VILLAGE UPDATE

Thursday, June 30, 2016

From the Mayor's Desk

Hello Lions Bay,

Congratulations to long time resident Mary Brown on her investiture into the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, on June 18th in Ottawa. Sanctioned by the Queen and given by the Governor General of Canada, the award was made to Mary for her 10-year involvement with the St John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program and her development of the children's reading program, Paws 4 Stories, now used across Canada.

I put the cat among the pigeons a few weeks ago with my note that Council chose not to sign a letter (to the Prime Minister no less) pertaining to LNG in Howe Sound. Cats come with open government, but I think I need to clarify what did and didn't happen. Lions Bay's position on LNG and other reindustrialization of Howe Sound has not changed. My letter to the federal Minister of the Environment (page 47 of these Minutes) lays out that position, as clearly as my writing skills allow. I hope those who care took the time to read it.

Some may be surprised to learn though, that opposition to Howe Sound LNG is not unanimous, even within Lions Bay. The last time I asked about nine months ago, I got about a dozen responses, split pretty evenly for and against. And I can say that for most decision makers outside Howe Sound, LNG is either a non-issue or even a desirable outcome for BC. The wry looks when I speak against Howe Sound LNG at regional forums reveal that most decision makers view Lions Bay's position as classic

NIMBY. If we're to effectively advocate our position against Howe Sound LNG, we need to participate, not oppose, at the level where the real decisions are made. That's what I am doing. All that said, our decision not to sign this arbitrary letter to the PM has nothing to do with Lions Bay's position on LNG, and it certainly does not somehow indicate our sudden support of LNG, which would be a logical fallacy. Rather, we declined to sign on procedural grounds. Initially I was incredulous that the experienced elected official who read out a non-agenda'd letter at the Howe Sound Community Forum, would expect Mayors to sign it there and then without reference to their Councils or communities. I was less stunned when I learned later that the elected official was channelling a non-elected activist. Well, we don't sign those on demand either. If you follow these esoterica, you will know that this same activist believes I had told him we were pressured by our MLA to not sign this frankly inconsequential letter. This assertion is, to put it plainly, wrong: I didn't tell him that, because we never even communicated with MLA Sturdy on the matter. Frankly Lions Bay's influence pales against say Squamish's or West Van's, and unsurprisingly he didn't call them on it either. Bottom line? Lions Bay's position remains that Howe Sound is not the place for LNG production and transit, until Lions Bay tells us different.

Our Canada Day celebrations kick off at 11:00 on Friday. Come down to applaud our 2016 Citizens of the Year and of Distinction, to eat excellent cake, and generally get the long weekend off to a good start. Wear red.

A municipal Annual Report is mandatory under the Community Charter, but staff and Council try hard to make ours a valuable document of record. The 2015 Annual Report draft is available for public comment for the next two weeks prior to submittal to the Ministry (of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, I think).

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

STATUTORY HOLIDAY & GARBAGE PICK UP



The Village Office is closed for Canada Day on Friday, July 1st and will re-open for business on Monday, July 4th at 10 a.m. Garbage, recycling and organics will still be picked up at the regular time on July 1st.

CANADA DAY CELEBRATION AT LIONS BAY BEACH

Join us at the Lions Bay Beach Park on Friday, July 1st for the Canada Day Celebration. The ceremony begins at 11am and ends with a BBQ, bouncy castle, face painting and balloon artists!

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.

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.

The Events Committee

Volunteer Sign Up

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2015 Annual Report is now available for review. It can be viewed on the Village website here, or at the Village Office.

Council will consider the Annual Report at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 19 at 7:00 p.m. This is your opportunity to ask questions or provide comments on the report.

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 - July 5, 2016 at 7:00pm

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

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 Village Office will extend its open hours to 6:30pm on Tuesday, July 5th, Thursday, July 7th, and Tuesday, July 12th to assist residents in paying their taxes before the deadline.

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.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The July Community Calendar is now available on the Village website.

COASTAL FIRE CENTRE

A message from Coastal Fire Centre:

A special reminder that things will be drying for much of the weekend, and while campfires are still permitted within our jurisdictional areas, we ask everyone to be extra careful. Weather forecasts are calling for periods of wind and scattered precipitation but the precipitation may not spread much more than half way down the island and mainland part of the fire centre. Please spread the word to put campfires out cold to the touch, and report any wildfire or violation to 1 800 663-5555 or *5555.

We're close to a campfire prohibition, and the decision will be made on Monday depending on how much precipitation lands and where. You can go to BCWildfire.ca early next week to find out if one will be implemented.

Wildfire News

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