

South of Town Events

January, 2026

From the Area C Director....

This issue is going out to you early because the qathet Regional District (qRD) office will be closed for a while over the holidays and I thought it would be good to let people know what events are happening in the New Year. Even though it was mentioned last month, please remember to check out the Enchanted Christmas Forest at 1930 Twin Eagles Road. It runs from Dec. 17th - 20th and on the 26th and 27th, 5:00-8:00. The family and I just got back from their opening night and had a great time! It's fun for all ages.

Our meetings were all jammed into one week this month because of the holidays, but we still managed to accomplish a few things, including reviewing the first draft of the 2026 budget. This is always a challenging task because no one, including us, likes to hear how much we're going to be paying in taxes in 2026. Prices keep going up, and the local government is not immune to those changes. One price hike that we can't avoid is an expected 15% increase in how much we need to pay to dispose of the solid waste that we produce. This is just one line in an extensive budget, so it absolutely does not mean that our taxes are going up by 15%, but increases like this do have an effect. One great way to keep your monthly expenses down is to take advantage of all the awesome recycling programs available at the Resource Recovery Centre. Anything that you can recycle you don't pay tipping fees on, so it's worth the effort. Plus, it's good for the planet!

Speaking of solid waste, the Board voted this month to direct staff to amend the Solid Waste Management Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee terms of reference within the existing Solid Waste Management Plan to broaden membership criteria and improve the ability to recruit community members. Basically, the old terms of reference were pretty strict on who was qualified to sit on the committee, so we made it a bit easier. The committee hasn't been meeting for the past few years because of a lack of membership, so if the concept of being a part of it interests you, please keep your eyes and ears open as I imagine a call for applications will happen sometime in the new year. I'll make an effort to mention it in this newsletter when the time comes.

Two additional items that we supported this month were our new Parkland Acquisition Policy and our Parkland Acquisition Target. The former will give us something to refer to when given the opportunity to accept or purchase land for the purpose of turning it into a park. This will streamline the process and includes a grading system so that each property can be easily evaluated. The latter gives us a target number of acres that the qRD should strive to acquire by a set date so that the quantity of parkland grows as the population grows. This target is not requirement that must be met, but something to help the Board remember that acquiring parkland remains a priority. I'm a big supporter of acquiring parkland, as green space is one of the few things that no one regrets spending money on. Happy holidays!

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, starting Jan. 13th, 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, starting Dec. 30th, 6:15-7:15 pm: Yoga with Danielle - \$10.00 drop-in fee. Call or text Danielle at 604-223-9493 for more info.

Wednesdays, starting Feb. 4th, 9:30-10:30 am: Mindful Moves Yoga & More – Contact Robin 604-483-6759 for more info.

Wednesdays, starting Jan. 7th, 6:30 – 7:15 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 paulagiroaday@gmail.com.

Thursdays, starting Jan. 8th, 7:00 pm sharp: Cribbage –Contact Rob at 604-578-8465 for info - \$2.00/player.

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.

Thursdays, Jan. 8th and Jan. 22nd, 1:00-3:00: Knitters' Café - All fibre arts welcome.

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.

Malaspina Volunteer Fire Department:

Malaspina has been unusually quiet this month with fewer calls in all areas which is great news for everyone. We will be manning the Salvation Army Christmas kettle at Walmart on Saturday Dec 20 so stop by and say hello. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and safe Christmas and New Year!