VILLAGE UPDATE

Friday, April 8, 2016

From the Mayor's Desk

From Ron McLaughlin, Councillor with Finance Portfolio:

Dear Fellow Villagers:

Herewith a note on this year's budget. Starting in January, Council considered 2016 operational and capital budget requests from community groups, Lions Bay Fire & Rescue, Administration, Public Works and Council. Many staff and Council hours went into discussion and modeling of revenue and expenditure for 2016.

A public meeting before the end of April will introduce the 2016 - 2020 Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw, with adoption scheduled for Tuesday, May 10. Here are salient points:

Expenses: The days of yore are gone and the office, Public Works and Fire cannot be run part time, or with volunteers, or at below-market salaries. As with many Metro Vancouver municipalities our inside and outside staff are members of a union, CUPE. We have three exempt managers (Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Public Works Manager). The Fire Department is manned by volunteers, although permanent residents are participating less and less, and professional standards are required to be high.

The cost of water is high compared to other municipalities because of our custom delivery system and mountainous terrain. Likewise, the cost of delivering services to

the Village is high: we are small. If our population was say 25 percent higher, our costs would likely be the same.

Revenue: unlike all other Metro communities, taxation on residential properties is not supported by commercial taxation, or by asset (land) sales, or developer DCCs (development cost charges). For the foreseeable future this situation is not going to change, and increased operating costs and capital expenditures, whether funded by borrowing or not, will be borne by homeowners.

Fiscal 2015 was the first year of the current Council. The focus was ensuring water delivery, complying with Build Canada infrastructure grants opportunities, and long range infrastructure planning. That budget included our one third portion of a Build Canada grant we were successful in obtaining ($123,000), summer 2015 water shortage contingency funds ($60,000), and $150,000 for an Infrastructure Master Plan.

In 2016 we are looking at a bare bones budget covering only vital operational and capital costs: sewer (paid only by sewer users, $35,000), water capital ($41,000), and Fire, Administration, Public Works, and Council plans ($268,000). Funding for all 2016 spending will come from a 12% general tax increase and a $79,000 draw from reserves. Council felt it prudent to not re-spend unspent 2015 budget items (mostly capital spend on water infrastructure that were to be drawn from reserves) pending completion of the Infrastructure Master Plan, in order to preserve our share of funds for anticipated federal infrastructure grants.

General tax increases for many years were in the 1-3 percent range. That was not sustainable. Recent increases have been 4% in 2014, 8% in 2015, and 2016 is proposed to be 12% over last year's municipal tax. A 1% general tax increase raises only $12,000, a measure of just how small our small tax base is. These decisions try to provide the most benefit to the most residents, while assuring services, maintaining current assets, and planning for future infrastructure needs. Our limited financial flexibility makes this an ongoing challenge. If you are unable to attend the Five Year Financial Plan meeting later this month please contact me with any questions you may have.

Best regards,
Ron

PUBLIC WORKS - WATER MAIN FLUSHING

Please see the notice below regarding water main flushing which will begin next week throughout the Village.

Water Main Flushing Schedule

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 - April 11, 2016 at 7:00pm
- Tree Committee - April 12, 2016 at 4:00pm

Input for amendments to Tree Bylaw No. 393, 2007 will be considered. Send in your ideas and/or attend the Tree Committee Meeting.

Note: please check the Village website calendar for meeting schedule changes or cancellations.

LIONS BAY'S GOT TALENT

Talent Call - All Ages

for Lions Bay's Got Talent 2016
April 14, 6 - 8pm

We are looking for performers of all ages to compete for cash prizes. Start practicing now to impress the judging panel - prizes and glory await you.

Applicants must reserve their spot in the competition by emailing lionsbaytalent@gmail.com. Space is limited, so sign up soon.

The event will be held at the Village Hall, on Thursday, April 14th, from 6 - 8pm.

LIONS BAY LIBRARY - 35th ANNIVERSARY

Lions Bay Library wishes to invite the residents of Lions Bay to celebrate our 35th

Anniversary. Join us for refreshments and reacquaint yourselves with our updated collection of books, including many by our local authors.



WHEN: Sunday, April 24th - Open House 2pm to 4pm
RSVP: agates@shaw.ca

"When was the last time you lost yourself in a good book?" These are just some of the books now on our shelves:

Lynden McIntyre- "Punishment": Wilbur Smith's "Desert God": Hyena Road, based on Paul Gross's doc-film. "Big Shot" by Michael Lewis (Inside the Doomsday Machine): Chris Hadfield's "An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth and a Lions Bay Book Club favorite- "All the Light We Cannot See". Some best sellers available at the Library.

THE 2016 BRENDA BROUGHTON SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the Brenda Broughton Scholarship will be accepted by the Village Office until end of day Monday, May 2, 2016.

In the Fall of 2014, a group of Lions Bay residents established a scholarship to honour the dedication and contribution of Brenda Broughton to the Village of Lions Bay and its residents. Students graduating who demonstrate Leadership, Citizenship and Scholarship, and who have demonstrated a commitment to Lions Bay are invited to apply for this scholarship and to be recognized for their commitment to our community.

The Brenda Broughton Scholarship is independent of all other Lions Bay Scholarships. The successful candidate may receive other Lions Bay Scholarships. Please see the attached criteria and application form for the Brenda Broughton Scholarship.

Scholarship Application

GRADE 12 SCHOLARSHIPS

Lions Bay Grade 12 students considering pursuing post secondary educational opportunities are invited to submit an application for a Curly Stewart Memorial Award or a Lions Bay Community Scholarship. For information and Application Forms contact your School Councillor, the Village Office, or Louis Peterson, Chair, Lions Bay Community Scholarship Foundation (lpeterso@sfu.ca). The deadline for applications is May 2nd, 2016.

Scholarship Applications



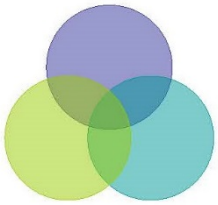
LIONS BAY COMMUNITY GARDEN

Enjoy growing your own veggies? Have you ever wanted to start a vegetable garden or need extra space to expand your own vegetable garden and don't have enough space at home?

Come join us in the Lions Bay Community Garden, located in the Kelvin Grove Beach Park. Garden plots are available at $25.00 / Year. For more information contact Tina Schneider: lionsbay.gardens@gmail.com

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SENIORS SOCIAL CIRCLE



Who is for Bridge? Card players are invited to contact Sharon Raymond with suggestions: sharonaray@shaw.ca

Please click the following links to take the LBSSC Survey.

COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

We are all so fortunate to have many agencies and volunteer groups caring for our safety, but, safety is everyone's responsibility. Please take some time to hear from the professionals and find out what you can do.

WHEN: Thursday, May 5th
TIME: 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

- Wildlife Management - Conservation Officer Service - Sgt. Simon Gravel
- RCMP and Community Policing (Block Watch) - Staff Sgt. Cumming and Kathryn Hennigar
- Lions Bay Fire Rescue - Volunteer Fire Fighters
- Water use and Conservation - Lions Bay Infrastructure Committee

Presentations, Q&A
Refreshments - sponsored by Emergency Social Services
Information tables - Block Watch, ESS, Lions Bay Infrastructure Committee, Bear Smart

Hosted by Lions Bay Block Watch and the Village of Lions Bay



See what's happening on our social sites:

THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE VILLAGE OF LIONS BAY

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