

South of Town Events

February, 2021

From the Area C Director....

After a welcome break at the end of December we got right back into it. January was a month for meetings, and some of them went long. Very long. We're knee-deep into the budget right now, which is never a particularly enjoyable time. Local governments are being asked to do more and more by the provincial and federal governments and there's a lot of time spent on emergency preparedness, asset management and climate change – all of which were largely ignored or unheard of twenty years ago. Unfortunately a lot of what local government does isn't exactly "sexy" and doesn't get the attention that it deserves. Wildfire mitigation, for instance, isn't a big attention-grabber because people don't usually think about the fires that didn't start and the buildings that didn't burn down, even though that's the end goal of the program. Emergency evacuation plans and supplies containers are hopefully never used, which means people don't notice them until they're desperately needed, and then it's fantastic that they're there. It's a bit of a thankless position, being the organization responsible for programs that are hopefully never needed, but that's why local governments exist: to identify and be prepared for all reasonable scenarios (we don't have plans for a zombie apocalypse... yet). Being prepared is challenging and requires staff time, and balancing workload with responsible taxation isn't easy. Stress and burnout can sometimes lead to greater costs in the long run than immediate savings can cover. These are all things that need to be considered at this time of year, and difficult decisions need to be made. We're doing the best that we can.

The meeting this month that will probably be of the most interest to Area C residents is the one that was held with representatives from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI). One item on the agenda was the curve at Black Point Road and the danger that it places pedestrians and cyclists in when they're crossing the road and drivers in when they're turning onto the highway. I was very adamant that the public was in support of MOTI taking steps to slow down traffic through Black Point and to increase the safety of the residents. MOTI has promised to bring an engineer to Powell River in the spring to address the issue – I'm hoping to meet with them personally at the site to discuss the situation.

Another item that will be of interest to Area C residents – the Board has applied to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund for the amount of \$25,000 to be used to purchase a shipping container of emergency supplies to be earmarked for Kelly Creek Community School. The plan is to eventually have ten containers throughout the qRD so that should the big one hit, we'll all have somewhere to go to access blankets, cots and a variety of first aid supplies. Hopefully it's never needed.

Have a great February!

Clay Brander, qathet Regional District

Lang Bay Hall:

The Lang Bay Hall remains closed to activities, events & rentals. We look forward to welcoming everyone back at some point in 2021. Until then, please stay tuned.

If you're looking for something to read please visit the mini library at the front door of the hall. Take necessary precautions when handling the books and check in regularly for new materials.

Kelly Creek Community School Association:

Schools are up and running but things look a bit different this year. For more information please check out the following SD47 websites:

- BC Public Health/SD47 information page: <https://www.sd47.bc.ca/Pages/covid19.aspx#/=>
- Elementary school info: https://www.sd47.bc.ca/Documents/fact%20sheets_elementary.pdf
- Secondary school info: https://www.sd47.bc.ca/Documents/fact%20sheets_secondary.pdf
- KCCS info: <https://www.sd47.bc.ca/school/kccs/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

The new playground equipment (funded by a provincial Ministry of Education grant) has been installed and looks great! The old asphalt has been replaced. Take some time on one of these rare sunny days to check it out! Unfortunately for the time being the gym and community house are not open to the public. The situation is being monitored.

Kelly Creek Community Church:

- Pastor: Mike Martinig Office: 604-414-4827 Email: kellyck@telus.net
- Sunday service: Re-starting soon – check KCCC Facebook page for details:
(<https://www.facebook.com/KellyCreekChurch/>)
- YouTube sermons: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4DCEVn5byz-L1ffioV2zIQ>