

## **Mayor's Report**

### **After 40 Years, It's Time To Retire!**

Forty years ago, our community decided to pursue self-determination by incorporating as a village municipality. At the time, the residential subdivisions around Bedwell Bay and Belcarra Bay were being threatened by the expansion of 'Belcarra Regional Park' being pursued by the 'Greater Vancouver Regional District' (GVRD). The "pressure tactics" utilized by the GVRD at that time included withholding building permits from property owners and threats of expropriation by the district.

In response, the two property owners' associations of the day decided to jointly strike a committee to study the feasibility of incorporation and I was privileged to be chosen chair of that committee. Considerable work over the first half of 1979 culminated in the community's petition for an incorporation poll being granted by the province and that July 300 residents voted 96% in favour of incorporation. The Inaugural Council meeting for the 'Village of Belcarra' was held on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 1979, in the concession building on the Belcarra picnic grounds shoreline; a warm and sunny summer evening.

The rest, as they say, is history!

Today, the 'Village of Belcarra' has a population of 700 and has come a long way in forty years. Belcarra is fortunate to have had competent and forward-looking Councillors and staff over the years and is on a solid footing for the future. By continuing to pursue good asset management strategies coupled with long-term financial planning, Belcarra's sustainability will be assured. I am confident that Belcarra will continue to enjoy on-going success.

It's been an honour to have served my community for forty years, but it's time to retire.

Thank you for all of the support that you have given me over the years!

**Ralph Drew  
Mayor**