

Directors Report Year Review Nov 2023

That's right a year has gone by already since taking office.

Here is what has been accomplished in this past year.

1. My number one goal is “ Transparency and Accountability “ to the community and to respond to everyone who contacts me in a timely manner. I hope that I have delivered on that goal.
2. A new 2023 Official Community Plan is getting closer to completion. SRD staff have worked hard on this to ensure the community residents visions and desires are very well captured in this critical planning document.

On Dec 6th there will be one more “Open House” and I am hoping that the community will show up for this very important Public Engagement event.

3. A Grant for 2.8 Million was obtained to install free water meters to all those that are connected to the Campbell River Water System. And yes at the Board Meeting of Nov 8th the Board did agree to authorize that those who did install meters at their cost would receive a reimbursement for their costs.
4. New Advisory Panel Committee. Starting with the creation of a new Bylaw to ensure that the process to advertise and select committee members is transparent and without a Directors influence this new panel had its orientation meeting last week. I am thrilled with the mix of applicants and I suspect that since each of the members brings a variety of views to the table that when they do create resolutions on Land Use, Development Applications that those resolutions will have different perspectives.
5. Strathcona Gardens New Pool and Building upgrades. I supported that vote as I believed it was the right decision to make.

This complex is vitally important to the Regional District as a whole and unfortunately all meaningful upgrades and repairs have been on hold for the past decade while previous Decision Makers tried to find Grants to offset construction costs.

Yes as newly elected to vote on a \$64 million project was difficult I did not make that decision lightly.

This project will kick off in 2024 and I am confident that this new construction will serve all the communities in the Regional District and help all our communities with a much needed updated modern pool complex and rather substantial building updates to meet the growing interest in Sports and Recreation.

6. Regional Housing Service. I brought this idea to the Regional Board early this year and I am thrilled to see that while it was given a rough go by some Electoral Area Directors it was very well supported by the Regional Directors.

It is now going through the APP process. This service will focus on work force housing, housing for seniors, and being able to work with non-profits. It also allows Area D to apply for Government Grants under the Housing Accelerated Funding program.

This service does aim to be cost neutral and to not burden to tax payers with extra taxes.

7. New Development Applications. Yes, finally Area D is seeing new some new Development Applications and the potential for some growth.

While there are those in the community who do not welcome this change, there are many drivers at play. Our Regional District is facing a housing crunch in many communities and Electoral areas.

8. One of my campaign items was to look at existing bylaws and to make changes if warranted. While the bylaw amendment process is time consuming the following bylaws have been amended or created

Keeping Chickens or Ducks on properties less then one acre was changed. All properties less then one acre can have either 4 chickens or ducks or a mix to equal 4. There are many properties in Area D that are smaller lots.

Low Occupancy Farm Use Buildings - the requirement for a building permit and engineering reports have been removed giving our Farmers the ability to add low occupancy structures as needed without local government red tape. This allows our farmers to have the same advantage as the farmers in the Comox Valley and are on ALR lands.

Bylaw to prevent a property owner on a well to bottle water for resale. This bylaw was brought forward due to the fact that the Comox Valley has had that very problem.

Advisory Panel Committee Bylaw. For years this very important committee was hand picked and there was no transparency into how members were even obtained. Having this bylaw does make this process accountable and transparent.

9. Outstanding parks projects and upgrades some which were waiting almost a decade have now been completed or will be completed in 2024. Sufficient budgets have been allocated for all these projects and upgrades.

Thank you to the SRD staff who have worked hard this past year on Area D Parks projects.

10. There has been progress this year with establishing a relationship with Ministry of Transportation and through constructive dialogue Area D has seen improvements and commitments which come at no cost such as 1. Culvert Replacements at Henry Rd.

More pothole repairs through the community.

Commitment to launch a “Traffic Study” for Highway 19A which will commence in 2024.

Commitment to install 4 new Bus Shelters by March 2024 on various bus stops on Highway 19A.

Commitment to road repair and improvements to the Transit Exchange on Glenmore Rd for 2024.

I would like to stress that a great deal of credit needs to go back to the hard working SRD staff who are there to help all the Directors achieve their goals.