THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE VILLAGE OF LIONS BAY

Weekly Village News

Friday, March 27, 2015

TIME CHANGE – COMMUNITY CENTRE OFFICIAL OPENING EVENT

There will be a **slight change to the start time** of the Community Hall Grand Opening Event. The event will start at **12:00 noon** in order to allow for our local Member of Parliament, Mr. John Weston, to participate. We hope you will be able to attend!

From the Mayor's Desk

Hello neighbours,

Last night, after almost three months of work by staff and the Finance Committee, Council voted unanimously to endorse the Village's 2015 budget, which will form the first year of the 2015-2019 Five Year Financial Plan Bylaw to be adopted in May. This was a difficult job, constrained by it being an election year, with decisions having to be based on incomplete information and on new strategic goals. I am not ecstatic about every line item in the budget, nor with what we had to leave out, but it's a pragmatic planning year...umm, plan, with good bones. I am confident this is the budget the Village needs at this juncture. Here are some highlights:

- We receive the $295,000 provincial Small Community Grant plus $53,000 from the first-ever payout of the federal Gas Tax. We will raise $672,500 in utility charges. The rest of the revenue to support the budget will come from an 8% increase in property taxes. More on this aspect in a minute.
- We plan to spend $150,000 on an Infrastructure Master Plan that will chart out what needs to be done on water, roads, sewers and facilities, in what order, on a 20-year horizon. Staff are already working on a Request For Proposals based on last year's Infrastructure Committee's recommendation, and I hope we can have it out in May and the project awarded by late June or early July, giving the selected vendor four months to produce the Plan in time for the 2016 budget process.
- The budget covers a 4% increase in staffing costs, delivering 10.6 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) employees, with three senior managers being permanent employees for the first time in a long time, and all inside and outside staff operating under a ratified collective agreement with the Canadian Union of Public Employees. Staffing costs represent 35% of the Village's municipal operating expenditures, a smaller proportion of costs than many municipalities with better economies of scale than ours. Council is confident this is the

staffing level it now takes to run Lions Bay, BC's 39th smallest municipality (out of 162 municipalities, by 2013 BC Stats Population Estimates population). Watch this space for a future piece discussing with hard numbers why it takes so "much more to run the place than it used to."

- Operationally, we of course pay for water ($821,800 including loan servicing), garbage collection ($190,200), sewer ($92,700), and ongoing roads and Village maintenance ($446,700). The budget funds $230,600 in operating costs for Lions Bay Fire & Rescue plus $28,850 in Fire Department capital expenditure. We also fund a provincially-mandated $20,000 update to our Emergency Management Plan.
- We will spend up to $60,000 on fast-track contingency projects to address the possibility of water shortages later this year: an accelerated water leak detection and remediation program, temporarily using the mothballed Alberta Creek intake, a water conservation program.
- This year we will pay $400,000 to repair damage to our water systems caused by the storms in October and December 2014, fully covered by grants from the Provincial Emergency Program, and we cover the remaining $88,400 of the already-committed Village Hall renovation costs.
- We commit $370,000 to long-recommended safety improvements for both water intake access roads, for the intakes themselves, and for the Magnesia treatment plant. We hope to hear October-ish that this investment will be offset by a two-thirds grant from the New Building Canada Fund, applied for last month February.
- In 2014, $681,500 of our property tax collections went straight out again as school tax, an average of $1,155 per house. $182,900 went to TransLink, an obligation of membership of Metro Vancouver Regional District, plus $36,600 to the Regional District itself. In 2013, the last year we have a number for, $112,000 went to the province to pay for our RCMP coverage. 2015's numbers will be similar.

How are we going to pay for all this? I already mentioned the 8% property tax increase, which believe me Council thought about long and hard. Prior-year capital commitments that have not yet been spent and that survived the budget process, will be funded from reserves. Beyond recently-billed utility rates, which included a 16% increase in water rates, does any Council member like an 8% tax increase, or a draw on reserves? No, we don't, but we heard clearly this election that Lions Bay knows we need to start catching up. Simply put, this level of funding still doesn't cover what it takes to keep Lions Bay going. The only "warm and fuzzy," an accounting term I heard a lot this month, is $6000 to replace the float at Main Beach. The rest is nuts-and-bolts stuff for the future, in a municipality with low economies of scale, expensive-to-maintain terrain, and underinvested infrastructure. Council believes this budget is what the Village as a whole expected us to bring in this year. There's a larger conversation to be had on whether and how we increase the tax base, and on what we want the Lions Bay of the future to look like. That conversation will start this year.

Planning for 2016's budget will commence very soon after Council adopts the Five Year Financial Plan in May and files it with the Ministry (of Community, Sport & Cultural Development, as it happens). The process will be less rushed and more collateralised with business cases and analyses, and will move us ever-closer to Council's strategic goal of long-term financial sustainability for Lions Bay. This year, it remains only for me to thank Council, the Finance Committee, and most importantly our staff, Mandy Koonts, Pam Rooke and Hayley Cook, for getting us here.

Regards,
Karl

NOTICE OF VILLAGE-WIDE LEAK-DOWN TESTING REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

The Public Works Department of the Village of Lions Bay wishes to advise all residents that crews will be conducting a Village-wide leak-down test on **Tuesday, March 31, 2015** to gather data that will help determine the Village's water leakage rate. This activity will take place from **2:00am to approximately 4:30am**, and will include temporary water shut offs if crews suspect a locational leak.

The Village needs the data gathered from this testing to be as accurate as possible. As such, we need every resident's help and cooperation to make this testing a success. **Please ensure that you turn off all water-using systems both inside and outside your home that will draw down water during the timeframe above as their water draw from the Village system will mimic a leak, and limit the flushing of toilets and the taking of showers as much as possible during the timeframe noted above.** Examples of systems that draw down a considerable amount of water include hot-tubs, ponds, pools, water features, irrigation systems (and similar); water-cooled HVAC and humidification systems (and similar); and any timed dishwasher and laundry machine usage.

The Village would like to take this opportunity to apologize in advance for any inconvenience caused by this necessary testing, and to thank all residents for their cooperation.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR LIONS BAY GRADE 12 STUDENTS



If you are a Lions Bay Grade 12 student intending to pursue post-secondary education, you are invited to apply for consideration for a Scholarship available in the Village under the aegis of the Curly Stewart Memorial Trust Fund, the Lions Bay Community Scholarship Foundation, and the Norman Kirby Scholarship Fund. If you are a student already enrolled at a post-secondary institution, you may also be eligible for a scholarship. Visit the Village website (under "Latest Municipal Updates" on the home page) to download the application, or drop by the Village Office to pick-up a copy. **The deadline to submit your application is on or before May 4, 2015.**

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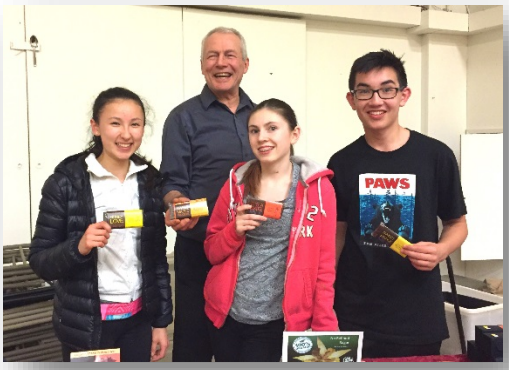
LIONS BAY NATIVE PLANT GARDEN WELCOMES YOU!

We would really love to let people know that they are welcome to stroll through the native plant garden anytime. It is particularly beautiful in the spring. Bring your children/grandchildren and introduce them to the wonderful diversity of plant life native to Lions Bay. Most of the plants are labelled. The garden is on the left after you pass under the highway on the way down to the beach. Come and enjoy the peace and beauty of the garden!

THE LIONS BAY 55+ CLUB

The Lions Bay 55+ Social Club was proud to present an evening of "Chocolate by Pierre Gruget." The gathering met at the Village Hall for a delectable presentation by one of our former residents, Pierre Gruget, a certified 'maître chocolatier' originally from France. Over 30 residents were treated to a highly entertaining and informative account of the many health and social benefits of pure chocolate. We also sampled a wide variety of chocolates which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The evening concluded with a bit of hands on chocolate dipping... an inspiration for future dessert creativity! A big thank you to the enthusiastic young volunteers who assisted throughout the presentation.





Upcoming Events (1-3 p.m. on Wednesdays):

April 1 – **Travelling in Europe by Maria Morden – dos/don'ts, tips/tricks with photographs!**
April 8 – **Bug Friendly Gardens by Master Gardeners' Association of BC**
April 15 – **Chairobics – Gentle Stretch and Strength (MILD)**
April 22 – **Personal Safety and Fraud Prevention by Squamish RCMP**
April 29 – **Healthy Eating by Vancouver Coastal Health**

The Lions Bay 55+ Club

Please help us predict numbers, as refreshments will be served, by sending a quick RSVP to office@lionsbay.ca for any of the above mentioned events.

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LIONS BAY BEACH PARK WASHROOMS – CLOSED FOR THE WEEKEND

The Lions Bay Beach Park Washrooms have been treated for a carpenter ant infestation. Due to the extent of the infestation, and the extra chemicals used to treat against further infestation, Village crews have closed the washrooms until Monday to ensure a thorough cleanup can occur prior to reopening. We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this necessary closure.

LIONS BAY PLAYSCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Are you a Lions Bay parent of a child who is 6 or under?

North Shore Community Resources is home to the 'Connect for Kids' planning table. This planning table is made up of service providers who want the very best for all children on the North Shore. As part of this work, Connect for Kids wants to understand your parenting needs. Every neighborhood has different needs and with the results of this survey, the planning table hopes to better understand what is working and where there are service gaps for parents in Lions Bay. With this knowledge, they can work to find solutions for gaps in services. This survey focuses on children ages 0-6.



We need you to tell us about your experience being a parent in Lions Bay. This anonymous survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Link to survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/lionsbay

If you have any problems with the survey, please contact Denise Buote at 604-671-1441 or at dbuote@arboreducational.com

INFRASTRUCTURE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Have a question for the Infrastructure Committee? Please send it to feedback@lionsbay.ca with the subject line "Infrastructure Q&A".

HELP REDUCE WILDFIRE RISKS

With recent favourable spring weather brings the potential for a very dry summer and concerns about wildfires. It is important for all residents to be aware of ways to mitigate the risk of wildfires which include:

- Removing fuel sources, such as bush, dry leaves, twigs, and piled debris from around the home.
- Do not store flammable material, such as firewood, gas or gasoline containers, near the home.
- Plant vegetation of low flammability. For example, trees and shrubs that do not have fine branches, broadleaved trees and shrubs, plants that retain a large amount of water, deeply rooted plants with thick heavy leaves, and plants with thick woody stems that do not easily catch fire.
- Ensure cigarette butts are completely extinguished and disposed of in proper receptacles.

Remember, there is NO LIMIT to the amount of yard waste placed curbside each week so long as the following pick up guidelines are adhered to:

- Use brown kraft paper bags or a can marked 'Yard Trimmings" or "Green Can"
- Yard trimmings include leaf & green garden debris and small branches (less than 3' long and 3" in diameter)
- Rocks & dirt not permitted.
- Branches must be tied in bundles with twine.

YOUR FEEDBACK HELPS MAKE US BETTER!

If you have comments, questions, kudos or concerns, we want to hear them! Suggestions for ePost content? Programs for the hall? General odds'n'sods? Send them to our "virtual suggestion box" by emailing feedback@lionsbay.ca

Lions Bay Community Hall

GRAND RE-OPENING EVENT

His Worship
Mayor Karl Buhr
invites you to
attend the official
re-opening
of the Lions Bay
Community Hall.

Date: Saturday March 28, 2015
Time: 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. – ***TIME CHANGE***
Address: 400 Centre Road, Lions Bay

Everyone welcome and encouraged to attend.

Refreshments to follow.

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