

# *South of Town Events*

*April, 2021*

## ***From the Area C Director....***

The days are getting longer and the sun is out more often and I for one really appreciate the changes. The Covid restrictions are a lot easier to endure when you can enjoy the outdoors, that's for sure. There are two calls going out to the public that I'd like to bring your attention to this month – one for your input and one for volunteers:

The City of Powell River, the qathet Regional District and the Tla 'amin Nation are partnering to develop a Poverty Reduction Strategy and need to get a good picture of what's happening in our community. You can do your part by filling out the survey at <http://participatepr.ca.povertyreduction> and sharing the link with your friends and family – the more responses we get the better.

Vancouver Coastal Health is looking for volunteers to help with local vaccination clinics. If you're interested in being a part of this and would like more information, please check out <https://www.qathet.ca/2021/03/19/covid-19-vaccination-clinics-opportunity-to-volunteer-in-person/>.

For information on when it's your turn to call in to book your Covid vaccination please check out <http://www.vch.ca/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine> for the latest information.

Other than passing the 2021 budget, which I've spoken about already, it was a relatively quiet month. We did receive delegations representing the RCMP and the real estate agents in our area and both groups made interesting presentations. According to RCMP Staff Sergeant Rod Wiebe, crime in qathet Regional District fell in 2020 when compared to 2019, but 2019 was a particularly bad year so we still have a ways to go to get back to the levels of previous years. Real estate agents Lynn Adamson and Neil Frost presented the board with purchase and sales statistics for 2019, 2020 and 2021 and informed us of the incredible shortage of homes for sale in our area right now. At the time of the presentation I believe there were around thirty stand alone homes for sale from Saltery Bay to Lund whereas there would normally be well over a hundred (condos are not included in that number). In 2019 52% of the sales went to people from out of town – in 2020 this jumped to 55% and in 2021 it's at 71%. Of those buying from out of town, in 2019 46% of them were from the Lower Mainland (Hope-Squamish) – this number jumped to 52% in 2020 and 71% so far this year. People are leaving the big city to get closer to nature as they recognize what's important. I like seeing the new faces and really appreciate those that come to the community with a purpose, setting up small farms and businesses and making a go of it. I look forward to the day when everything is back to normal and it's easier to take advantage of the new services that they're offering.

***Clay Brander, qathet Regional District***

