

South of Town Events

January, 2024

From the Area C Director....

Well, I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season – I know I did. My family and I kept things pretty low-key this year but sometimes that's the perfect way to do it. A little down time to recharge and get set for the New Year can be greatly appreciated.

I looked through the Board meeting agendas for the past month and unfortunately nothing really interesting presented itself, especially for the people of Area C. We did receive the first draft of the 2024 budget but because there are still so many unknowns (final costs have yet to be tallied) it's hard to get a grasp on just what it will ultimately look like at this point. Throughout the next few months a much clearer picture will develop. Since there isn't anything else for me to write about that's particularly pressing, I thought I might take a moment to shed a little light on what's known as the Community Works Fund (CWF). The CWF is one of the funding streams of the Canadian Community-Building Fund (CCBF) which was originally known as the Gas Tax Fund. Created in 2005 and renamed in 2021, the CCBF has provided regular annual funding to provinces and territories which then funnel it to local governments. Administered in BC by the Union of BC Municipalities, they report that an estimated \$1.3 Billion dollars will be distributed to local governments through the CWF fund over ten years. Each local government receives a minimum amount of funding which is then increased based on population. The qathet Regional District (qRD) is expecting to receive approximately \$360,000 in 2024.

There are stipulations on how CWF are spent. Health care and small equipment purchases, for example, are not eligible, but active transportation, solid waste management and fire halls are. If we look from 2007-2022, the areas where CWF funds have been spent in the greatest amounts in the qRD include Regional Parks (including the Padgett Road bike lanes), the Myrtle Pond Water System, the Lund Sewer, and Waste Management on Lasqueti. If we distinguish where the funds have been spent geographically, Area C has received far less per capita than anywhere else, but this can be viewed as good or bad. Yes, we received less than the taxpayers in other areas, but it also means that the need didn't exist. CWF doesn't generally cover the full cost of a project which means the local taxpayers need to pick up the remainder of the tab. I'm hoping that when the time comes where Area C has a project that is eligible for CWF that the Board will allocate significant funding towards it.

Speaking of projects in Area C, I've received word from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure that they have agreed to have an engineer look at the Lang Creek Bridge to determine if it's possible to add pedestrian bridges to it. I have been pushing for that to happen for quite some time and am pleased that they are at least looking into it. It's a small step, but at least it's a step in the right direction.

Clay Brander, qathet Regional District

Lang Bay Hall:

Mondays, 9:00-10:00: Hatha, Yin, Kundalini and Restorative Yoga – Jan. 8th – Feb. 12th, beginner/intermediate. Bring a yoga mat and throw blanket, some props provided. Contact Robin at robin.inison@gmail.com or 604-483-6759. Registration required – minimum six members.

Mondays, 10:15-11:15: Yoga Sculpt – Jan. 8th – Feb. 12th. Bring a yoga mat and throw blanket, some props provided. Contact Robin at robin.inison@gmail.com or 604-483-6759. Registration required – minimum six members.

Tuesdays, 10:30 am-noon: Lang Bay Friends – Informal discussions, projects and pot luck lunches - everyone welcome. Contact Laural at lghascats@gmail.com for more info.

Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm: Yoga with Danielle - \$10.00 drop-in fee. For more information call or text Danielle at 604-223-9493. Starts January 9th.

Thursdays, 7:00 pm sharp: Cribbage – Everyone welcome, \$2.00/player. Contact Rob at 604-578-8465 for more info. Starts Jan. 11th.

Sunday, Jan. 14th, 1:00-4:00 pm: An Afternoon of Games! Bring your favorite board or card game – teens and adults welcome. \$2 per person. Contact 604-223-0553 for more info.

Saturday, Jan. 20th: Lang Bay Community Club's Monthly Market. Tables are \$25.00 each and are limited as the market is indoors during winter months. To book a table contact 604-483-1440.

Kelly Creek Community School Association:

The KCCS gym is available for community use evenings & weekends. Birthday party rentals are \$25 - three hours max. Sports activities are usually free. For more info please call 604-487-9925.

Kelly Creek Community Church:

The ORCA Bus will be parked in our lot on January 10th & 31st from 1:30-3:00pm. Families with children aged 0-8 are welcome to come on board and enjoy children's activities or check out the resource binder. Older siblings are always welcome.

In-person Sunday services at 9:00 am (2380 Zilinsky Road) or join us on Facebook or YouTube. Contact 604-208-0446 or office.kellyck@gmail.com for more information.

Knitters' Cafe meets on Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00--all knitters/crocheters welcome!