

MAYOR'S REPORT - JULY, 2021



July did not start out with the usual celebration of patriotic pomp and circumstance, but was instead dulled by a call for reflection of the circumstances surrounding the past treatment of our First Nations children and families across Canada in the residential school system. It will be a huge challenge to reconcile these atrocities across an entire Country but I feel confident that if we all do our part to understand the stories as well as understand our First Nations cultures and beliefs in the present, we can build a more cohesive nation together as Canadians. In short, I firmly believe that if all of us together as neighbours, play a role in truth and reconciliation we will get there much faster governments to administrate our relationships with one another.

In July, we have moved to level 4 drought conditions and hence have moved to stage 3 water restrictions. The Province has also declared a Provincial State of Emergency because of the number of wildfires burning throughout the Province. Lack of precipitation and extreme temperature conditions across the province and in our region have put us all on alert for what may happen. For us in the Cowichan Lake Area, residents and visitors alike, must use extreme caution while recreating in the outdoors in and around the forest. The smallest human mistake has the ability to destroy an entire communities as we have witnessed on the news all too often in recent years. Be firesmart !

Also of special note is that due to drought, the flow of the Cowichan River will be lowered to 5.5cms by the end of this week. If there is no significant rainfall in the near future the flow will be dropped again to the lowest flow allowable of 4.5cms. After that, pumping water over the weir to sustain river flow will be implemented should there not be enough water left in the lake to maintain that flow.

Although pumping did not occur last year, this is a topic that drives the need to increase the height of the weir to store more water and maintain a healthy flow of the Cowichan River which is vital for salmon preservation as well as a good supply of fresh water in the Cowichan watershed. The new weir is predicted to begin construction in 2024. Visit Cowichanlake-weir.com to view the plan and review all concerned data.

Councillor McGonigle and myself will be attending virtually a local government engagement session on modernizing forest policy this week and we look forward to adding input into this process. Keeping our working forests sustainable can be a challenging effort and the Provincial Government is working very hard to keep our forest practices sustainable.

Finally, we are halfway through the summer season and our area is bustling with summertime activities. It feels good to be able to be together again and welcome visitors to help support our local economy as most of us have or will shortly be fully vaccinated for Covid 19. Please respect those around you when it comes to masking and social distancing. We all still need to be safe because Covid is still with us.

Thank you to Council and Staff for your continued hard work in the community and enjoy the rest of your summer season when you can!

Mayor Bob K. Day
Town of Lake Cowichan
Call / Text 250.710.0742

“Building Community Together”