



Dear residents and business owners,

On behalf of the District of Sooke, it is my pleasure to introduce the 2016 Annual Report. The Annual Report is an opportunity to look back at the past year's successes, reflect upon our challenges, and provide a statement on our municipal objectives for the coming year.

Some of the highlights of 2016 include the acquisition of strategically-placed land on Wadams Way and the completion of multi-use trails at Sooke River Road and in John Phillips Memorial Park. Operational highlights include both the Parks and Wastewater operations of the municipality being transitioned to in-house services, fire department equipment upgrades, and updated technology in Council Chambers.

When combining our efforts with community partners and other levels of government, strides have been made towards improving community services. In partnership with the Vancouver Island Regional Library, a new community library facility will be built on the Wadams Way land. SEAPARC recently took over operations of the Demamiel Creek Golf Course, and the Capital Regional District purchased land within the District of Sooke to protect chinook salmon habitat in the Sooke River, as well as infrastructure upgrades in the Sea to Sea Regional Park at Harbourview.



Maja Tait, Mayor

Advocacy work continues for improvements to Highway 14 and some recent successes include improved line painting, a digital sign at the four-lanes and an upcoming corridor study. The bi-annual Sooke Region Health Summit was held in 2016 and work continues towards establishing a regional community health facility to meet the needs of our growing community.

Improvements to municipal plans and operations are underway, and a update of the Community Grant Program saw a more streamlined and inclusive process for community groups this past year. The Official Community Plan is currently being updated, with comprehensive community engagement taking place throughout the latter half of 2016 to ensure residents had an opportunity to help shape the future of Sooke. A need for improved communication has also been articulated to Council and plans for better connecting with Sooke residents are a priority for myself, Council and municipal staff.

Sooke is a very busy and dynamic place; the new federal census data shows us as one of BC's fastest growing communities. With that growth comes a need for improved infrastructure, diversified services, and long-range planning to ensure our future generations can enjoy the same great quality of life that Sooke residents know and love. I look forward to continuing to work with staff, Council, and residents towards building a bright and healthy future for our community.

Your sincerely,