



Mayor's Message - July 2017

Sechelt has no shortage of summer activities and events for people of all ages and interests to enjoy. On the heels of two very popular and successful events – Canada Day and the BC Bike Race – I would like to extend a sincere message of thanks to the many volunteers, staff, and sponsors who worked together to create memorable experiences for our residents and visitors alike.

In the coming weeks, our community will continue to be bustling with activity. On Saturdays, come downtown to enjoy the free Summer Music Series outdoor concerts and the Farmers' and Artisans' Market – both of which feature local talent and creativity. There is also a diverse selection of annual events starting with this weekend's Davis Bay Sandcastle Competition. Later in the summer, watch for the long-running Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts, the Coaster's Car Club's Show 'n' Shine, and the Sunshine Coast Arts Council's Juried Hackett Park Arts and Crafts Fair. Brand new to Sechelt this summer is the Rogue Arts Festival – a 3-day event featuring music, workshops and art.

We wouldn't have such a vibrant community without the active participation of local volunteers. Our community is sustained and strengthened by the willingness of our residents to join in and help out. This summer I invite you to make a difference in your community. There are countless ways you can get involved in the activities that will be taking place – if you can volunteer, please do so to help ensure these events will be a success. It is not just festivals and events that could use your help, the Sunshine Coast Volunteer Centre's listing of local non-profit organizations includes close to 300 different programs across the Coast, about 80 of which are based here in Sechelt.

Our own Parks Department runs a volunteer stewardship program that allows residents to play an active role in keeping our community's natural assets clean and beautiful. Volunteers can adopt the specific location they are interested in, and assist with activities such as weeding, watering and picking up litter. The Aqua Wall, adopted by the Sechelt Garden Club, and the Sechelt Marsh, managed by the Sunshine Coast Natural History Society, are two examples of local parks and gardens that are thoughtfully maintained by dedicated volunteers.

There are many different opportunities to participate in any of these programs and activities, and your work will be appreciated. If you are new to Sechelt, I encourage you to try volunteering as a way of making connections and building community.

I hope you enjoy this warm and dry summer season on the Coast. Please watch for, and follow, SCRD watering restrictions and all fire bans and restrictions issued by the BC Wildfire Service and the Sechelt Volunteer Fire Department.