

## **INAUGURAL ADDRESS by MAYOR LOIS E. JACKSON**

**December 5, 2005**

Ladies and gentlemen ... families and friends ... senior staff members ... welcome to the Inaugural Meeting of your new Council.

May I introduce, beginning on my far right, Councillor Vicki Huntington, Councillor Scott Hamilton ... Councillor George Hawksworth is unable to be with us tonight due to previous commitments ... On my immediate left, Councillor Krista Engelland, Councillor Robert Campbell, and Councillor Jeannie Kanakos. Thank you.

I would like to extend Council's thanks to Judge James Jardine, Chaplain Jim Turner and Malinda Dodd, to Pipe Mayor Colin Abel and to the Police and Fire Honour Guards. Your participation here this evening is so much appreciated. Thank you.

Tonight is the first night of a three-year journey this Council and municipal staff will take, together with the citizens of Delta, to preserve, protect and augment the quality of life in our beautiful municipality.

Many initiatives undertaken by the previous Council remain to be completed. There will be a review of our fireworks bylaw, something residents have asked us to do. Last year, we completed the Official Community Plan Review. Now we will turn to a review of our Area Plans, beginning, as directed by a Council Resolution, with Ladner.

We will continue to work with provincial agencies to establish an ambulance station in Tsawwassen, and to add an advanced life support ambulance to our municipality. These goals are close to being achieved.

We will revisit the development proposal for the Delsom Lands, proceed with plans for an extension to George Mackie Library in North Delta, and finalize a location for a new Tsawwassen library.

We will continue to work with other levels of government, as we have been doing for the past six years, to find a resolution to goods movements, a resolution that provides efficient truck passage ... safe routes for residents ... access to the Tilbury and River Road industrial areas ... and relief from noise and air pollution for homeowners.

We will work with other levels of government to devise a funding formula for dredging, in order to keep the Fraser open for commerce and to protect Delta from flood waters.

We will work for a resolution of Port impacts on the environment and the community. We will continue to lobby for truck regulations that increase safety on our roads. We will pursue the return of acute care services to Delta Hospital.

And we will continue to improve our communities with infrastructure replacement and renewal, traffic calming, bylaw enforcement, landscaping, and the planting of trees.

Looking back over the past six years, I think one of the most gratifying things for me has been the growth in residents' understanding of the roles of the different levels of government, and the willingness of citizens to stand up and be counted.

We have seen the establishment of

- TRAHVOL, Tsawwassen residents concerned about the high voltage transmission line proposed to pass through their community.
- Delta Residents for a Healthy Community, a group that originated in Ladner to champion clean air and a reduction in light pollution.
- APE, a group disturbed by the potential negative impacts of an expansion to Deltaport.
- And the neighbourhood groups in North Delta that have come together to preserve their neighbourhood character, and to work with us to reduce speeding and rat-racing on their streets.

These groups of Delta residents join the company of long-established groups such as the Boundary Bay Conservation Society, the Blue Heron Society, Tsawwassen Homeowners Society and the Delta Hospital Foundation and Auxiliary - ordinary people coming together to do their part to make Delta a better place. And as Margaret Mead said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

There are many challenges that lie ahead for us, many things that are beyond our direct control. Municipal government is the closest to the people. We live among you and work among you. Often, there are issues which you feel we should and can solve. But sometimes we can't. Sometimes things are beyond our jurisdiction and control. What we can do, and what we promise we will do, is carry your wishes and concerns forward to other levels of government and other agencies who are in the position to address those issues and concerns. These include the high voltage transmission lines, the port expansion, the truck traffic, the treaty, the regulation of activity on agricultural lands, air, noise and light pollution, the level of service at our hospital.

Throughout the Lower Mainland, we see many struggles between economic interests and the Greater Vancouver Regional District Livable Region Plan, a plan Delta endorses, a plan that, as its name suggests, is concerned with the livability of our communities. There should not be this struggle between profit and people. There should be opportunities for the fulfillment of ambitions on both sides. We will work for that.

In the coming three years, Council will continue ...

- To provide opportunities for public input ... and we will be, once again, taking Mayor's Task Force to every neighbourhood in Delta to discuss with you what's going right, what's not going right, and how, together, we can make our communities better.
- We will listen to you, and we will act.
- We will keep Delta's financial house in order.
- We will continue to make improvements to keep our roads, streets and communities safe.
- We will support our fire, police and emergency workers.
- We will meet with other governments, agencies and the School Board ... and my office has already begun to arrange those meetings.

And so, we are about to begin our journey. This is your Council for the next three years. And while we were elected, not as a group but as individuals, Council works as a whole, by majority vote. While each member of Council can and will be available to you, to listen to concerns and suggestions, only Council acting as a whole can act on your behalf to form policy, make changes to bylaws and zoning, approve projects.

There is one very important issue that has emerged over the past six years, and that Delta Council and staff have not addressed. The issue is climate change. I have had the privilege of working with a group comprising researchers from Natural Resources Canada and UBC on a study designed to improve understanding of the impacts of climate change on the Roberts Bank area. Marcy Sangret, from our staff, has been working with them.

Climate change will have a great impact on Delta. We must recognize that this change is coming and prepare for it. We need to look at our dykes, and dredging, to accommodate rising water levels. We need to protect our trees and plant more of them to mitigate temperature change. Climate change will affect our daily lives.

Therefore, I will be asking Council and staff to make climate change and its effects on Delta a priority in the coming three years. To that end as well, I am reinstating the Environment Advisory Committee as a standalone entity.

In one of the congratulatory messages I've received since the election, the writer refers to Delta as "one of the most beautiful cities in our province."

We've worked hard to create that, and when I say "we", I mean all of us, Council, staff, and the people of Delta. We must continue that work, to preserve, protect and augment our quality of life. That is the challenge for all of us in the three years ahead.

On behalf of Council, I thank you for the support you've given us in the past. I ask for that support again. I can't do it alone. You can't do it alone. But together, just think what we can achieve!

Thank you.