VILLAGE UPDATE

Friday, June 24, 2016

From the Mayor's Desk

Hello Lions Bay,

You may be wondering if this year's rainier Spring helps our water situation. Certainly it helps to reduce demand, since we don't use as much municipal water for gardens, but that's about all we can say for certain. If the rain melts the post-winter snowpack that's not good, and we have no empirical understanding of groundwater flow out of our catchments. How far did the groundwater column deplete last year? Did it fully recharge this winter? Is a depletion/replenishment cycle a multi-year thing, and after all the surface snow is gone how long would groundwater keep the creeks flowing with zero rain? We don't know, but we are taking steps to find out. We are right now enhancing the measurement and reporting capability of the control equipment at our two water plants, which may be used as a back-door way to measure streamflow. And the Infrastructure Committee is working on scoping a long term study of our watershed, on issues like supply risk relating to climate change, correlating streamflow with snowpack extent, temperature, wind, cloud cover and so on, and modelling groundwater flows. Our water consumption reporting is still incomplete while we repair lightning-fried measuring equipment, so it's hard to know just how much water we're consuming now. We are under automatic Level 1 conservation, so please continue to be aware of water demand.

Council this week completed a professionally facilitated strategy planning session, to nail down priorities for the remainder of this Council term ending in December 2018.

We looked at multiple issues and opportunities, and we look forward to presenting a strategic priorities schedule to the Village soon.

Fire Chief Andrew Oliver and CAO Peter DeJong issued a joint statement at this Tuesday's Council meeting, produced here verbatim:

"CAO Peter DeJong and Fire Chief Andrew Oliver both recognize that the Lions Bay Fire Rescue Department (LBFR) is an essential and highly valued service of the Municipality. Like all volunteer fire departments, LBFR faces a number of challenges, some uniquely specific to Lions Bay.

"However, both CAO DeJong and Fire Chief Oliver are eager to work closely together to grow the department in terms of both membership and capacity to meet the challenges and better serve the residents of Lions Bay.

"They will be working on a number of initiatives to improve inter-departmental procedures and communications to enhance mutual understanding and accountability, set clear training standards to support a mutually agreed upon level of service to be endorsed by Council, and work on a five year strategic plan for LBFR."

Still on Lions Bay Fire Rescue, I offer my thanks on behalf of the entire Village to Captain Ken Wolder and Senior Firefighter Greg Turpin, who retire this year, for their years of sterling service to their community. Thanks gentlemen. I don't think I'm spoiling any surprise to say that I'm confident the five-year strategic fire services plan (above) will call for a new round of recruitment of volunteers from permanent Lions Bay residents. We're thrilled at the recent jump in local recruitment, and if you have any inclination to participate in Lions Bay's core volunteer service, now might be a good time to get involved (aoliver@lionsbayfirerescue.ca).

Volunteer thanks go out too to Rich Mossakowski, retiring from Lions Bay's Board of Variance after many years of service. Our Lions Bay Librarians likewise; there are too many to mention by name from over the years, but more will be forthcoming on this topic at our Canada Day celebrations. Libraries are under threat everywhere as media change, and I'm not willing to see Lions Bay lose its Library, whatever it may look like going forward. Watch this space as we examine our options-suggestions are welcome, as always.

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

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

PAYING YOUR PROPERTY TAXES DURING A POSTAL STRIKE

A Canada Post strike or lockout is possible as of July 2, 2016. Even though there may be disruptions within the mail system, your property taxes are still due July 14th by 4:00 p.m. Please note that post marks are not accepted as date of payment.

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.

CANADA DAY IS GREEN

And red and white, of course. This year we are working to make sure that everything served or handed out can go in the Green Bin. This means no water bottles or juice boxes will be provided.

Please bring your own full WATER BOTTLE to refill at one of our water stations.

We appreciate your support.
The Events Committee



LIONS BAY LIBRARY

LIBRARY SUMMER SCHEDULE AND CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The Lions Bay Library invites all children in Lions Bay from Preschool to Grade 7 to participate in our Annual Summer Reading Challenge. Please feel free to come to the Library to pick up a Reading Log. There will be prizes at the end

of the summer for each age group and it is not necessary to be a Library member... so come one and all to register for this summer event.

PLEASE NOTE:
We are open Monday, July 4th from 10:30am to noon and every Monday thereafter with the exception of Statutory Holiday's.

ALSO:
We ask members to keep your eyes open for additional "pop up" hours throughout the week. Just look for the "Library Open" sign in the parking area outside the Fire Hall and come right in. We have some wonderful books to choose from for both adults and children. So this summer, remember the "Library Open" sign means "pop in".

The Volunteers

LIONS BAY BEACH PARK

In an attempt to deal with excess waste disposal issues at the park during the peak summer period, 2 'trial' bear proof food waste containers have been added to the park, one close to the entrance and the other in the gazebo adjacent to the kayak rack. Please be sure to use these containers for your organics and kindly educate others if you see confusion or misuse.

As well, staff will check the LBBP garbage containers on Fridays and we have arranged for Smithrite to pick up all public garbage bins on Saturdays during the summer months.

Staff will monitor these changes and report back to Council in due course on the results. Your cooperation in helping us keep our parks and public spaces clean is greatly appreciated.

BOARD OF VARIANCE

Council has adopted Board of Variance Bylaw No. 502, 2016 and has re-appointed Ian Mackie and Peter Wreglesworth to the Board, along with a new appointee, Morgan Gatto. Thank you gentlemen for volunteering your time and efforts to your community through service on the Board of Variance.

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.

- Bylaw & Policy Review Committee - June 27, 2016 at 7:00pm

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

LIONS BAY COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION



Helping Our Students Grow

To Grade 12s and Grade 11s: A RECEPTION for the "Class of 2016" was enjoyed on 16th June at the Village Hall by the students and their parents and friends who were able to attend. Best Wishes to all the Lions Bay Grade 12s as they move onward in their future plans and careers: *Chaisson Ashcroft*, Nicky Bajus, Xavier Bedford, Ally Dobry, Filbero Giovagnoni, *Liam Grant*, Megan Iannetti, Phaelen Kuhne-Craig, Derek Langford, *Makaela Smithers*, Victoria Spencer (*italics* indicate scholarship recipients).

Soon the Lions Bay Grade 11s will move into their shoes, to become the "Lions Bay Grade 12 Class of 2017", to look for the opportunities that appeal to them.

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