

Directors Report Jan 2023

The best to all for 2023.

Much has happened thru Dec 2022 and into 2023.

All of the New Electoral Directors have now sat in the Inaugural meetings for both Solid Waste and Hospital Board Meetings and while we are all still coming up to speed with the issues I have to say that the response from other members on these boards has been very positive. Many existing members are looking at the new directors and council members for new energy and ideas for these important assignments.

Other Boards, Commissions, and groups that I will be sitting on are

BCOB water and fire service
BC Hydro Group
Connected Coast Commission
911 Commission
VIRL Trustee
Strathcona Gardens Commission

I have started the following initiatives for 2023 that SRD staff are looking into

Looking at creating a Fire Service for the residents that live on the Gold River and Strathcona Lodge Area. The purpose of this service will be to acquire equipment such as a tanker truck, and other gear as needed to help residents protect their homes and the community when a fire event occurs. More details on this service will be coming at a later date.

Cold Weather response for homeless in Area D. This is still in the very early stages, but it is time for Area D to have an appropriate response in place. Being homeless is not a “Crime” and have a well-thought response in place is fitting for any community.

Bus Shelters for Area D. I am looking to get four bus shelters for Area D. These shelters do come at a cost of \$26,000 ea and I am looking to have them placed on the waterside of Highway 19A. While there are grants for bus shelters Area D does share its transit service with the City of Campbell River and grant opportunities are very limited. I am working hard with SRD staff to ensure that Area D is in a position to purchase bus shelters should the grant not be approved. It is expected that the SRD will know in Feb 2023 if this grant will be approved.

New concrete pad and bus pullout for the water side bus stop located at Engles Rd. This will allow a Bus Shelter to be installed in the near future.

Ditch Service for Area D. This is still in the very early stages, but it is time for Area D to have a Ditch Service that can address the deficiencies from the Province and Mainroad. This initiative was brought about due to the “Flooding Events” on Henry Rd. Still, lots of details to work out and to ensure that this

service has adequate budget without “Raising Taxes”. Further information will be coming at a later date.

Public Access Permit for the right of way access that is located on Crawford Rd and connects to Ocean Groove School. This would allow the SRD more control over this very popular right of way access and to allow this popular short cut to Ocean Groove School safer for the public as it was never intended to be used for public access.

Staff are preparing a report for the EASC Committee (the four Electoral Directors) that will outline a new transparent method of selecting Electoral Area D Advisory Planning Commission members. I will have more information on this at a later date.

Recent EASC Board Decisions

In the Inaugural EASC committee meeting on Jan 11, 2023, Director Whalley from Electoral Area A was voted as Chair, and Director Vonesch from Electoral Area C was voted as Vice Chair. Director Whalley with his years of experience will be valuable in helping the new Directors navigate their new roles in local government.

With a focus on Area D there was three Development Variance Permits to consider which were all approved, one development permit which was approved, and one rezoning application that was approved. The staff reports that were included with each of these items did indicate that there was no reason for not approving these items.

Water Meter Grant

There has still been no response from the Province on the “Water Meter Grant” for those on the Northern Water System.

Budget Discussions

Budget Meetings will continue through the month of Jan and into Feb. While it is still too early to make any formal announcements, I am confident that the community will appreciate this first budget and perhaps one that represents a new vision for Area D.

Strathcona Gardens Committee

The Inaugural Meeting was held on Jan 11 2023 and it was decided that Commissioner Sinnott would be chair and the Area D Director would be vice chair.

There was a presentation for the “New Swimming Pool” that has been in the works for the past few years. This new pool if approved will come at an approx. cost of \$53 million with less than a third being covered in a possible grant at this time. For those that are not aware the existing pool is leaking and is reaching its end of life.

I respect that very little information has been filtered to Area D residents over the years regarding Strathcona Gardens and I also recognize that for many they are most likely in the dark as to what has been happening with the Strathcona Garden. There are other upgrades that are in the works for this facility and of course the all important budget meetings will be happening later this month. Expect more information in Feb 2023 regarding the Strathcona Gardens.

BCOB Water System

For those that are on the southern water system a new well has been dug on “Shelter Point Farms”. This new well will be coming online later this year and it is expected that new water connections will be available in Sept 2023. This new well should service the BCOB Water System quite well.

With high expectations I have already discussed in very “High Level Terms” that Area D will be looking to expand the water service in the future.

Over the coming months I will have more to say on this new addition to the BCOB water system.