

Inaugural Address – 7 November 2018
MAYOR ARNOTT's INAUGURAL ADDRESS
November 7th, 2018



We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional lands of the K'omoks First Nation. Gila'kasla. Hay ch q' a' – a warm welcome to guests, friends and family members.

Congratulations to our newly elected council – welcome back to incumbent councillors Ken Grant and Maureen Swift; and a warm welcome to newly and never before elected councillors Alex Bissinger, Stephanie McGowan, Nicole Minions and Pat McKenna. Our special thanks go out to retiring councillors Marg Grant, Barbara Price and Hugh MacKinnon and to Mayor Ives for their dedication and commitment to Comox for so many years. We honour their dedicated service to our community and, in particular, their role, expertise and wealth of experience while serving the citizens of Comox.

During the campaign one item that I spoke about was the Town's asset management plan and how this leads us toward future fiscal sustainability. I spoke about the infrastructure, the equipment and various assets that feed into our plan. Today I want to acknowledge our most important asset; our employees. Comox is very fortunate to have a group of individuals who want to make our town better. There is no one person that makes us who we are. We work together as a team, my commitment is not only to the residents of Comox but to all of you who work here and I thank you for your commitment to us.

My campaign allowed me to get out and talk with many people and I heard the message loud and clear that we are heading in the right direction. Comox will retain its charm and we will balance the growth that is knocking. We will continue to be part of the environment we love so much and we will work together to ensure our unique community prospers.

As we start these next four years together I want to reiterate my pledge of transparency and open communications. As council this is the first step towards a unified group that is tasked with steering Comox to the future. You are the leaders in our community and we work for the residents and businesses of Comox. Communication and respect between us at this table and those in our community is key.

Over this 4 year term we will ensure our official community plan keeps us on the path to the future; we will review our transportation plan; we will continue the enhancements and vitalization to our Marina Park and downtown area and we will ensure we stay open for business opportunities that will enhance the charm of Comox.

There is still work to do. With a strong council and dedicated staff our momentum will not only continue but will get stronger. Thank you all very much and I look forward to working with each of you.

Russ Arnott
Mayor, Town of Comox