VILLAGE UPDATE

Friday, June 3, 2016

From the Mayor's Desk

Hello Lions Bay,

I have just returned from an intense three-week out-of-country trip to attend to family-matters, so please bear with a rather lengthy catch-up.

Some months ago Lions Bay Fire Chief Andrew Oliver advised Council of his desire to plan his succession. He, Village Manager Peter DeJong and I on behalf of Council have thus started discussing what LBFR's near- and middle-future leadership and configuration will look like. Andrew has devoted almost 20 years of service to Lions Bay Fire Rescue and will be hard to replace, so it may be a long transition, but before that happens the municipality is provincially mandated to establish a formal Fire Service Level by end-June.

We will also be working to produce a fire services plan that covers at least the next five years. Rest assured Lions Bay fire service continues and will endure until taxpayers decide different, plus the Village's mutual aid and contingency plans for fire and rescue service remain in place.

We know that rumour grows in the absence of information (hence this lengthy catchup), but I hope we also know to apply a dose of salt to the hearsay, sensationally worded and anonymous commentary, like that currently doing the rounds.

That said, I'll use it as an opportunity to point out a few facts of life about municipalities in BC. First, elected officials only set policy and that only by a majority vote in formal Council meetings. Policy is required by statute to be executed by municipality staff, I assume to ensure that public monies are not purloined by the policy makers. Probably very valid in the big city, but less so in a place like Lions Bay where the policy makers are volunteers who just love the place. Be that as it may, there is a formal boundary between Council determining what the community wants, expects and needs, and staff getting it done. Not only that, by convention and statute, that policy all gets to staff through one person, the Chief Administrative Officer. Council is in fact not allowed-by law-to direct staff. Same reason as above, I suppose.

What's the main constraint to staff getting things done? Assuming the CAO is maximising efficiency, it's budget. A municipality's annual budget is established by bylaw, and is public knowledge. In the case of Lions Bay, with union settlement agreement increases, overtime costs necessitated by our finicky water and roads and drainage, and no economies of scale, Lions Bay pays a lot for its staff base. Here's a recent example: the effort we went to to set up this year's tax bill run for 589 residential, 25 commercial and two utility folios, is virtually the same effort as West Van went through before Run (or maybe it's Print) was pressed. They raise $63 mil. in general taxation this year; we raise $1.4 mil., for much the same effort.

The Lions Bay General Store's Rural Liquor application is running through the prescribed steps. Council won't take a stance one way or the other until the public process has run its course. Please watch for Provincial notices of hearings and participate if you have a position.

Our new Outdoor Water Use signage is up. If you don't remember what the Levels entail (I didn't), please stop by the office for a cheat sheet, or review them here. Our levels are deliberately chosen not to match Metro Vancouver's because our water system is totally different to theirs, and we don't want confusion between the two. With a dry May (until last weekend's monsoon), our water use is already creeping up. The longer we keep above the 125% supply-demand ratio that triggers Level 3, the longer we can stay at the less onerous Levels 1 and 2. Snowpack is better than at this time last year, but all it takes is a run of hot weather for our "surface reservoir" to disappear. Then we rely on groundwater and rain events. Supply is up to Mother Nature, but we can address demand. Last year's response to conservation was I believe unprecedented in Canadian municipal annals, and I hope we can do a repeat this year.

Yesterday CAO DeJong and I met with MOTI to talk about the provincial highway through Lions Bay. I continue to make the point that the highway is the province's, and

there are many aspects beyond accidents that concern Lions Bay, like speed, noise and wildfire risk. You may have noted the new pole north of Alberta Creek; it is currently gathering real speed data, and will soon be set to flash an arrow and SLOW DOWN to drivers above the 85th percentile of speed. MOTI engineers advise that this system is more effective than "Your Speed Is..." signs. More seems to be happening at MOTI, so watch this space.

Finally, please join me in a heartfelt welcome to our new Public Works Manager Nai Jaffar. Staff, Council and I look forward to the benefit of his years of experience in the trenches (literally) in West Van, plus his technical expertise, to Lions Bay's many infrastructure issues.

More to come.

Best,
Karl Buhr (mayor.buhr@lionsbay.ca)

WEEKLY WATER CONSUMPTION GRAPH

The water consumption graph is available on the website under Notices > Outdoor Water Use and is updated each Friday. Rainfall data is also included in the graph under the notes section. Please also be reminded that Level 1 Conservation Level is now in effect. Restrictions are available under Schedule A of the Outdoor Water Use Bylaw No. 484, 2015.

Water Consumption Graph

PROPERTY TAX NOTICES 2016

The Village of Lions Bay Property Tax Notices for 2016 were mailed out on May 27th. The due date for payment is **July 14th by 4:00 p.m.**

Home owners can pay by cheque or cash at the Village Office, online through most financial institutions, or by dropping off a cheque after hours through the mail slot at the Village Office **prior to July 14th**.

The Home Owner Grants (HOG) are also due by July 14th by 4:00 p.m. Home owners can now claim their grants online; please go to the finance page on the Village website and follow the link or click the button below: (To apply online you will need your roll number and the HOG Access Code which is located on your property tax notice below your name and address. The HOG Access code is your password).

Claim Your Grant Online

PROPERTY TAX DEFERRALS

For those residents who currently defer their property taxes, renewal applications have now been mailed out by the Province. If you do not receive your form, please contact the Property Tax Deferment Office at 1-888-355-2700 or TaxDeferment@gov.bc.ca.

The tax deferment application must be received at the Village Office by the tax due date (July 14 at 4:00pm) or the late payment penalty will be applied. If the property is eligible for a Home Owner Grant, the grant application must be completed before the deferral can be accepted.

For any residents interested in the deferral program, you may be able to apply for a low interest loan (deferral) from the Province to pay your current year property taxes on your principal residence, once you receive your property tax notice. There are two programs you may qualify for:

Regular Program:

You may qualify for this program if you're:

* 55 or older during the current year or
* a surviving spouse of any age or
* a person with disabilities as defined in the *Disability Benefits Program Act*

Families with Children Program:

You may qualify for this program if you're a parent, stepparent or financially supporting a child.

For more information about the deferment program, please go to their website.



LIONS BAY COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

INVITATION: The Lions Bay Community Scholarship Foundation invites all Lions Bay Grade 12 students, their parents and friends to a Reception at the Village Hall at 7:00 pm, on Thursday, June 16, 2016 to mark the occasion of their Graduations from High School. To assist with the provision of refreshments, please RSVP to lpeterso@sfu.ca or 604-921-7260.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The June Community Calendar is now available on the Village Website under Recreation & Culture > Community Activities.

June Community Calendar

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.

- Regular Council Meeting - June 7, 2016 at 7:00pm

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

CANADA DAY VOLUNTEERS

Once again the Events Committee is working hard to arrange a sensational Canada Day Celebration. We are hoping to get a few volunteers to make this year as spectacular as always. Whether you prefer to lend a helping a hand prior to the event, after the

event or for a short time during, we've got a place for you. Volunteering is a great time to get to know more people from your community and support one of our biggest events of the year.

Please click the following button to see how you can lend a hand. All time slots are just for one hour. Your support is much appreciated!

Volunteer Sign Up



ALL ARE INVITED TO
THE LIONS BAY SENIOR SOCIAL CIRCLE
ANNUAL MINI GOLF AND BBQ LUNCH
THURS, JUNE 16, 2016...11:00AM TO 2:00PM

If you've signed up for Mini Golf, but have not received a confirmation email from us, this is because the email provided here was incorrect. It should be coxtony@shaw.ca. Kindly resend your RSVP to that address. Please accept my apology for this error.

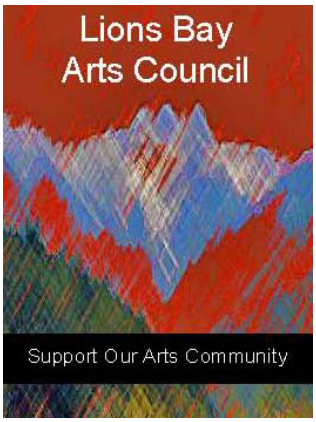
For those who have not signed up, please book your spot as soon as possible as space is filling up. Cost will be $10 per participant, which includes a round of Mini Golf as well

as a delicious bbq lunch. All are welcome! Details attached. Please contact Tony Cox (coxtony@shaw.ca) or Hilda Mayo (hmayo@mac.com) for more info, to arrange for a ride or to RSVP. Deadline for RSVP is June 6...so that we can organise the lunch. See you there.

Helen Waterson - on behalf of the SCC

Mini Golf and BBQ Lunch

LIONS BAY ARTS COUNCIL



Lions Bay Arts Council is pleased to host ArtScene 2016 on June 19th, 2016. Bringing together artists, performers, food, Father & Child project for Father's Day, Native Garden Plant Sale and much more...

All artists and performers, young and old - we want to hear from you. Please e-mail: info@lionsbayartscouncil.org and let us know if you would like to participate.

We have decided to hold our Arts and Garden Festival every second year so make sure to stay tuned for next year's Festival.

WILDFIRE NEWS

Please see the attached Coastal Wildfire Newsletter - Issue 3, also located on the website under Notices > Wildfire.

Wildfire News - Issue 3

See what's happening on our social sites:

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