

South of Town Events

April, 2026

From the Area C Director....

The first thing that I can report is that the qathet Regional District (qRD) has a budget for 2026. That's good news, and the even better news is that we were able to keep the tax requisition increase quite low this year. I don't want to give out exact numbers as some last-minute changes will more than likely affect the bottom line a bit, but let's just say that I'm pleased that we can do this while still being responsible regarding our contributions to reserve funds for future capital purchases. The Malaspina Volunteer Fire Department will need a new truck and a new fire hall in the coming years, and we will hopefully be able to fund these projects without requiring significant tax hikes.

As there was so much effort spent on finalizing the budget, the Board agendas were rather light this month. One item I mentioned in last month's South of Town Events was the planned divestiture by Transport Canada and the Federal Government of remote port facilities, which are defined by Transport Canada as serving isolated communities where marine transportation is the primary mode of transportation. This issue is of particular interest to our region because it could potentially affect both the federal dock at Saltery Bay and the False Bay Wharf on Lasqueti Island. This practice has been going on for a few years now and the remaining port facilities in B.C. have been determined to be not conducive to transfer, so we feel that it's a good time to stop the practice. The communities that these facilities serve are, by definition, isolated, and should retain their port facilities. If they are to be divested, another organization will need to operate them, or they will be closed. While closing and dismantling these facilities is not a desirable option, taking them over isn't either, as operating these facilities can be quite costly, especially when it comes time to replace aging infrastructure.

Last month we heard a presentation by a delegation suggesting that the qRD should take over the Saltery Bay dock. My initial reaction was that this might be an opportunity worth looking into, but after further research I believe that the best thing to happen is for the federal government to retain ownership. We have an interesting situation at Saltery Bay – many of the people who utilize the dock live on the small islands nearby. The issue is that those islands are part of the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD). The way that regional districts work is that those people who benefit from a service pay for the service, but if the beneficiaries are in another regional district and it's not possible for the qRD to tax them to pay for the dock, then who pays for it? Should Area C residents be on the hook for a dock that is used primarily by residents of the SCR D? That doesn't seem fair. But the argument on the other hand is that having a dock there does allow some local contractors to service the islands, as well as providing a place for island residents to access local businesses. It's a bit of a conundrum, and hopefully one that we won't be forced into addressing.

Have a great April!

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.

Wednesday, April 13th, 9:30-11:30: Mindful Moves Yoga & More Workshop for Gardeners, Landscapers & Yard Maintenance - Stretch out those knots, gently release tight and taut shoulders, back and legs. Show your body some love - you're worth it! \$35 per person. Contact 604-483-6759 to register

Thursdays, 11:00 am-1:00 pm: Gardening at the Hall – Join the volunteers tending to the hall flower gardens. Bring your favourite small gardening tools and a bucket. Contact 604-487-1259 for more details. Weather permitting.

Thursdays, 7:00 pm sharp: Cribbage – \$2/player, Contact Rob at 604-578-8465 for info. Cribbage winds up April 16th and resumes September 10th.

Coming up:

Saturday, May 9th, noon-2 pm - LBCC's Annual Fundraising Plant Sale! Watch for details, contact 604-487-1259 to participate.

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, April 2nd, 16th, and 30th, 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. Pickleball lessons are available for beginners, families and/or groups. We have all the necessary equipment. Contact Kevin at 604-487-9925 for bookings or more info.

Thursday, April 30th, 10:00-11:30 am: The ORCA Bus at Terra Nostra Farm, 3244 Byron Road. Full calendar at www.youthandfamily.ca.