

March 8, 2019



# Village Update

Your Weekly News & Updates

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## Updates from Mayor and Council

### From the Mayor's Desk

Hello Lions Bay,

A great idea put forward by Heather Hood when she participated on the Lions Bay Beach Park Advisory Committee is coming to fruition. Council concurred with the idea and I am pleased to advise that so have Michael and Elizabeth Moore. The proposal is to name the play space at Lions Bay Beach Park in memory of their daughter Erin. Her parents advise that she loved to play there, especially on the monkey bars, and it is a place where she was happy. The success of our grant application for the rejuvenation of the beach park will not be known until the Fall. Not an idle group, the Events Committee will be hosting a significant fundraising event in early Summer with the aim of soliciting donations to contribute to the purchase of the various parts of the beach park, including the playscape. Stay tuned as they develop this opportunity.

I recognize that my head on a pike might make people feel better after reading further, but reality is what it is. The Preliminary Budget Report is the financial presentation of what our operational costs are to run the Village day to day. This contemplates general maintenance and upkeep, minor capital expenditures, provision of services, and all other normal overhead. This week was the penultimate review of the 2019 Preliminary Budget Report ([here](#)). The quick analysis is as follows:

- (page 58) The consolidated operating budget (all sections rolled into one page) based on no tax increase, revealed that all core operations could be funded with a \$115.3K surplus. This, however, does not include supplemental requirements for minor capital expenditures or one-time services.
- (pages 73-76) The proposed Capital and Supplemental Requests (C & SR's) are itemized (and total \$203.5K). On Tuesday, the list was reduced to \$173.7K as different requests were withdrawn or reduced. This leaves a funding shortfall of  $\$115.3K - (\$173.7K) = \$58.4K$ .
- Staff have endeavored to keep the tax rate as low as possible while absorbing a 2.7% BC CPI increase over 2018, a contracted wage increase of 2% and the new BC Employer Health Tax which will increase the payroll cost by \$18,500 (which equates to a 1.3% tax increase). Staff are recommending a 3% operational tax increase and will bring a revised budget back to the next Council meeting.

Throughout Lions Bay's history we have been focused on providing the operational essentials, and maintaining a low tax rate. There was no attempt to build an infrastructure replacement war chest and as such we have very limited material savings. The recently presented Asset Management Investment Plan indicates that at this point in time, of our estimated \$44.2M of assets, we have consumed about \$25.4M of assets, which will need to be substantially replaced over the next 30 years or so. There are several ways to fund this shortfall and some of these (borrowing capability, asset sales, and leveraging our contribution through grant funding) are in progress or taking place now. However, under any scenario now in line of sight, there is a funding shortfall to keep our assets current. Doing nothing to fund the shortfall is not a realistic or responsible option, which brings us to direct taxation. At the next Council meeting I will be proposing for Council's consideration, an additional general tax increase of 10% to be segregated and used only for defined infrastructure spending.

Real estate development is another possibility to help fund our infrastructure. This would come through a variety of beneficial means including direct upgrades/replacements of aging infrastructure required for such developments (eg: watermains, wastewater treatment facilities, etc.), Community Amenity Contributions to fund required replacements of our fire apparatus and enhance other aspects of community life, and increased utilities fees and property tax folios to contribute to the long-term financial viability and sustainability of our Village. To

get to this opportunity, Council will need to address the Natural Hazards Assessment Areas legislation which has been dormant for the last year. It is our intention to review this in the next few months and resolve it by the end of July.

Daylight savings occurs this week end. Through losing an hour this week end I will have less time to worry about our infrastructure shortfall.

Regards,

Ron

[mayor.mclaughlin@lionsbay.ca](mailto:mayor.mclaughlin@lionsbay.ca)

## Updates from the Municipality



REMINDER: Boat spaces and dog license renewals were due starting January 1 for this year. The early discount payment ends March 31 at which time fees will increase:

- Dog Licenses will increase from \$30 to \$60 (spayed or neutered) and from \$60 to \$90 (unaltered);
- Boat Licenses will increase from \$125 to \$150 (note: after May 31 a boat will be seized and removed, and charged a daily fee).

## 2019 Utility Notices

The 2019 Utility Notices were mailed out on March 1. Pay by April 1<sup>st</sup> at 4 pm in order to qualify for the prompt payment discount.

The notice (for single family houses) includes a Secondary Suite Declaration. Please complete the questions in the declaration and return to the Village Office. The declaration can also be completed online on our website ([here](#)). Section 7 of the [Secondary Suite Surcharge Bylaw No. 513, 2017](#), as amended, requires all single family property owners to answer the questions on the Secondary Suite Declaration. The mailing also includes a brochure with information about secondary suites. (Click [here](#) to see brochure).

### Online Services:

Residents are now able to access information regarding their utility notices and property taxes through the online service portal. The portal can be found under the Financial Services section of the Village website ([here](#)).

To set up your account, all you need is an email address, your account number and the online access code that you will find under your civic address on the front of your utility notice. Once set up, you will be able to add accounts and view and pay any outstanding bills with a credit card. Please be aware that a processing fee is applied to the payment by the third party provider.

If you have any questions please email [accounting@lionsbay.ca](mailto:accounting@lionsbay.ca).

## What's happening in the community?

### Seniors Social Circle

For details on upcoming events such as the Community Social Centre events on March 12, Tai Chi and Quigong classes, Finding Stillness meditation group, "Lions Bay on the Internet" discussion, and much more... click [here](#).



To take the "Community Centre Survey" for Lions Bay Social Interests, click [here](#) and send your completed survey to [info.lbdirectory@gmail.com](mailto:info.lbdirectory@gmail.com).

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## Lions Bay Community Scholarship Foundation



### Calling All Grade 12 Students

The Lions Bay Community Scholarship Foundation presents Scholarships to successful Grade 12 applicants from the Lions Bay community who are pursuing further education at a post-secondary institution. Applications are due by 4 pm on Tuesday, May 7, 2019. Click for: [Information and Application Form](#).

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**A piece of Lions Bay history...**



## LIONS BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY "LOOKING BACK"



Early spring flowers are peeking out, lifting our spirits after a snowy winter!

Did you know that the Wild Columbine is the village's official flower? The flower appears in our crest, held in the paws of a demi-bear.

The Columbine Flower Interesting Facts:

Hummingbird attractant.

Flowers are edible and are sweet, seeds and roots should not be eaten; they are highly toxic.

The Columbine Flower's Message Is:

Wherever your journey takes you stay steadfast in your faith, love and friendships. Believe in things that are not yet seen.



Please visit Lions Bay Historical Society's [web page](#) and [Facebook](#) page.