



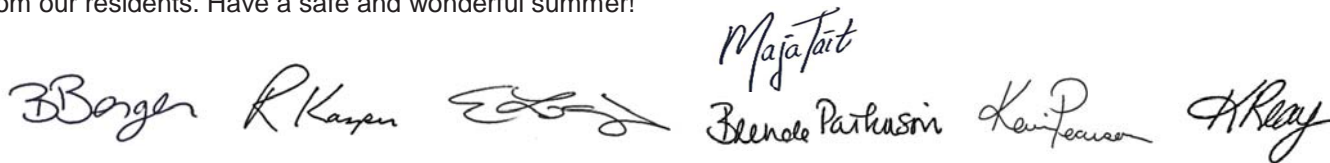
## Message from Mayor and Council

Council has recently adopted the 2017 – 2021 *Five Year Financial Plan*, which sets the municipal budget for the current fiscal year and allows for long-term financial planning. Council strives to control tax increases for residents, while at the same time investing in necessary improvements to our community, and ensuring adequate contributions are made towards required short and long-term capital infrastructure needs.

In 2017, residential property tax payers who had a change in their assessment equal to the average change, will see an increase of 5.57% on the municipal portion of their property taxes. Several factors have contributed to this increase. Sooke is experiencing a rapid growth in population, which impacts service levels and infrastructure needs across the municipality. Tax increases have also remained low in recent history, which can place financial pressure on future budgets, as repairs to existing assets are required. Additionally, as our community grows, service levels and internal business processes of the municipality need to adapt in order to meet public expectations.

Some of the highlights of the 2017—2021 *Five Year Financial Plan* include much needed improvements to roads, sidewalks and trails. Funds have been set aside for community planning initiatives including a refresh of the *Official Community Plan*, and a comprehensive asset management study for roads. Additionally, Council has made a request to the RCMP for an additional officer, as our local detachment works to keep pace with community safety needs.

Council looks forward to seeing these projects and priorities move forward, and as always, greatly appreciates hearing from our residents. Have a safe and wonderful summer!

The block contains six handwritten signatures in black ink. From left to right, they are: Bev Berger, Rick Kasper, Ebony Logins, Maja Tait (Mayor), Brenda Parkinson, and Kevin Pearson. The signature for Kerrie Reay is also present on the far right.

Maja Tait, Mayor

Councillors: Bev Berger, Rick Kasper, Ebony Logins, Brenda Parkinson, Kevin Pearson, Kerrie Reay