

Directors Report May 2023

May was a short month as many Directors were away to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) 2023 Annual Conference in Toronto, Ontario. While Toronto is quite the city the contrast to living on the West Coast is quite eye opening. Our green spaces and our parks which many take for granted are so nice when compared to other cities like Toronto.

Social Media

Many people continue to use Social Media to contact me and or to ask me questions.

As a public official I have a duty to maintain all my communications in the event of a Freedom of Information Request.

I encourage everyone who wishes to contact me to either call me on my cell or drop me an email.

City of Campbell River Urban Boundary Extension

As many folks are now aware in the Community the Strathcona Regional District at its last Regional Board Meeting on May 11th 2023 did vote in favour of this extension.

This area has always been the City of Campbell River and they have every right to eventually build in this area.

I know there are substantial concerns in the Community, but I would also like to point out to all concerned residents that there will be plenty of opportunity for public engagement.

I have contacted the City of Campbell Rivers planning department to better understand the process.

There will be 2 OCP changes that will be needed before this development moves forward so that does mean there will be 2 public hearings.

As these public hearings are held in the City of Campbell River it will be the City of Campbell River Council and Mayor that will decide what is the outcome of each of those hearings.

As I am able to determine public hearing dates I will be doing a direct mail out via Canada Post to inform all those residents that are not in the immediate area of Finch Rd of those public hearing dates. Public hearings are your opportunity to voice your concerns.

The City of Campbell River has every right to build new homes within its boundaries and that needs to be respected. Already on Social Media there is misinformation which is not helpful. It is rather disturbing when uninformed people use social media to make uninformed remarks and comments. That said, this could also be the opportunity to get things for Area D.

I encourage all residents who have concerns to please contact me. Email or a phone call !

I am even happy to arrange meetings or group meetings.

Fire Service Agreement Renewal with the City of Campbell River

The current Fire Service Agreement with the City of Campbell River was signed in late 1979 and it has had no updates or further input from the Area Director since that date.

Hard to believe that the previous Director whose career which spanned more than 27 years was not on top of this crucial and very important Service Agreement that affects how many households in the Community.

As this agreement is very old and lacks clarity in some sections it is time to resume talks on this service agreement. This will provide the opportunity for Area D Residents to contact me and voice their concerns so that they can be properly articulated in future Board Meetings.

I encourage all residents who have concerns regarding this service to please contact me via email.

Official Community Plan (OCP)

Over the next 2 months staff will be updating the 2017 Draft OCP and I am expecting some dates for public engagement.

I encourage all Area D residents to participate in the public engagement dates as this will be your opportunity to ensure your thoughts and desires are captured in the Official Community Plan.

Opening Up York Rd to the Inland Hwy

For those that might be familiar with this I have been informed by our MLA that there could be the possibility of opening York Rd to the Inland Hwy via Cranberry Lane.

Possible positive outcomes could be:

1. Improved snow plowing
2. Upgraded road similar to Hamm Rd
3. Better maintained road
4. Possibility or more traffic being routed to the Inland Hwy instead of Highway 19A

5. Better intersection at York Rd and Highway 19A

I would be very interested to hear from folks on what they think about this possibility. Please send me email with your thoughts.

Universal Water Meters for the Northern Water System

The grant initiated by the previous Director back in 2021 was denied by the province in March of this year.

As I realize that water meters will play a critical role in controlling water costs for many the SRD CAO and our MLA have been working hard to ensure that Area D will obtain a grant for Universal Water Meters.

I am expecting a positive announcement will be coming soon.