

Mayor's Message – November 2016

From a weather perspective, it has been a rather dreary fall in Gibsons, but from many other points of view it has been both colourful and active. A particularly bright highlight has been the highly successful Arts Crawl, which drew delighted visitors to dozens of galleries, retail spaces and studios from Langdale to Lund. The impressive range of works in clay, ceramics, fibre, glass, metal, clay, paint, photography and other media, and the warm welcome artists offered at every stop, brightened up a wet October weekend and underlined once again the number and caliber of creative souls on the Coast; It's likely that more than one 'Crawler" found the perfect Christmas gift for a somewhat challenging recipient.

It has also been an active month at your Municipal Hall; 2016 promises to be a banner year in development. Our Planning Department is currently handling five new, five current and four completed projects; we are especially pleased to see progress in the area of affordable housing, a key component of keeping young working families here on the Coast. Nine townhomes have been proposed for Gibsons Way, while the Sunshine Coast Affordable Housing Society continues to work on exploring the use of unused road dedications as potential lots for affordable housing. Geotechnical reports have been completed on the sites and a surveyor will prepare site plans as well to assist Council and the Housing Society determine which road dedications are best suited for housing projects.

Several new businesses, which promise to fit well with the business fabric of the Town, including a distillery and a Taphouse, likewise are working their way through the approval process in a promising manner. The George Hotel and Residences is working with the Ministry of the Environment to achieve the necessary approvals they require for their environmental and other permits. Each of these many projects will bring jobs and other social benefits to Gibsons, and it is heartening to see them progress through the necessary stages of approval.

On a more somber note, as many of us come together on Remembrance Day this Friday at cenotaphs across Canada to remember friends and loved ones who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we might enjoy freedom, the most touching moments for me will involve the very young, and the elderly. Seeing a tiny child, their trusting hand clasped by their parent, a Silver Cross mother, or a nonagenarian veteran as they walk reverently up to lay a wreath, I know I am not alone in feeling profoundly moved. Wherever you may be on November 11, please pause for a moment to thank the brave men and women who have participated in conflict, historic or recent, and those they left behind, for their courage and their sacrifices on our behalf.