

South of Town Events

March, 2026

From the Area C Director....

Spring brings with it many nice things, but one thing that arrives that doesn't excite me at all is the budget for the upcoming year. I applaud our staff for always doing such a great job pulling all this information together and working so hard to develop accurate estimates of what it will cost to operate for another twelve months, but I can't get excited about reading pages and pages of numbers. It's a necessary part of the job and I'm grateful for all the support that I can get.

One thing that confused me when I was looking through a recent draft of the budget was why Area C was predicted to have a tax increase (based on percentage) of more than twice what Area B was going to experience. Areas B and C are similar in many ways; we share a fire department, we're both part of the Sub-Regional Recreation Service, and we have relatively similar populations and average house prices. So why the large disparity between Area C and Area B taxes? I turned to our staff, and after a bit of digging the answer was found! I hope I can explain this clearly. BC Assessment has nine different classes of properties, including Residential, Major Industry, Utilities, and Farm. With all the changes occurring at the mill, the mill site is no longer considered Major Industry. Because the infrastructure owned by Powell River Energy Inc. (PREI), including the Lois Lake Dam and the Stillwater Power Generation Facility (both in Area C), was part of the industrial complex, those properties also had their classification changed, in this case from Major Industry to Utilities. At the same time, BC Assessment raised the assessments of those properties significantly. Because PREI's properties within Area C are worth so much, the overall assessment of Area C experienced a bump, which means that Area C must pay a greater percentage of the services that we share with the City and the other Electoral Areas. While Area C overall will be paying a higher percentage than in the past, the actual dollar increase that the average Area C household will experience will fall right into line with the other Electoral Areas, including Area B. The increase in taxes that Area C is going to see will largely be borne by PREI because of the increase in their property assessments. Bottom line – Area B and Area C households will be experiencing very similar tax increases, on average. I hope this makes sense.

One other thing that I want to mention is that the Board is sending a resolution to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Conference that will ask the Union of BC Municipalities to recommend to the government that the federal government cease divestment efforts of remote port facilities. While this issue was brought forward by our representative on Lasqueti Island, it could prove to be important to some residents in Area C as well. The dock at Saltery Bay (next to the BC Ferries terminal) is a federal dock and the federal government wants to divest itself of these types of facilities. To my knowledge, there are no plans currently in the works to stop supporting Saltery Bay, but it's something to keep our eye on. We would prefer it if the federal government would continue to support this type of infrastructure, so hopefully our resolution gets some traction. Happy early St. Patrick's Day!

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.

Sunday, March 22nd, 2:00: Lang Bay Community Club AGM - Everyone welcome! The LBCC plays an important role in our community – find out how you can be involved. Contact 604-483-1440 for more info.

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 March 10th****

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

Saturday, March 7th, noon-2:00 pm: Health and Wellness Market - \$25 per table, contact 604-483-1440 to register.

Saturday, March 21st, 9:30 am: Spring Crib Tournament! - \$25 per person, lunch included. 50/50 draw, pre-registration required (cut off at noon on March 18th). Contact 604-483-1440 to register.

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, March 5th and 19th, 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.

Tuesday, March 10th, 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.