

## Lake Country council holds a Front Porch Meeting

By Lake Country Calendar

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The next Oyama Front Porch Meeting will take place Oct. 9, 7 p.m., at the Oyama Community Club main hall.

The purpose of the meeting is for local residents to voice their concerns about issues in the community.

The inaugural front porch meeting was held last month, and some of the issues raised are outlined below.

1. Street lighting continues to be an issue on hillside lots. While many street lights have been converted to reduce night sky pollution, they now shine very brightly onto properties further down the hill. This item is in the queue for discussion by staff and Council for an upcoming policy/plan review meeting

2. The process and cost of Development Permits was raised. This referred specifically to paying \$1000.00 for an environmental assessment on an old cattle pasture that basically said the area was an old cattle pasture. The entire Development Permit Process has been reviewed and revised.

3. A question was raised as to the status of Tween Lakes Resort in Oyama. It seems the lots are strata and are being bought and sold separately. Are Property Taxes assessed on a per lot basis or on the property as a whole? The property is taxed as one parcel and is at the residential rate.

4. The Future of the Old Highway – This area received a lot of general discussion. One area of consensus was that this road should NOT be a truck route and all heavy trucks should be required to take the new Highway. Currently there is a “call for input” regarding renaming the old highway. The District of Lake Country Delegation at Union of BC Municipalities met with the Ministry of Transportation to discuss the condition of the road and transfer to the District. There will be forums for discussion on the future design and use of the corridor later this year.

5. Emerald Bay – A concern was raised with regard to the Emerald Bay Resort. Apparently they circulate the water to keep it from freezing (I have not verified this). The concern is with the thinning ice as people approach this area when skating or playing on the ice. Anyone who has lived in Lake Country for a while remembers the lists of people who have gone through the ice. While most have been lucky enough to survive, some have not. We did have some early discussions regarding this item, but I must admit, it has slipped off the table over the summer. I will begin following up on this item in the next few weeks.

6. Boat Moorage Buoys along the north end of Wood Lake. They are beginning to spread like a plague and boats moored in the lake severely restricting access for swimmers and boat users alike. Safety is certainly becoming an issue along the entire North Shore of Wood Lake. There has been a meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee regarding moorage buoys in Lake Country. Options and policies are being reviewed and considered.

7. The condition of the “existing” Highway 97 - Concerns were raised regarding scaling, pavement condition, feathering of the recent patches and general maintenance of the roadway. The District of Lake Country Delegation at Union of BC Municipalities met with the Ministry of Transportation to discuss the condition of the road and transfer to the District.

8. Kaloya Park Winter Closure – While this may be a CORD Issue, it is one which is not going away any time soon. Everyone at the meeting agreed that the park MUST be open in the winter as a matter of safety and convenience for the residents of Lake Country. The CORD has now contracted with someone to live at the park. Winter opening hours should return to those of a couple of years ago.

9. It was noted there appears to be a significant increase in weed growth in Wood Lake. The question was raised “Is the milfoil being removed from the lake after it is cut?” I believe this is a CORD issue as well. This is actually the responsibility of the Okanagan Water Basin Board and the answer is Yes and No.

Milfoil cut in the summer is removed; however there is a "tub" that collects the cut material. If there is any wind or wave action, some strands will "lean" outside the tub, will not be captured and may wash up on shore. There is also the problem of motor boats chopping the milfoil. In winter, the process is different in that they try and "cultivate" the lake bottom to disrupt the root system. As the milfoil is dormant in winter, it is left in the lake or to wash up on shore and decompose.

Owen Dickie is a Lake Country councillor.

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