

## **Mayor's Message July 2015**

'Stepping up' can take many forms, from risk-filled to fun-filled. Here in Gibsons, we are fortunate to have a wide array of more pleasant opportunities for people to step up, and equally fortunate that so many of our residents avail themselves of those opportunities.

In mid-June, volunteers once again sought out and warmly welcomed the fine array of musicians who performed in the Gibsons Landing Jazz Festival. Like all such events, this year's festival drew good crowds not only to enjoy the music, but also to linger nearby over a meal, check out local shops, and stroll along the water's edge.

At the end of June, volunteers at Dougall Park ensured that kiddies enjoyed a fine time at Sunshine Coast Community Services' annual Children's Festival and Duck Pluck. Along with Sechelt Mayor Bruce Milne, I rolled up my pant legs for the cause as we plucked the winning ducks from the temporary 'duck pond' created for the day. This year's event was one of the most successful to date, raising \$6400 to support SCCSS child development programs and services.

Also on June 27, a dedicated team of volunteers welcomed a capacity crowd to the Gibsons Market Gala. Saddened though attendees were to learn that one of the driving forces behind the Market, Nicholas Sonntag had passed away suddenly the night before, they were equally inspired to make the evening, and the ongoing campaign, a great success in Nick's honour.

Volunteers supporting the Sea Cavalcade, one of our town's signature events seem to work year-round to ensure it continues to thrive. This year, the 47th annual Sea Cavalcade will offer a weekend of family fun, beginning on July 24 with a free teen dance, and ending on the 27th with a West Coast Lumberjack Loggers Sports Show. I encourage you to enjoy the parade, relish a pancake breakfast, visit the displays and vendors in Holland and Winegarden Parks, or perhaps even prove your mettle in the Keats to Armours mile swim.

Please join me in a tip of the hat to each of the volunteers who offer time and talent to the activities that entertain, amuse, engage, and strengthen our community. I hope to see you around town this summer, enjoying the fruits of their labours.