

The Gibsons Way

headlines from the Hall

Volume 11 - February 2017



GIBSONS COUNCIL:

Mayor

- Wayne Rowe

Councillors

- Stafford Lumley
- Charlene SanJenko
- Jeremy Valeriote
- Silas White



In this issue:

- Message from Mayor Rowe
- 2017 Budget Deliberations
- Regional Economic Development
- Organics Waste Diversion
- New Residential Garbage Collection Contractor
- 2017 Council Liaisons



Message from Mayor Rowe

Earlier this month, residents of New Brunswick endured the effects of an ice storm that caused widespread damage and hardship; our thoughts are with those dealing with the effects of this natural disaster on their homes, businesses and municipal infrastructure.

Although winter here in Gibsons has been far less harsh than in Eastern Canada, we have experienced bouts of lower than usual temperatures, and ice and snow which have challenged residents' patience, and the Town's budget.

In one neighbourhood, unfortunately, several households had to deal with home heating issues during the holiday season, a time when offering a warm welcome – in every sense – is so important. Because heating homes in that neighbourhood, Parkland, is a shared Town/homeowner responsibility, I would like to explain what occurred; to acknowledge again for any discomfort and inconvenience to the homeowners involved; and to describe what the Town has done to help ensure this does not happen again.

Parkland, as you may know, is heated by a Town-owned and managed geothermal energy system. There are several benefits to this approach: this is a particularly clean type of energy, and, because this geothermal utility is a municipal resource, all user fees collected for the heating get re-invested into the system. Utilizing a local, green energy source improves the resiliency of our own community. Operating and maintaining this source of heat on behalf of our residents has not been issue-free, however, and we continue work on improving it.

In January, a few households in the area experienced an interruption of the Town-sourced geothermal heat, due to a leak, which was difficult to diagnose. Fortunately, a secondary source of heat was also available in these homes. We apologize to those affected, especially for the fact that our resolution of the issue was not as timely as we might have wished.

Staff will be reviewing all aspects of this incident to ensure we make improvements to minimize the chances of this happening again; in addition, ongoing training is being provided to enhance our skills in operating and maintaining this system. We are also working with local plumbing contractors and homeowners in Parkland to ensure we all have solid understanding of our respective roles.

A report on this incident, with recommendations aimed at preventing this matter re-occurring, is being prepared by staff and expected in the next few weeks.

J. Wayne Rowe, Mayor

2017 Budget Discussions

Council will be holding a series of Special Committee-of-the-Whole meetings to discuss the 2017 Town of Gibsons budget.

Each additional \$25,000 collected represents approximately a 1% increase in taxes. Council will weigh each decision carefully to ensure value for your tax dollars.

The public is encouraged to join Council and staff to become informed about how your tax dollars are working for you.

The budget meetings will be held at Town Hall in Council Chambers on the following dates:

- 10:00 a.m. - Tuesday, February 28th
- 1:30 p.m. - Tuesday, March 14th
- 1:30 p.m. - Tuesday, March 28th

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Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Organization

In 2015, the Town of Gibsons, Sunshine Coast Regional District, District of Sechelt and Sechelt Indian Government District commenced working towards the formation of a Sunshine Coast Regional Economic Development Organization (SCREDO). On February 7, 2017, Council approved the final agreement to clear the way for SCREDO to start working towards their vision:

The Sunshine Coast has a sustainable, thriving and diverse regional economy that is aligned with community values, expands opportunities for all residents and improves overall community wellbeing.

Council acknowledges the effort put forward by all partnering communities in making this happen. Council is confident SCREDO will achieve this vision for our collective communities.

Organics Waste Diversion Program

Organics make up a significant portion of the household waste delivered to the Landfill. On February 7, 2017 Council directed staff to prepare a Request for Proposal for an organics diversion program in the Town of Gibsons.

There are numerous ways to accomplish organics diversion. What does that look like for you? We want to hear from you, your input is important. The Town will be developing a survey to gather that input in the near future. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more information.



2017 Council Liaisons

In addition to serving our residents in their role of Mayor and Councillors, your elected officials also serve as liaisons to numerous non-profit organizations on the Sunshine Coast. This ensures Council maintains a strong connection to these agencies on behalf of our residents and is also available as a resource and to provide support as needed.

For 2017, the following appointments have been ratified by Council:

Gibsons and District Fire Protection Commission

Sunshine Coast Museum and Archives Society
Community Youth Awareness Group
Sunshine Coast Affordable Housing Committee
Homelessness Advisory Committee
Gibsons and District Chamber of Commerce
Gibsons Landing Harbour Authority
Gibsons Public Market
Gibsons and District Public Library
Gibsons Heritage Theatre Society

Councillor Silas White and
Councillor Stafford Lumley
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Councillor Silas White
Councillor Charlene SanJenko
Councillor Stafford Lumley
Councillor Silas White
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Councillor Charlene SanJenko

New Residential Garbage Collection Contractor

The Town of Gibsons has awarded a new Residential Garbage Collection contract. Effective Wednesday, March 1st, Grayco Ventures Ltd. will take over as the new garbage collection company to provide residential service to the Town.

There is no change to the Garbage collection schedule, pick-up will continue as follows:

- Wednesday pickup for residents below Gibsons Way
- Thursday pickup for residents above Gibsons Way

Please ensure that garbage is secured in an animal-proof container and delivered to the curb not before 7 a.m. and prior to 8 a.m.

Please note that extra garbage tags may be purchased for \$3 at Town Hall. Drivers will not accept cash. For missed service, please contact Jeremy Gray at Grayco Ventures, 604-885-4700.