

South of Town Events

February, 2024

From the Area C Director....

The start of a new year can bring many exciting things but the budget isn't one of them. Exciting, that is. Prior to the holidays the staff was hard at work putting together their estimation as to what it will cost to provide all of the services that we get to enjoy as residents of the qathet Regional District (qRD), and even though each year I hope that the price tag will go down, it never does. Unfortunately, this makes sense. Each of our households experienced a rise in prices over the past year and the qRD is no different. The qRD has expenses just like everyone else does – fuel, tools, insurance, supplies, cost of borrowing, hiring contractors, plus there are the salaries for all of the good people who provide the services for us. They're not immune to the rising cost of living and therefore need to be paid fairly in order to get by. One of the best ways to run an efficient operation is to maintain a high retention rate of quality staff members, because looking for employees and training them for their positions takes time and costs a significant amount of money. In the five years that I've held my role, I've seen very little turnover at the qRD, which is a good indicator of a well-run organization.

One important service - Solid Waste Management - has seen a significant increase this year, largely due to the development of the Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) which is scheduled to open in the latter part of 2024. I'm very excited about the RRC and what it will mean for our community. Up until 2005, when it was shut down because of environmental concerns, the region relied on an incinerator for waste disposal. Since then we've been trucking our waste to Washington State as managing it locally was not an option. The concept for the RRC was born out of a desire to deal with more of our waste ourselves and the need for the City of Powell River to clean up the heavily-contaminated incinerator site. By removing recyclables, reusable items and organics from the waste stream we can reduce our carbon footprint significantly for years to come. The qRD came to an agreement with the City where the City would supply the land and the qRD would clean up the site and develop the RRC and waste transfer station. The qRD was awarded a \$6 million grant with most of the rest of the costs being covered by long-term borrowing. The reason that the price tag went up this year is because we are no longer operating on grant money and we've begun paying back the loans. Every once in awhile a community needs to look to the future and to future generations and invest heavily in a project that will pay benefits for a long time. We need to leave this place in better shape than we found it.

On a final note, I was asked by a local septic disposal contractor to mention that the municipality has raised the cost to empty a 1000 gal tank by \$90, which is unfortunate for all of us living in the rural areas. Life isn't getting cheaper, but we can still be grateful for where we live and all of the positive things that are available to us in the qathet Regional District.

Clay Brander, qathet Regional District

Lang Bay Hall:

“Thank you to the Lang Bay Hall neighbor who plowed the hall parking area during our recent snow storm.” *Lang Bay Community Club*

Mondays, Feb. 26th-March 25th, 9:00-10:00: Mindful Moves Yoga – Contact Robin at robin.inison@gmail.com or 604-483-6759. Registration required.

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.

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

Saturday, March 23rd, 10:00 am (doors open 9:30): Spring Cribbage Tournament. Thirty-two players maximum, pre-registration and payment of \$25 p/p required. Lunch provided. Contact Kathy at 604-483-1440 to register.

Saturdays, Feb. 17th & March 16th, 10:00-1:00: 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.

Sundays, 1:00-4:00 until further notice: Game Day! - Bring your favourite board or card game to share or learn a new one. Teens & adults welcome, \$2.00 p/p. A draw will be held at the end of each month. Contact 604-223-0553 for more info.

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 31st and March 1st 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. Visit www.youthandfamily.ca for more information.

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!