

qathet Regional District

**ELECTORAL AREA 'A' NEWSLETTER
for June 2021**

from Patrick Brabazon, Director

This newsletter is being sent to all residents of *Electoral Area A* of the qathet Regional District (qRD). At the end of this newsletter you will find my telephone number and my e-mail address. I welcome your comments.

Connections, again

In the previous *Green Sheet* I commented on the “Connected Coast” proposal which will supply fibre optical cable up and down the coast from Prince Rupert to Lasqueti and beyond. This is the ultimate solution to poor cell phone and internet service and it is still progressing.

In the meantime we have to work with incremental progress and keep scoring such successes as are available. One of these is the addition of more communication towers with increased coverage for cell phones and some benefit for internet. One such “tower” has been erected on high ground at the back of Klah Ah Men Lund Gazebo Park in Lund. Telus leases the footprint for the tower from the qRD and the community benefits from the increased cell phone service coverage. A second tower is proposed for private land off Craig Road and if approved this will further fill in the notorious “dead zones” plaguing Area A.

This is not just an issue of chatting with friends and family on your phone; in addition to emergency service contact, the ability to work from your home with all of the attendant benefits for family and the environment provides our community with options that simply did not exist before.

Savary

Recent developments on Savary Island offer some less positive news. Several years ago the Island suffered every summer with a “rave” organized by outsiders. These occurred on the long August weekend and while not only disrupting life for residents and other visitors, resulted in widespread drunkenness and general public disorder. It was not pleasant. Thanks to cooperation between the Savary Island Committee, the RCMP, and the Regional District this was shut down.

Now we have something different. A new generation has decided that the wharf is party central on long weekends and the May holiday offered a glimpse of challenges for the future. A survey of the wharf following complaints from residents after an all-nighter shows some damage to the shed, and elsewhere, and garbage strewn throughout. This in addition to the activity which could well have resulted in serious injury or death.

Then there is the vehicle traffic on the beach. Trucks, etc., are driving on the sand of the north beaches in violation of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*. In addition to the environmental damage the operator faces a \$575 ticket with other much greater penalties if the matter got to court.

qRD has a Savary Island Marine Advisory Committee [SIMAC] which works hard with Islanders and the Regional District to ensure that the greater good and public assets are respected. SIMAC is involved with

solutions of both of the above issues and I complement them for their constant attention to the wellbeing of their neighbours, visitors, and the general public. Thank you, folks.

One Person's Garbage . . .

In British Columbia regional districts are responsible for solid waste [garbage]. Thus, if you live in a rural area, or downtown Vancouver with a city garbage truck dropping by to pick up your offerings, the appropriate Regional District is actually the ultimate authority for disposal. Each regional district must have a Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) which is a blueprint for how regional districts will reduce, reuse, recycle, compost and dispose of garbage for the next 10-20 years. In 2018 the qathet Regional District's updated SWMP was approved by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

Notice the reference to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Those are the key drivers in our plan on the road to zero waste. We are a long way from zero, but we are on the road. Prior to the adoption of the current SWMP qRD had an advisory committee supporting the extensive research into where we had been, where we were, and where we wanted to go. As part of the research we sorted and analyzed bags and bags of "garbage" dropped off by residents. Not fun. One of the findings of that mucky job was that those bags were full of stuff that still had a life: mounds of items that could have been recycled, reused, or repurposed.

Fast forward to 2021 and it's time for another audit. Same bags, same sorting, but this time was different. Instead of the three "Rs" predominating we found food waste that could be composted and returned to the community for our gardens.

This brings me to the organic compost project. A decade ago it was assumed that the supply of food waste and garden refuse was insufficient to support a local composting facility. That has changed and the qRD has issued a request for proposals for just such a facility. Three such proposals have been received and are being evaluated on their merits. By the end of this month the Board should be considering the recommendation of the evaluation group.

Survey Time

The qathet Regional District is conducting a resident satisfaction survey to establish data to assist with the evaluation of core services and to seek input from the community regarding community priorities.

By completing this survey, participants consent to collection and use of information received as part of this survey. If you have any questions about qRD Privacy policies, please contact the Administration Department at 604-485-2260 or email administration@qathet.ca.

In the past I have used links to refer readers of the Green Sheet to sources of information to support my comments. One of you has kindly pointed out that a two-line link on a printed page is hardly helpful; you cannot click on it, copy and paste it, or otherwise easily navigate to the source. I shall try other methods to get you there.

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