

FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR

Holiday Greeting



December 22, 2016

A warm welcome to those travelling home to Sooke to celebrate with family and friends. My very best wishes go to those who are sick at home or in hospital and I wish you a speedy recovery. While many of us enjoy a break from work and school, others like our First Responders continue working through the holidays to ensure our essential services are delivered. Thank you so much for your commitment to our community's safety and wellbeing.

Of course, Christmas should be a happy ...time of year, but it is often filled with worry and stress. Amid the flurry of the holiday busyness, the real meaning of Christmas often gets lost. Sadly, sometimes we may dread the holiday rather than looking forward to it. This year, I invite you to reconnect with the meaning of Christmas. This season, let us all reach out a little further to those around us. Let us look for those who might need that extra helping hand. Let us thank our veterans and our volunteers for their service, our elders for their examples, our children for their hope and optimism, and friends for just being friends.

As I look back on 2016, Sooke is extremely fortunate to have countless numbers of caring residents who give up their valuable time to help others throughout the year. Through volunteerism, community involvement, and in hundreds of other ways, Sooke residents are always thinking about and working for other people. It is also heartwarming to see so many who actively care about their neighbours. Thank you all for your generous contributions which continue to make a positive difference in our community.

On a personal note, I am grateful for our elected officials and staff, all of whom are committed to working together with the community to make positive and lasting contributions. Thanks to them, the year ahead promises to be a positive and exciting one for the District of Sooke, and I am confident that together we will accomplish great things for the community as a whole.

On behalf of the District of Sooke, I extend my warmest regards and best wishes to everyone. May the warmth and joy of the season remain with you and your loved ones throughout 2017.