

# The Gibsons Way

## headlines from the Hall

Volume 10 - December 2016



### GIBSONS COUNCIL:

#### Mayor

- Wayne Rowe

#### Councillors

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- Charlene SanJenko
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### CONTACT US



P: 604-886-2274  
F: 604-886-9735



474 S. Fletcher Rd  
Gibsons, BC



P O Box 340  
Gibsons, BC  
V0N 1V0



[info@gibsons.ca](mailto:info@gibsons.ca)



[www.gibsons.ca](http://www.gibsons.ca)



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### Message from Mayor Rowe

As a new year dawns, it is natural for each of us to reflect back over the year just ended, and to hope and plan for success, however we define it, in the year ahead. It is no different for your municipal leadership – except, perhaps, for the potential ripple effects of our plans and actions. We appreciate the confidence you have placed in us, and we recognize our responsibility to keep you well informed as we work on your behalf to ensure the well-being of our Town.

A key component of that work is the Town's budget – developing a realistic budget for the year to come, implementing initiatives throughout the year in a fiscally accountable and sustainable manner, and regularly monitoring income and expenditures.

Recently, we received a comprehensive report for the first ten months of 2016, and projections to the year end. I am pleased to report that in general, expenses are down and revenues are up – a desirable position, certainly, although it also underlines the importance of fiscal stewardship in helping to achieve that healthy balance. That is to say, while overall our operating funds are expected to show positive cash flows this year, primarily driven by an active housing market with respect to both future planning (through development fees) and current active projects (through permits and service connections), it is equally important also to note that expenditures are being well controlled by our staff.

One piece of information that will affect individual property owners as well as the Town's budget planning in 2017 relates to notifications currently in the mail from BC Assessment; you may already have received your notice, and may have seen a significant change over last year's assessment. Increases between 30 and 50 per cent will not be uncommon, prompted by the hot real estate market in the spring and summer of 2016. Property assessments do not automatically translate into a corresponding increase in property taxes; your taxes are also affected by how your assessment changed compared to the average change in your property class. (View the video linked in the article on the right) Nonetheless, it is important that you review the notice carefully, and work closely with BC Assessment to ensure the accuracy

of your assessment. BC Assessment's website at [www.bcassessment.ca](http://www.bcassessment.ca) provides a wealth of information that can assist you with this process.

For our part, the Town's elected officials and staff will consider the increased assessments as one important factor in upcoming budget discussions, as we analyze the budget required to provide the essential services on which our community relies. The key will be to ensure our local taxpayers receive the best possible value for the taxes and fees that you pay.

I encourage each of you to participate in this year's budget planning, by attending Council meetings and other opportunities that may arise for input, and by sharing your thoughts and opinions through email, Facebook or our website. We look forward to your feedback; we appreciate your interest in local municipal affairs; and we wish you much success in 2017.

*J. Wayne Rowe, Mayor*

### Property Assessment / Property Taxes

Property assessments are about determining HOW property taxes are distributed. What happens to your property taxes when your assessment changes?

Learn more about the relationship between property assessments & property taxes by viewing this short video. Click [HERE](#) for the video or visit the Town's website at [www.gibsons.ca/property-taxes](http://www.gibsons.ca/property-taxes).

### 2017 Budget Meetings

Council will start budget deliberations in the New Year. We will post the budget meeting schedule to our website and facebook pages as soon as those dates are determined.

We invite you to attend budget meetings to gain an understanding of how we raise funds and how those funds are used.

*"The World's Most Liveable Town" - 2009*



## Goddard Road and Wilander Lane

On December 20th, 2016, Mayor Rowe formally presented street signs honoring Lorraine Goddard, former Mayor of Gibsons and Anna Wilander (aka the Cookie Grandma in lower Gibsons), who was part of a Finnish settlement in Gibsons early in the last century.

The recent additions of Wilander Lane and Goddard Road in the Parkland subdivision commemorate the contributions these residents made to the rich history of the Town of Gibsons.

## 2017 Meeting Schedule

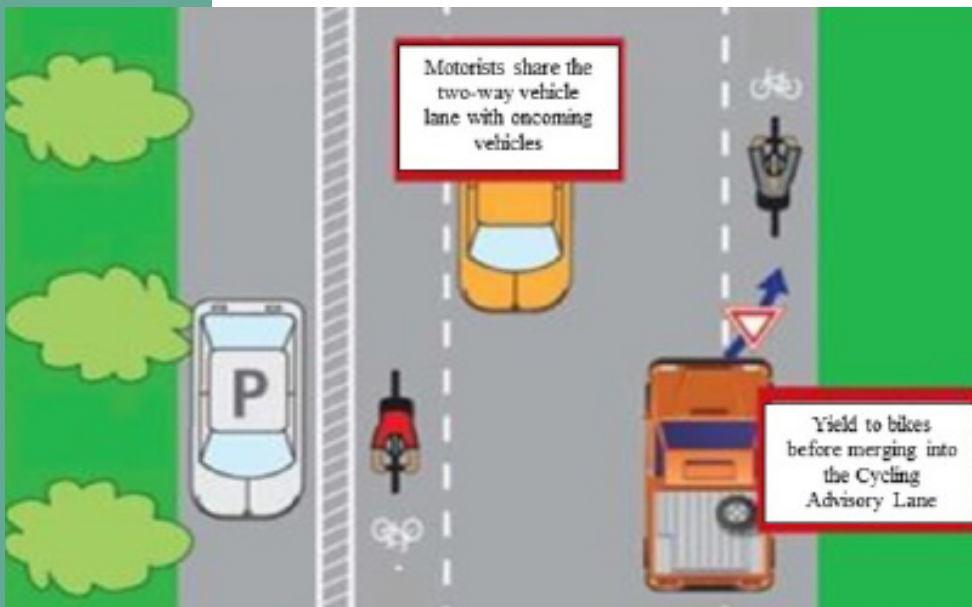
The meeting schedule for all Council and Committee meetings has been set for 2017.

Council and Committee-of-the-Whole meetings will continue to be held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month; Committee at 1:30 p.m. and Council at 7:00 p.m. with no meetings scheduled for August. The exception to this is the two January meetings which have been moved to January 10th and 24th. View the full meeting schedules at [www.gibsons.ca/meetings](http://www.gibsons.ca/meetings).

## Shaw Road Cycling Options

The Committee-of-the-Whole has reviewed the results of the public input on Shaw Road cycling improvements.

Based on that input, a new option was presented to address most of the concerns raised which includes retaining parking on one side of the road, and a narrower center lane for vehicles combined with "advisory bike lanes" on both sides of the road.



## Marijuana Dispensaries

Early in 2017, Council will be considering options to regulate where marijuana dispensaries are located within the Town's boundaries. The industry is complicated in that it crosses all levels of government in Canada: Federal, Provincial and Local.

You can stay informed on this matter as it progresses by attending Council meetings, reading meeting minutes, and following the Town's website and facebook page.

## Winegarden Park Survey

The survey to gather input on the Draft Master Plan for Winegarden Park is now closed.

The results will be shared with Winegarden Park Advisory Committee and with Council in early 2017.

Based on the input received, the advisory committee will provide recommendations for Council for the adoption of the Master Plan. For more information on the Committee and the process to date, please visit the Winearden Park Advisory Committee page at [www.gibsons.ca/winegarden-park-advisory-committee](http://www.gibsons.ca/winegarden-park-advisory-committee).

**What is an Advisory Bike Lane?** It is a lane where cyclists have the right of way. It is marked with a dashed line that gives vehicles the option to edge into the bike lane to avoid oncoming traffic, provided they yield to cyclists. See the image below for a visual.

Other changes may include reducing the speed limit on Shaw to 30kmh, installing 'bump outs' at O'Shea Road to shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians and some variations to the lane markings near the Gibsons Way intersection.

This option was supported by the Committee and will be brought back to Council in February for further discussion and potentially a final decision.