



# Village Update

February 3, 2023

## UPDATES FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL

### Mayor's Message

#### Mayor's Message – February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

I would like to thank the residents of the Village of Lions Bay for your patience and understanding, but most importantly for your constructive feedback during this emotional period of change this new Council has undertaken in the initial 90 days in office.

In last week's Mayors Message, I provided the key aspects of governance and the mechanics of the best practices necessary to protect Villagers assets and the background on our Acting CAO and Acting CFO leading the team. This week's report focuses on the actions council has taken, the legislation which empowers our administrative staff to safeguard the Villages tax dollars and personal information. In addition, Council has taken the important steps to lay the foundation to continue to honour the democratic process with the announced By-Election.

#### **Prudent Fiscal Management - Safeguarding the Village of Lions Bay's \$5.8M Funds**

The Finance Committee and Acting CAO recommendations which were presented to Council as resolutions at the Regular Council Closed Meeting held January 17<sup>th</sup>, Unfortunately the matters were Defeated. The Finance Committee, CAO and CFO then brought the matters to the Regular Council Open Meeting held January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, where the resolutions containing the recommendations (with minor amendments) were approved.:

Moved/Seconded

That the banking vulnerability-be addressed by ensuring that:

1. the bank has instructions that no cheque or electronic transfer should be processed unless it has two signatures or electronic signatures and;
2. the authorized signatures or electronic signatures be those only of the Chief Administrative Officer and an elected official or two elected officials of the municipality of the Lions Bay;
3. a limit be placed on the amount of any cheque or transfer; and that;

4. any amount above that limit would require additional written authorization from the Chief Administrative Officer or the Mayor or Acting Mayor for such transactions in that order.

**CARRIED**

That the vulnerabilities in the Village banking procedures be addressed immediately and on an urgent basis to ensure that the principles of separation of the functions of authorization, recording and control are met.

**CARRIED**

That banking controls are applied to all Village bank accounts.

**CARRIED**

Best practices be implemented for treasury management per municipal regulations to maximize the return on the Villages current \$5.8M funds.

**CARRIED**

### **Budget for 2023**

Acting CFO Miller is working diligently with staff to provide a 2023 Provisional Budget to Council as soon as possible. We have important projects and infrastructure to finance as well as important day to day operations to maintain. We must have our fiscal house in order. Costs must be under control, operations must be efficient, and taxes must be carefully controlled to reflect the economic environment we are all currently facing. The personal and family economies of all Lions Bay residents must be kept in mind. Many homeowners are facing large interest increases on mortgage renewals and others are feeling the impact of a challenging year in the world economy. Council will be fiscally responsible.

### **Clarification of the CAO's Authority**

At the end of the Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 regular council meeting, a Councillor member stated that he was unable to locate the resolution of Council which removed the hiring freeze. This information was sourced and provided to all Council the following morning, Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

The hiring freeze was removed by Resolution at a Special Council Meeting held December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, effective December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022. This facilitated the hiring of the Acting CAO at the end of December and subsequently, Acting CAO Tobin has hired an Interim Part Time Financial Officer and is currently involved in a search for a Temporary Village Clerk to assist in the effective operation of the Village of Lions Bay. The Interim Part time CFO was hired by the Acting CAO as soon as possible to meet the immediate requirements of our 2023 Provisional Budget preparation. The current Village Clerk posting is temporary and subject to change as the Village needs are assessed. This assessment will involve our two very senior and experienced professionals, Acting CAO Tobin and Acting CFO Miller, who the Village has been fortunate enough to engage. The CAO's authorities are specified by the Community Charter.

### **By-Election Confirmed April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Former Councillor Norm Barmeier resigned from office on December 1, 2023, after four weeks in office. The Village of Lions Bay Council voted unanimously to pass the following resolution on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Moved/Seconded

THAT the Chief Administrative Officer is appointed Chief Election Officer and that accordingly the date of the By-election must be no later than 80 days after the 31st day of January 2023 and must fall on a Saturday which is the 16th day April, 2023.

**CARRIED**

### **Fire Chief**

Council appointed Barrett Germscheid as Fire Chief effective February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The CAO is charged with negotiating the terms of employment pursuant the Community Charter.

### **Lions Bay Beach Park Advisory Committee**

The Lions Bay Beach Park Advisory Committee (LBBPAC) met Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, for the first time as Council Advisory Committee, confirmed its terms of reference and established an aggressive agenda and processes to move the project forward. Watch for regular updates and ongoing seeking of input and information in the Village Update. This is an excellent example of we can do working together.

### **In summary**

Lions Bay has a history of passionate, spirited, and rigorous debate. I ask that you focus on issues that matter to you and seek information which Council will provide when available. Please continue to be respectful, kind and value your neighbours' opinions as you hope they will value yours. Personal attacks and rhetoric have no place in Lions Bay and use valuable energy without benefit.

Council comes from diverse backgrounds and varied experiences, but certainly with one thing in common, we are all here to serve the best interest of our beloved Village of Lions Bay.

Thank you,  
Ken Berry, Mayor  
Village of Lions Bay



The Curly Stewart Memorial Scholarship committee is happy to welcome back the following members, who have been reappointed by Council:

Jennifer Hetherington  
Hugo van Hoogsraten  
Kit McLean  
Nicole Strahl

We still have space for an additional member. If you'd like to volunteer, please email me at [councillor.abbott@lionsbay.ca](mailto:councillor.abbott@lionsbay.ca) by noon on Tuesday, February 7th. If you need

more information on what this entails, please include your phone number and I will call to discuss.

The Curly Stewart Scholarship is awarded to one Lions Bay student each year and this committee is responsible for considering all applications for the award and making recommendations to Council.

Please tell your Grade 12 student to look out for all the details and the opportunity to apply in March. The closing date is typically the end of April. The amount awarded last year was \$750 but this may increase depending on available funds.

**Neville Abbott**  
**councillor.abbott@lionsbay.ca**

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We are pleased to announce that Council has formally proclaimed the Lions Bay Climate Action Committee to be in business! We are excited to continue the important work of strengthening and protecting the stewardship of our natural heritage and the stunning environment we are all so fortunate to live within.

The Village of Lions Bay Climate Action Advisory Committee's mandate is to provide a local perspective and advice to Council to mitigate the Village's corporate and community Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) reduction targets, policies, and actions related to Climate Action, as identified in the Official Community Plan.

Several members of the committee from the previous term have stepped up to continue serving on the committee and have been reappointed by council, along with one new volunteer. Thank you all, and we look forward to working together with you!

Norm Barmeier  
Clara George  
Christina Lee  
John Robb (new member)  
Greg Weary

**Neville Abbott and Marcus Reuter**  
**Committee Co-chairs**

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**UPDATES FROM THE MUNICIPALITY**

# BIRD NESTING, TREE CUTTING,

# THE LAW AND YOU

**Did you know that causing harm to a migratory bird or destroying its nest or eggs is illegal and contravenes the *BC Wildlife Act*, *Federal Migratory Birds Convention Act*, and the *Migratory Birds Regulations*?**

In particular, it is an offence under Section 35 of the *Wildlife Act*, to disturb or destroy an active bird nest—this applies to **Municipal and private trees**. In accordance with the Village of Lions Bay *Trees, Views, and Landscapes Bylaw No. 393, 2007*, the cutting of trees on Municipal Property during active bird nesting season which is between **March 26 and August 16 each year is prohibited**.

If your backyard is home to a bird family, causing them stress by destroying their habitat during the time they are intensely concentrating on the hard work of brooding, feeding, and tending to young can have dire consequences. Just because you don't see a nest in a particular tree, it doesn't mean there isn't one! Birds are very good at camouflaging their nests - different species build their nests at different heights, and those highest up among the branches may be extra hard to spot. Tiny hummingbird nests are the hardest to find. Some bird species will build their nests on or quite low to the ground, something the careful gardener should also be mindful of when doing yard work...

So, if you want to do some tree work and those trees are on Municipal property, you'll need to apply for a tree cutting permit ASAP as the window to obtain Council approval is dwindling. The ***March 7th Council meeting is the last meeting you can get your application approved*** so that your work can happen before the March 26<sup>th</sup> deadline – after that, you're going to have to wait until mid-August unless you get Council dispensation to undertake a nesting survey with a registered biologist at your cost to establish there are no bird nests in the vicinity of the trees you wish to cut.

**Want to make the deadline for the March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting? Here's what needs to happen:**

1. Your application needs to be completed and turned in **no later than February 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM**. Once submitted your application will be reviewed and vetted and then Office staff will pass on your application to Public Works to review.
2. Public Works will need to assess the trees so **the trees being cut must be marked** so that staff know exactly which tree(s) are being worked on. Public Works staff will submit their feedback to the Office who will then prepare a package for the Tree Committee to review and meet to discuss.
3. For the tree Committee to meet, Notice must be made in the **Village Update 8 days prior to their site meeting**. Once the tree committee have made their recommendations, Office staff will prepare the application for submission to the Council agenda package for the next available Council Meeting.
4. If approved by Council, a permit will be provided to you once a \$500 damage deposit has been received by the Village Office, a copy of the tree cutting company's Certificate of Insurance naming the Village of Lions Bay as an additional insured for \$5 million, as well as their WorkSafe BC Certification.



There is a lot to prepare and organize and schedule – so please take note of the timeline!



### 2023 DOG & BOAT SPACE LICENSES

Reminder that dog and boat space licenses are now due. The early discount payment is applicable for dog licenses until February 28th and for boat spaces, until March 31st.

## COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING:

**February 7, 2023 at 6:00pm\***

**\*Closed session will begin at 6:00pm followed by the public meeting at 7:00pm**

### **Note from the Mayor:**

Council will be asked to focus on the current critical issues of the Budget and Village Operations at this meeting.

As the most up to date information is obtained, the agenda for the February 7th, 2023 Regular Council Meeting will be posted to meet the legal requirements of the Community Charter.

This posting will occur February 6th , 2023. Please refer to the February 3rd Mayor's Message for more information.

### COMMITTEE MEETING:

**Board of Variance - February 8, 2023 at 6:00pm**

[View the Council and Committee Schedule, Agendas, & Minutes HERE!](#)

Video conferencing is available for public participation via Zoom. Instructions on how to attend and publicly participate in a meeting can be found [here](#).

*Public Viewing Etiquette:*

- *Public participation is still available on Zoom, during the Public Participation section of the agenda. Attendees will have two minutes to speak on any matter at the beginning of the meeting*
- *Silent viewing only, until you are called upon to speak (if desired).*
- *Please do not interrupt Council discussion.*
- *Limit background distractions by muting your microphone and keeping video turned off until such time as it's your turn to speak (if applicable).*
- *If interruptions are repeated, the participant will be removed from the meeting*

## WHAT'S HAPPENDING IN LIONS BAY



### **Gong xi fa ca (Mandarin)** **Gung hay fat Choy (Cantonese)**

Say goodbye to the Tiger.  
It's time to hop into the Year of the Rabbit!

The Water Rabbit, starts on January 22nd, 2023,  
and ends on February 9th, 2024.

It is said that the Year of the Water Rabbit is going to be a gentler year.

We'll all have time to take a breather.

The sign of the Rabbit is a symbol of longevity, peace, and prosperity.

Most importantly 2023 is predicted to be a year of hope.

May the lunar new year bring peace, joy, and comfort to you  
and your family.

**Presented by the Lions Bay Historical Society**



Next Week !!

All Lions Bay **Grade 11 and 12 students** and their **parents** are invited to a Lions Bay Community Scholarship Foundation presentation:

**Scholarship Application Online Tutorial**

**Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

7 pm to 8 pm

Via Zoom

How to prepare a successful scholarship application

Criteria for success

Q & A

*Presented by Michael Broughton and Jon Wescott*

To confirm your attendance

and receive the Zoom Link

[michael.broughton@telus.net](mailto:michael.broughton@telus.net)

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Village of Lions Bay | [lionsbay.ca](http://lionsbay.ca)

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The Village of Lions Bay | 400 Centre Road , P.O. Box 141, Lions Bay, V0N 2E0 Canada

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