

South of Town Events

October, 2020

From the Area C Director....

Unfortunately in September our local area saw its first official cases of COVID-19 – hopefully we will learn from the experience and increase efforts to keep our community safe. I would like to commend the Tla'amin Nation for taking the necessary actions to contain further outbreaks after it was determined that some of the cases were discovered in their area. Fast and decisive action on their part more than likely kept the disease from having a greater impact. In spite of the cases that have occurred, we are still doing quite well and if we act responsibly we should be able to reduce the risk of exposure again.

Now that the summer has ended things are getting back to (somewhat) normal. Students are back in school, although many of them will be working online versus in the classroom. Those in the classroom are operating under new protocols, and according to my sources things are going well. Use of the gym and community house at KCCS is restricted to just school activities but hopefully those rules will be relaxed in the future, if the situation allows.

At the RD life goes on. This month I attended a meeting of the Social Action Planning and Advisory Committee where we discussed poverty reduction, childcare spaces and the housing needs assessment. The survey concerning housing needs is closed now, but hopefully many community members took the time to fill out the survey so that we can determine what housing types are most needed in the RD and how we can go about encouraging their construction. The report for childcare spaces has been studied and the school board is discussing grant funding with the province with the idea that facilities would be placed on elementary school grounds. The school district would not run the facilities, instead opting for an independent third party or a partner as yet to be determined. Hopefully some new spaces are found because there are many families out there that have inadequate child care.

The Powell River Public Library is still chugging along nicely. Electronic materials and self-serve checkouts are popular and patrons are being respectful. A recent article in the NY Times talked about how many libraries were well prepared for the pandemic having already invested in ways to serve the public remotely. Congrats to our local library for already having many of those practices and resources in place!

On Saturday, Oct. 3rd from noon-4:00 Marc Albert and I will be at the Lang Bay Hall Plant and Garden show meeting people and handing out fliers, including information about the FireSmart program and copies of the new South of Town Community Evacuation Guide, which can also be found at www.qathet.ca under Emergency Services/Emergency Preparedness/Personal and Neighbourhood Preparedness. See you there!

Clay Brander, qathet Regional District

