



MAYOR'S 2nd QUARTERLY REPORT

June, 2024



I would like to start by thanking all the Volunteers who stepped up to make sure this year's Lake Days event was successful. Without the many volunteers in our community, many events we all enjoy would not be possible. Even the weather cooperated. Congratulations to this year's Ambassador Team, I'm sure you will enjoy representing our area this year in many events, showcasing the beauty and hospitality of the Lake communities.

To the grad class of 2024, Council extends our best wishes to you all, and congratulate you on your accomplishments thus far. To those continuing on scholastically, best wishes. To those entering the work force, stay safe, and to those taking time to make future plans, enjoy.

As we begin the summer season, we will see an increase in visitors looking to enjoy all that we have to offer. This is a very important time for our small business owners to help them through the quiet winter months. Our quiet Town becomes a recreational destination, and with patience, we will endure the influx of visitors.

Councillor Frisby and I attended the Federation of Municipalities in Calgary earlier this month, learning from all Communities, the struggles of providing 60 - 70 % of the services our residents require with only 8-10 % of the total Tax Base. A more sustainable share of the total tax base is required by all communities to pay for the services we provide, taking the pressure off the unsustainable Property Tax System. A new fiscal framework is being developed to ensure this is addressed. No matter the size of the Communities we networked with, the issues were the same. We attended many plenaries and had a chance to tour the automated recycling centre. Calgary with a population of 1.6 million, has a participation rate of 95% for recycling, as everything except film plastic goes into the blue bin. We learned about opportunities with the Green Municipal Fund, Community Tourism Strategies, the use of AI, and the increase in vitriolic incidents online and in person affecting elected officials. I attended a Sacred Spaces First Nation session and was impressed with how far ahead British Columbia is in reconciliation as compared to other provinces, who just now are implementing the Community to Community engagement.

As we finalized our budget process for the year, we kept in mind the importance of this, and were able to get the increase to 4%, lower than the rate of inflation. Thanks to all Councillors and staff for being cognizant of the importance of fiscal responsibility.

Tim McGonigle
Mayor
Lake Cowichan



Mayor and Council with the Cowichan Lake 2023-2024 Ambassadors,
2024-2025 Cowichan Lake Ambassador Candidates, 2023 BC Ambassador and 2024 BC Ambassador Candidate.