

## **Mayor's Message December 2015**

Perhaps they aren't your traditional causes for celebration at this time of year...but looking back over 2015, as your Mayor I celebrate the successes, large and small, I've observed in our town over the past 12 months. A new business opens; a small business expands; a local non-profit surpasses its hopes for donations; a group of concerned citizens raises funds towards welcoming a Syrian refugee family to the Coast; hardy volunteers extend a path which will link upper and lower Gibsons accessibly; our town's Eco Asset management plan gains international recognition; our Council chambers are filled on many Tuesdays with citizens who are truly engaged in shaping the future of their community; 'SOLD' signs sprout all around us, indicating an upturn in the local real estate market; and the Public Market project draws closer to its goals...these, and many other I could name, are shared successes of which we can be justly proud.

It has been a busy year, and not without its sorrows and struggles as we said good-bye to several public figures who had given much to the Coast, and watched colleagues and loved ones battle illness. But as a New Year dawns, I am optimistic that the spirit of community which imbues Gibsons will continue to grow and flourish in 2016.

And to you, and those you care about, on behalf of Council and staff at the Town of Gibsons, I wish you a peaceful happy holiday season, and the fulfilment of your fondest hopes in the coming year.