VILLAGE UPDATE

Friday, September 9, 2016

From the Mayor's Desk

Hello Lions Bay,

If you receive the Village Update, you will also have had this week's press release on Lions Bay Council's plans to raise funding for vital infrastructure projects through borrowing. With the delivery of our $120,000 Infrastructure Master Plan by AECOM, one of the most respected civil engineering firms in the world, we finally have the long-range plan that takes available time, funding cycles and economies of scale into account while prioritizing and scoping our infrastructure needs. After in-depth professional review from the Infrastructure Committee and many hours put in by staff to the early drafts, we are very pleased and rather impressed with the final product. The immediate upshot? We face at least $9.5 mil. in water and roads investment in the next five years. Not that we necessarily didn't know about it before, but now it's been sized, and the risk of not doing it has been quantified. Please take a look at the Plan: it's maybe a dry read, but the diagrams and maps are fascinating, and I'm struck anew by just how much it takes to keep even our bucolic Village operating.

Now's a good time to know all this, because the new Federal government's Clean Water and Wastewater Fund has acknowledged Canada's infrastructure shortfall and puts a lot of new capital project funding in play. Coupling the Province's customary matching grant of 33 percent with the Feds' intended 50 percent means that a local government (us) has to find only 17 cents on the dollar of eligible project costs (100 - 50 - 33). Nonetheless, we need our share of the project cost money ready to go when we apply for a fair share of the forthcoming largesse (if we can get a little more than

our fair share, so much the better). Council is thus going to ask the Village's voters to approve borrowing up to $3 mil. to fund our share of up $9.5 mil. in projects.

If you're an avid reader of the Village's annual reports you'll know that we have previously borrowed a total of $1.9 mil., mostly for water main replacements and treatment plant upgrades. Total outstanding debt today is $1.4 mil. including vehicle leases; if we draw the full additional $3.0 mil. over the next five years, we will still be well within prudent debt levels, around 50-55 percent of our provincially-mandated debt servicing limit. At a full draw of $3.0 mil., annual loan servicing will cost an average assessment Lions Bay property an additional $267 a year for 30 years. It won't all hit at once, because the loan facility will only be drawn on as projects happen.

Other than engineering design and "shovel-ready plans," this Council doesn't plan on spending on projects that aren't grant supported. And to the extent we don't get all the grants we need, there's a good possibility we won't be drawing all of the $3 million. I will be going on about this topic a bit until Nov. 19, when the Loan Authorization vote takes place alongside the by-election needed to fill our vacant Council seat. Please look out for the planned information pieces coming from the municipality.

It's my duty to announce to the Village that the Lions Bay Library is closing. The Library volunteers have advised Council that after being part of the fabric of the community for decades, the Library is not being used by residents enough to justify keeping it going. Library, Staff and Council have been resisting this day for a long time, but the stark reality is that like libraries everywhere that don't have the funding to make the leap to new media and community involvement, no adults use (and fund) the Library's lovingly chosen books. Despite us looking hard, there is no one ready to take up the reigns. After celebration of the Children's Reading Challenge on Sunday September 18th, the volunteers, who you'll recall were named the Village's Citizens of the Year on Canada Day, will close the doors, and switch out the lights by the end of September. Books and other assets will be donated, and the Library's records will go to the Historical Society. My own kids grew up in that Library, so I'm loath to be the one announcing this, but there it is.

Next week's Update will include a piece on Village finances from Councillor Ron McLaughlin, who holds the Finance portfolio. Following on from today's piece about funding our share of capital investment with debt, it gives a good understanding of small municipality fiscal realities. Look out for it. In the meantime, staff will be creating new web pages to provide more information about Council's initiatives, so keep checking back regularly.

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



2016 FIREFIGHTER'S DAY

Lions Bay Fire Rescue is pleased to announce that the 2016 Firefighter's Day will be held on September 10, 2016 from 2pm until midnight. Thank you to everyone who has already donated prizes for our famous Silent Auction table! If you would still like to donate, please contact Simon at 604-839-6177. This year, the firefighter's will also be going door-to-door selling raffle tickets (also available at the Village Office). Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

GRAN FONDO 2016 - LIONS BAY TRAFFIC IMPACT

The Gran Fondo is back! Please be aware that there are some traffic impacts through Lions Bay in the morning of Saturday, September 10, 2016. The map below shows detailed information on where and when traffic is impacted in your area. Please visit www.september10.info for full details.

Traffic Impact Map

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY REMINDER

A recent theft of a dirt bike from a carport in Brunswick Beach prompts us to remind all residents to secure their outdoor belongings and keep an eye out for any suspicious activities in your neighbourhood. If you see something suspicious, contact the police via 911.

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 - September 12, 2016 at 7:00pm

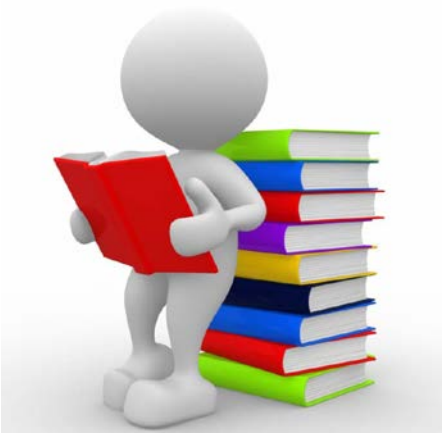
Note: please check the Village website calendar for meeting schedule changes or cancellations.

COASTAL FIRE CENTRE

Please see the latest version of the Coastal Fire Centre's newsletter.

Wildfire News

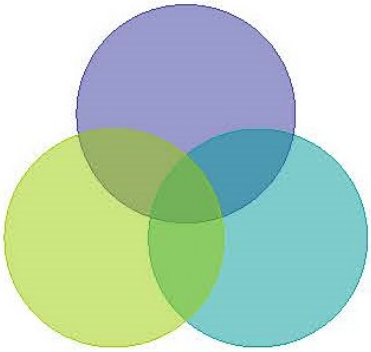
LIBRARY



CHILDREN'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE
Please remember to return all reading sheets to the library on Sunday, September 11th from 2pm to 4pm and Monday, September 12th from 10:30am to 12 noon. Also, the book drop may be used for drop off.

We are asking that all books, magazines and DVD's, both adults and children's, be returned to the library by Sunday, September 11th.

READING CHALLENGE AWARDS EVENT
Parents and children are invited to attend the library on Sunday, September 18th from 2pm to 3:30pm for a reception.
The Volunteers



SENIORS SOCIAL CIRCLE

CARDS AND GAMES INVITATION

First meeting is on Thursday, September 15th from 1:30-3:30pm, not set in stone forever, at the Village Hall. Fall is here, come one, come all!

contact Sharon Raymond: sharonaray@shaw.ca, 604-921-7260 or Louis Peterson: lpeterso@sfu.ca



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