

## Mayor's 2019 Year in Review

During last year's campaign I spoke about asset management and how we need to ensure we always stay ahead of it, I also spoke about our most important asset; our employees. A year later, we have seen changes that give better working conditions for our financial team that now work out of the newly leased office space above the Credit Union and Town administration staff are seeing upgrades that better suit their needs as well as serving our residents more effectively.

This past year we have seen significant personnel changes with the departure of our Executive Coordinator Twyla Slonski and our CAO Richard Kanigan. Both of these individuals contributed greatly to the betterment of Comox and we wish them well in their future endeavours. At the same time we welcome our new Executive Coordinator Lia Pesklevits and interim CAO Al Kenning to carry on the great work that was set before them.

Anytime there is hard work put into something you start to receive the benefits. This is so true for our community; our collective hard work has resulted in two new brew pubs, a new tap house, two new cannabis shops and soon Aurora Cannabis will open their Cannabis Innovation Centre near the airport. Also, the final phase of the mall renovation has provided new space to house a variety of businesses. These are new jobs for Comox with spinoffs that have added to the betterment of our Town.

We are aware more than ever that we need to ensure climate adaptation is part of what we do when planning our community for the future and this Council has shown clear leadership in this. We are aware that affordable housing options are limited in Comox, and that the rental vacancy rate has been extremely low. This year, I am pleased to see the completion of Anderton Place, a brand new rental housing development on Anderton Road. And, I am even more pleased to see that its 85 units are nearly fully rented, providing high quality, desirable housing options for many Comox residents. On the affordable housing front, we are working regionally to undertake a housing needs assessment, with the goal of ensuring a diversity of affordable housing options to meet our local demographics and needs.

As we start year two of our term, I am excited that we have the skills, leadership, support and desire to continue making Comox a destination to work, live and play. We will continue to be transparent and offer the best we can to our residents.

There is always more that can be done. With a strong Council and dedicated staff, our momentum will not only continue but will get stronger.

Thank you all very much and I look forward to continuing our work together.