

# ***South of Town Events***

***January, 2023***

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

I hope everyone's New Year is starting off pleasantly - it's been really nice visiting with family and friends over the holidays. There were a lot of people in my life who were really ready for the break (myself included) so hopefully this sets us up for a successful January.

At the qathet Regional District (qRD) it's that time of year when developing the budget is one of the top priorities. One new item on the budget is for funding to be set aside to explore what it will take for the qRD to comply with the new *Accessible British Columbia Act*. Along with school districts, police departments, post-secondary institutions and public libraries, local governments are required to comply with the Act. This will include establishing a committee, developing an accessibility plan, and providing a means for the public to provide comments on accessibility issues. At the qRD we had already made efforts to start identifying ways for assets to be made more accessible so we have a slight jump on things but it will all have to be made more formal to meet the new requirements. I'm happy that the province is moving forward with this initiative and look forward to the day when Universal Design (the concept where everything is designed to be utilized by everyone) is fully adopted.

The qRD sent a letter this month to Recycle BC and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy expressing our concerns with changes that are being considered to the Packaging and Paper Product Extended Producer Responsibility Plan. In my opinion, we currently have a fantastic recycling program (shout out to Denise at the Black Point Store Depot for the great job she does!) but Recycle BC covers just 27 percent of the cost of running it even though full-time employees are required at each of the depots to maintain minimal contamination requirements. Also, it is being suggested in rather vague terms, that depots only be placed in communities that have large enough populations. For some communities in the qRD this could potentially mean their depots would either close or need to be fully supported by local tax dollars, neither of which is desired. In this day and age when we are trying to reduce, reuse, repair and recycle, insufficient financial incentives and the phasing out of recycling depots seems like a step in the wrong direction. Hopefully someone higher up is listening.

The qRD has voted to change the monthly meeting schedule and currently the Planning and Finance Committees and the Committee of the Whole (COTW) all occur on the same day with the Board meeting occurring two weeks later but the schedule may change. Everything will be discussed at the next January COTW meeting. It's challenging trying to find a schedule that works for the Board, the staff, and the public, but we're trying our best.

Looking forward to a great 2023!

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

***Lang Bay Hall:***

**Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm: Yoga with Danielle** - \$10.00 drop in fee. Call or text Danielle at 604-223-9493 for more information.

**Tuesdays, 10:30 am-noon: Lang Bay Friends** – Starting Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> join members of the community for informal discussions, projects and pot luck lunches. Everyone is welcome to attend. Contact Laural at lghascats@gmail.com for more info.

**Wednesdays, Jan. 11 – Feb. 8, 4:00-5:00 pm: Mindful Moves Yoga & More** – Registered sessions, \$60 each, pro-rated fee available. Improve sleep, release tension & calm your mind. Contact Robin at 604-483-6759 or robin.inison@gmail.com to register.

**Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm: Country Dance Lessons** - \$5.00 per person. Contact Ian at 604-208-9343 for more information.

**Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 am: ORCA Bus** – exciting play-based early learning program appropriate for children 0-5, parent/caregiver attendance required.

**Thursdays, 6:45 pm (play starts at 7:00): Lang Bay Crib Club** – starting January 12<sup>th</sup>, all players welcome - \$2 p/p. For more information contact Rob at 604-578-8465.

**Saturday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, 1:00 pm: Euchre** - \$5.00 per couple. Prizes and refreshments available, everyone welcome. Games held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday afternoon of the month until further notice. Contact Carol at 604-487-1259 for more info.

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***Kelly Creek Community School Association:***

The Kelly Creek gym and Community House are open for public use. Most weekday late afternoons/evenings are available for pickleball, volleyball, meetings or other events; birthday party rentals on weekends. Please give us a call at 604-487-9925 and we'll get you sorted.

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***Kelly Creek Community Church:***

In-person Sunday services at 10:00 am (2380 Zilinsky Road) or join us on Facebook or YouTube. Contact 604-208-0446 or office.kellyck@gmail.com for more information.

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***Malaspina Volunteer Fire Department:***

The Malaspina Volunteer Fire Department would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year for 2023. In 2022 Malaspina responded to 242 calls.