid. This year, since our property values went up 6.9% more than the provincial average, it's fair to say that we will pay about 6.9% more of the provincial pie than we did last year (some of the smaller amounts are not based on assessment). But again, we still don't know what the province wants from us, so we can't yet say if that pie is bigger, smaller, or just sitting there. At the end of the day, rising property values are a good thing-it's why we invest in property--and tax on those properties depends on how different it is to the average.

You may by now have seen Metro Vancouver's Mobile Air Monitoring Unit operating at the school parking lot. This state-of-the art unit, one of the perks of being part of Metro, is on site for 1-2 months continuously sampling Lions Bay's air quality under winter wood and oil heating conditions for NOx, CO2, PM2.5 particulates, VOCs and other substances dear to air quality people. Air quality is still taken for granted in BC, even here in our large urban conurbation, much like it probably was in Beijing before things got out of hand. We will for the first time be getting real data on our air quality, and understand whether we need to do something about it, and I'm hoping we'll get a sneak preview quite soon.

All the best,
Karl, mayor.buhr@lionsbay.ca

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## MAGNESIA CREEK WATER UPDATE

The Village's Public Works Department would like to give notice to residents that a considerable portion of works at Magnesia Creek funded by the New Build Canada Grant Funding has commenced, with significant works being undertaken over the next few weeks.

As part of this work, water supply to all homes in the Village will be supplied solely from the Harvey intake next week, as we will have to take the Magnesia water reservoir tank offline to complete the works, and homes along upper Sunset will experience decreased water pressure as a result of this switch. It is anticipated that Magnesia will be back online within 2 weeks of being taken offline. Water conservation signage will be placed to remind all residents that the Village's water supply is being supplied by a single intake during this period.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank residents for their patience and cooperation over the next few weeks as we make the Village's water system more robust.

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## CHRISTMAS TREE CHIPPING

Public Works will be accepting Christmas trees for chipping beginning December 29, 2015 until January 14, 2016. Please drop your tree off at the far end of the CN Rail parking lot (Lions Bay Avenue) during this time.

Please ensure that all ornaments have been removed before drop-off.

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## UPCOMING COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All meetings take place in Council Chambers unless otherwise noted. The Village Office is open until 6:30pm on *Regular Council Meeting* nights.

- Infrastructure Committee - February 8, 2016 - CANCELLED
- Bylaw & Policy Review Committee - February 18, 2016 - CANCELLED
- Infrastructure Committee - February 18, 2016 at 7:00pm

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## 2016 SMITHRITE SCHEDULE

The 2016 Smithrite garbage/recycling/organics schedule is now available. A copy can also be found on the Village website.

**2016 Schedule**

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## THE SENIORS SOCIAL CIRCLE

Happy New Year everyone!

So we begin this season with a new name (we will now be called the Seniors Social Circle), a new CAO (welcome Peter DeJong) and a renewed sense of hope. While life moves forward, some things remain the same. Tai Chi is being held every Tuesday at 11:15 am in the Hall with Josie.

During 2015, the Seniors Social Circle (+55 Club, Age Friendly) was supported by a grant through UBCM. This allowed for many of our activities to be free of charge. As we move forward into the New Year, our programs and activities will have a small surcharge to them in order to recoup costs which are no longer supported via this much appreciated grant.

Tai Chi will charge $5 per participant and can be paid at the door.

**WE WANT YOU...**
We are compiling a list of services that are available in the Village for our Seniors'. This could be anything from junk removal to legal services. If you would like to be listed in our brochure please send me your name and contact info and I will be happy to include you.

Also - please pass this info along to anyone who you think might benefit from joining our group. There are no fees, there are no age restrictions (other than being an adult), participation is not mandatory and you receive access to a network of like-minded people who are your neighbors and friends.

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See what's happening on our social sites:

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THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE VILLAGE OF LIONS BAY

Direct: 604-921-9333 | reception@lionsbay.ca | www.lionsbay.ca