

Jamie Ross – Candidate for Mayor



I have lived with my family in Belcarra since 1989. Like most residents our family was attracted to the Village of Belcarra because of its natural beauty, the ocean, spectacular views, trails, Sasamat Lake and the chance to live in such a unique, beautiful village. I was first elected to our Village Council in 1990 as a councillor and served until 2018. I am retired from a rewarding career in public education that included work as a teacher, teacher leader, secondary school vice-principal and principal, and Director of Human Resources. These roles included extensive experience as a negotiator, labour relations professional, facilitator, mediator and chairperson for conducting meetings.

Our residents are independently minded and therefore there are often diverse views within our village. It seems that we have become more divided as a community, and this did not simply start since 2018. It has been slowly building. It is a concern that is shared by many, and one that if it is to be solved will require a shared effort. If elected mayor, I am committed to leading by example to ensure respectful conversations between our village residents and council. We need to focus our intensity on issues and not people. I believe we need to commit to lowering the temperature of our community discussions and consultation processes – this can be done through skilled and respectful negotiation, teamwork and leadership at the council table.

The design of municipal government in B.C. is that the decisions are primarily group decisions arising from a consultation process. During my professional career, I have both served on elective boards and worked to support the mandate of elected boards. I have been involved extensively in-group consultative and decision-making processes. I have been able to create, refine and lead meaningful and authentic consultation processes both in my professional work and as a councillor in the Village of Belcarra.

I am committed, if elected, to work and to act on behalf of all Belcarra residents. I am committed to working with council members to ensure that our decision-making structures operate in a manner that earns the confidence of village residents: they are seen as encouraging wide participation, providing a forum to listen to and to assist in understanding the views of all villagers. If our consultation processes accomplish this, they will be seen as fair. Although decisions cannot always meet the needs of all groups, if they flow from a process that is open, respectful and fair they will be accepted as reasonable.

I will work collaboratively with councillors to ensure they have individual portfolios and responsibilities and are supported in their work. As mayor, I will ensure all council discussions and decisions occur in open public council meetings, unless required by law to be in-camera. I believe that each councillor should be encouraged to express their views and the views of residents and committees. Our village is stronger when council decisions are formed by extensive consultation. All committees past, present and future need to know that the committee work will be received and considered as a central part of council discussions and planning. As an illustration, council will receive and respond to the Water Committee report when it is completed.

I deeply appreciate all that our S.V.F.D. volunteers (and their families) do for Belcarra and Anmore. They are always there when the call for assistance is received. If elected mayor, I will join the S.V.F.D. Board of Trustees, and work to ensure the proper tools and support for our firefighters is guaranteed.

Please feel free to be in touch with me at 778-980-2501 or Jamieross5@shaw.ca . I would enjoy talking with you.

Warm regards,
Jamie Ross

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