

# ***South of Town Events***

***February, 2025***

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

With the New Year comes a new budget season, which isn't nearly as exciting as the NHL or NFL seasons, but it usually involves fewer injuries. I must applaud our staff for doing such a great job with it every year – this is my seventh year on the Board and while we as taxpayers like to blame unnecessary government spending when taxes go up, the truth is that the staff works diligently to deliver the best possible services with the most efficiency. Life is just getting more costly, and local governments aren't immune to it. Your local government experiences many of the same expenses that every household does, so when your household costs go up, so do those at the qRD, but we're always trying to look for ways to minimize increases in taxation.

One area where you will see an increase is in the budget for the Malaspina Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD). The staff has kept an eye on the ever-escalating costs associated with replacing fire trucks and fire halls and suggested that Areas B and C increase the amount of tax dollars that will go towards reserves for these two large-ticket items. The MVFD serves both Areas B and C, which is why residents from both areas pay into the service. While I do generally agree with the concept of reserves as I feel that strictly borrowing the money when needed means that we're passing our debts on to future generations, I was not able to support increasing the reserves for both fire trucks and a fire hall. I felt that the reserve contribution for new fire trucks was sufficient whereas the reserve contribution for a new fire hall was not, and the taxpayers are already facing the expense of a formal Service Review that was initiated by Area B Director Gisborne, so I didn't think it was appropriate to increase tax requisition for the MVFD that much in just one year. Hopefully the Service Review will not cost too much, but if it's determined that hiring a facilitator is necessary then the cost could be significant. Any money included in the budget for a facilitator will be moved to reserves if it is not fully utilized.

As I've mentioned in the past, choosing how Grants in Aid are awarded is a stressful time for me. There are so many good causes in our community, but the Board has been given the task of responsibly spending taxpayer money, so there are always going to be those who go away unsatisfied. Although the concept of increasing our Grants in Aid budget was proposed, I was not able to vote in favour of it as I believe in these challenging times we need to rein in spending when we can. This may mean that some projects don't get funded and that others need to be more self-reliant, but making those difficult decisions is the responsibility of the Board and why we were elected. When deciding on which Grant in Aid requests to support, I always consider the community need and how many people can access the programs, preferably free of charge.

I hope that you've all taken advantage of some of the cold but sunny weather that we've been experiencing – I suppose it may be back to rain or snow by the time this newsletter comes out. We need the snow in the back country to help us through the dry parts of the year so it's all good. Have a great February!

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

### ***Lang Bay Hall:***

**Sundays, 1:00-4:00 pm: Teens & Adults Games Day!** Bring your favourite game or learn a new one. Contact Chris at 604-223-0553 for more info. \$2 per person.

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

**Tuesdays, 6:45-7:45 pm: Yoga with Danielle** - \$10.00 drop-in fee. For more information call or text Danielle at 604-223-9493.

**Wednesdays, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> – March 26<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-11:00 am: Mindful Moves - Yoga & More** - Six-week session for \$84, prorated rates available, minimum six participants required. Drop-in rate \$15. Text or call Robin at 604-483-6759 to register.

**Wednesdays, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:45 pm: Women's Connection Circle** - Guided meditation, journaling & open sharing with Des. \$10.00 drop in, call 306-881-0900 for info.

**Thursdays, 7:00 pm sharp: Cribbage 46<sup>th</sup> Season!** – Everyone welcome, \$2.00/player. Contact Rob at 604-578-8465 for more info.

**Saturday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1:00-2:30: Spring Care of Mason Bees** – \$20 per person, contact Carol at 604-487-1259 to reserve your space. Some mason bee cocoons and houses available for purchase.

**Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 12:00-2:00: Lang Bay Community Club Monthly Market.** This market focuses on Health & Wellness. Call Kathy for details 604-483-1440.

**\*\*NEW\*\* Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1:00-3:00: Song Circle at Lang Bay Hall** - A monthly musical Jam Session. Open to everyone – play, sing, or just enjoy the music. Admission by donation (\$5 suggested). For more info contact Pat at 604-485-5198.

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

**Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1:00-3:00: KCCS YMCA Childcare Open House** – In the community building behind Kelly Creek Community School. Join us for a snack and a tour of the new childcare space!

A few non-drop-in weekly time slots are available for pickleball. Call Kevin at 604-487-9925 for info.

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### ***Kelly Creek Community Church:***

**Sundays, 9:00 am: In-person Sunday services** at 2380 Zilinsky Road. Also available on Facebook or YouTube. Contact 604-208-0446 or office.kellyck@gmail.com for more information.

**Thursdays, 1:00-3:00: Knitters' Café** - All fibre arts welcome.

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### ***Youth and Family:***

**Tuesdays, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> and March 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-11:30 am: The ORCA Bus** will be at Palm Beach! Families are welcome on board the heated bus to enjoy toys and resources.