

South of Town Events

January, 2025

From the Area C Director....

Well, I've gone and done it again. I've let another year slip by without learning to play the bodhran or mastering the fine art of riding a wheelie, but all in all 2024 wasn't half bad. Lots of exciting times spent with family and friends, plenty of fun had in the great outdoors, good books read, and new things learned. I can't complain – hopefully when you reflect on your past year there were parts of it that you enjoyed or that made you a better person as well.

It seems very early, but the qathet Regional District (qRD) Board had a first look at the budget for 2025 and unfortunately things aren't getting cheaper. At the December 18th Committee of the Whole Meeting we hosted a delegation from Republic Services, the company that accepts our garbage. For those of you who don't know, our solid waste is transported to the Roosevelt Regional Landfill in Roosevelt, WA, more than 800 km. away. The cost for dealing with solid waste is one of the larger items in the budget, and the Republic Services representative was meeting with us to let us know that the cost would be increasing significantly - a one-year increase of 26% or 15% per year for two years. Either way it's a lot of money. A motion was passed to request that the Board ask staff to write a report looking into alternative ways to transport and dispose of our solid waste, but this will not help us in 2025 as it is far too late to explore the other very limited options. While there are landfills closer to qathet than Washington State, most of them are not accepting solid waste from communities other than their own. Many of them are reaching their maximum capacity and simply don't have the space. Some other technologies aren't practical because they are ridiculously expensive and require far more waste than we can possibly produce for them to be financially feasible. I'm hoping that the staff can come up with some clever ideas on how to bring future costs down to a more reasonable level – in the meantime we can all make even greater efforts to compost, recycle, reuse and repurpose, because bottom line, the less we ship, the less we pay.

As a requirement of the recent Fire Services Act the qRD Board named our General Manager of Emergency Services as the Fire Inspector and Fire Investigator. This caused some confusion in the community as the Fire Chiefs of our four volunteer fire departments (Malaspina, Northside, Savary and Lasqueti) were traditionally expected to fill those roles, but this was a strategic decision. First, our Fire Chiefs have no authority to inspect anything outside of their fire boundaries, and second, the province, as part of the Act, said that they would take on the responsibility for inspections and investigations and dispatch their people at no cost to the qRD. Our staff member was instructed to forward any inspections and investigations higher up the ladder to the province so that the local taxpayers wouldn't be on the hook. Unfortunately, the province is now stepping back from their statement and is encouraging the appointed people to perform these duties and have the RD's ultimately pay for it. The qRD Board is sending a letter to the UBCM Executive and Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs stating that the Office of the Fire Commissioner is not living up to commitments. More to come.

Clay Brander, qathet Regional District

Lang Bay Hall:

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, Jan. 8th – Feb. 12th, 10:00-11:00 am: Mindful Moves - Yoga & More - Bring your yoga mat & throw blanket. Six-week session for \$84, prorated rates available, minimum six participants required. Drop-in rate \$15. Email robin.inison@gmail to register.

****New** Every 2nd Wednesday starting Jan. 8th, 6:30-7:45 pm: Women's Connection Circle** - Guided meditation, journaling and open sharing with Des. \$10.00 drop in, contact 306-881-0900 for more details.

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

Sundays starting Jan. 12th, 1:00-4:00 pm: Teens & Adults Games Day! Bring your favourite game or learn a new one and enjoy a fun afternoon on a winter day. Contact Chris at 604-223-0553 for more info. \$2 per person.

****Check out Lang Bay Community Hall & Events on Facebook & langbaycommunityhall on Instagram for the latest updates****

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.
