

South of Town Events

November, 2025

From the Area C Director....

October was a bit more sedate after the craziness of September, but that's all right with me. Other than our regularly scheduled meetings, the Board also met with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit, and I participated in the First Poppy Ceremony conducted by representatives from the Royal Canadian Legion, in preparation for the observation of Remembrance Day on November 11th.

Each year BC Transit meets with the Board to present their plans for the next three years. According to feedback that BC Transit has received, the two most-requested changes to the rural transit system are the addition of two round trips to Lund on weekdays and Thursday service to Stillwater. Right now, Thursday is the only weekday when the Stillwater route doesn't operate. Recently our community was given another bus to allow twice-a-week bus service to Texada Island, and having another bus created more opportunities to further expand service to the rural areas. If the request for the new routes is approved, the new Stillwater run will likely start in May of 2026, and the additional round trips to Lund will be included in 2027.

One issue that has been dogging the Board for some time is the policy regarding Community Works Funds (CWF). CWF are given to local governments from the federal government and are derived from the collection of taxes on gas. Each local government is given an amount that is based on a formula that incorporates the population of the area that they serve. Because the City of Powell River (CoPR) receives CWF based on their population, the population of the CoPR is not included in the calculation when the CWF for the qathet Regional District (qRD) is determined. The implication of this is that CWF funds that the qRD receives would be best spent in the Electoral Areas (EA's), as the amount of funding is based on the number of people that reside in the EA's, not in the entire qRD. Because of the way the Board is comprised, with five EA Directors and two Municipal Directors, and the respective populations of the EA's and the CoPR, when a weighted vote occurs, the two Municipal Directors have greater voting strength than all five of the EA Directors put together. While we can't change this as it is part of legislation, it is our hopes with the new policy that it will be clear that CWF should be used for projects in the rural areas, unless the EA Directors choose to use them for projects of a regional nature.

One other aspect of the proposed CWF policy is that it includes language that would keep a minimum amount of the funding available to be used in EA's that have not received an equitable amount when compared to the other EA's. Since the beginning of the CWF program, Area C has received far less per resident than any of the other Electoral Areas. Part of this is because we didn't have projects that were eligible for the funding, but in recent years, fire halls and fire trucks were added to the list of eligible expenditures. With this change, it is my hope that when Area C has a need for CWF funding, it will be available. Keep your fingers crossed!

Clay Brander, qathet Regional District

Lang Bay Hall: On FB at langbaycommunityhallandevents or at www.langbaycommunityhall.ca

Every 2nd Sunday of the month, 1:00-3:00: Song Circle - Open to everyone - play, sing, or just enjoy the music. Admission by donation. For more info contact Pat at 604-485-5198.

Tuesdays, 10:30 am-noon: Lang Bay Friends – Open to everyone - informal discussions, projects & potluck lunches. Email lghascats@gmail.com or lilian.thompson@telus.net.

Tuesdays, 6:15-7:15 pm: Yoga with Danielle - \$10.00 drop-in fee. Call or text Danielle at 604-223-9493 for more info. ** no yoga on Tuesday, November 25 **

Wednesdays, Nov. 19th – Dec. 10th 9:30-10:30 am: Mindful Moves Yoga & More - Four-week session, \$60 p/p, Minimum six participants required. Contact Robin 604-483-6759.

Wednesdays, 6:00 - 6:45 pm & Fridays, 9:30-10:15 am: South of Town Fitness with Paula - A fun and effective workout targeting core and lower body with a great stretch to finish. \$10.00 drop-in fee or eTransfer paulagiroday@gmail.com.

Thursday, Nov. 13th, 10:30-noon: Health Care Planning workshop – Four Tides Hospice Society is providing free info on how to plan for future health care needs. Call 604-487-9238 to register.

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

Friday, Nov. 7th (4:00-8:00) & Sat., Nov. 8th (11:00-2:00): Christmas Craft & Collectibles Sale – Food vendors, raffle prizes, crafts, collectibles, and a whole lot more!

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 info.

Watch out for "**Christmas in the Grove**" in December. Fire pits, hot chocolate, and fellowship.

Kelly Creek Community School and Youth & Family:

The gym is available for public use on weekends and some late afternoon/evening weekdays. Birthday parties, pickleball, volleyball, yoga, or whatever floats your boat. Call 604-487-9925 for more info.

Thursday, Nov. 20th, 10:00-11:30 am: The ORCA Bus at Palm Beach! Activities and learning for children under nine and their families. Full calendar at www.youthandfamily.ca.

Malaspina Volunteer Fire Department:

Another busy month - 28 calls (21 First Responder, 6 Fire Fighter Response, 1 Motor Vehicle incident). The new recruits (including one from Northside) received top-notch book-based and hands-on training presented by the Northside and Malaspina department trainers at a recent four-day FR workshop.

Thank you to everyone who braved the weather and came out for the fireworks display that followed the Kelly Creek Community School Association Halloween party! The KCCSA and the MVFD have been collaborating on the fireworks for many years now, through good weather and bad, and it's always a highlight on our annual schedule.