

# Directors Report June 2023

## Strathcona Gardens Service

As many residents are aware only Area D and the City of Campbell River pay for the Strathcona Gardens Facility.

The other 3 Electoral Areas A, B and C do not pay into this service.

While the other three Electoral Areas argue that their use of the facility is rather limited and they do not feel that this facility really benefits them a meaningful way, they have also failed to recognize that the Strathcona Gardens does benefit the Strathcona Regional District as a whole and they should be supporting it.

I have asked staff to bring a report back to the Regional Board with options that might see the three Electoral Areas included in this service.

I think its time for all the Electoral Areas to support the Strathcona Gardens.

## Public Meeting with the Residents of Cedar Creek and Strathcona Lodge

It was great to meet the residents and to hear their concerns and questions on how the Strathcona Regional District might be able to help residents achieve a greater peace of mind in regards to protecting their homes and cottages in the event of a fire.

It was also nice to hear that some residents are still very interested in having a Hydro hookup

I am already working on a motion for the next Regional Board Meeting to get this process restarted.

## Solid Waste Rate Roundtable in Campbell River

There was a full day spent in Campbell River with the Solid Waste Board.

For those that are not sure what this is it was a full day to talk about Garbage, Landfills, Recycling and how much we all pay on taxes for this service.

I know in Area D we all pay for our own garbage service, but we also pay on our taxes.

The money collected on our taxes is used to manage the landfills and the recycling facilities and the list goes on.

The important take is that over the last few years the tax requisitions for this service have continue to increase, which also means that homeowners are subsidizing companies that pickup your garbage.

The Solid Waste Board did decide that tax requisition will be reduced for 2023 and 2024, and that the tipping fees that are charged to all the garbage companies will be increased for 2024.

It will be interesting to see how this change will affect taxes for next year.

## **North Island 911**

The meeting this month was held at the Campbell River Fire Department so all the new board members could visit the 911 call centre and the fully operational backup centre on Dogwood.

I am not sure if folks are aware but the Campbell River 911 call out centre does manage considerable dispatch calls to various fire departments in the province and Vancouver Island.

It is remarkable how far technology is coming and the new roles that will play in 2025 when the 911 service rolls out its enhanced 911 service.

## **Connected Coast**

The connected coast project is quickly reaching new milestones.

With an eminent agreement to be announced very soon with the Vancouver Internet Exchange connected Coast and Baylink will very soon be able to light the fibre up for Sayward, Gold River, Cortes, Quadra and other communities along the inside passage.

Lighting the fibre up just means that all that new fibre that has been installed will soon be connected to the internet.

## **Pubic Hearing July 12th Urban Containment Boundary Extension**

As some are aware there is a proposal submitted to the City of Campbell River requesting an extension of the Urban Containment Boundary to allow a City of Campbell River development adjacent to Finch Rd in area d.

When this motion was presented to the Strathcona Regional Board there was information that was included with the motion that was not accurate nor relevant to the actual Urban Containment Boundary Extension proposal and that has created considerable confusion in the community.

I would highly suggest that for those who are interested in this that it would be in their best interests to attend this hearing which will be at the Sportplex July 12th from 7:00 pm to 9:00.

## **Public Hearing July 19th at Oyster Bay Resort**

Just letting folks know that Area D will be having its first public hearing to obtain public feedback and or concerns on the proposed York Rd and Chantrelle Way OCP change request. More details on this will be coming out soon but I will mention that this OCP request is supported by our 27 year old OCP and the previous Director did deny this request how many years ago.

## **Rate Review for the Black Creek Oyster Bay Water Service**

For those that are connected to this water system ( all the folks south of the Driftwood Restaurant) there is a rate review coming out.

Details of when this review is happening should be with your July billing.

This is an opportunity to provide me with any concerns or feedback that you would like both myself and the SRD to bring forward in this rate review. It is also worth mentioning that the water infrastructure is quickly approaching its end of life and significant upgrades are expected to start in 2030.

And finally my Alternate Terry Brown will be doing the board meetings on July 19th 2023.