

Councillor Ron McLaughlin

WORKING TOGETHER - MUNICIPAL KNOWLEDGE - FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

July 15, 2026

Good Morning Lions Bay,

I have been contacting Villagers recently with the purpose of making you aware of my web page, sharing information, and providing a conduit to contact me.

My reaching out has generated many responses. You asked me to address several items of concern to you. I will continue to do this. Recently I wrote about “Significant Legal Fees” and detailed how in each of this Council’s 3 completed years in office (2023-2025) annual legal expenses exceeded the total of the previous Administrations 4 years in office. Truly “Significant.” If you missed it, the information is at www.RonMcLaughlin.ca and you can see it by going to the Home page, then to “Inform Yourself,” and then to the information release.

Topics, I advise you on will be to the point and antiseptic, leaving you to draw your own conclusions. The next item for you to review is the annual financial statement third party auditor fees.

Audit Fees (\$)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
BDO	38,075	40,094	40,094	41,640	159,883			
MNP						46,074	43,050	44,000

- **BDO was LB's auditor for over 10 years. In BC they have a dominant market position providing audit services to local governments. Irregularities during the 2022 audit caused by the current Council were very expensive and the cost of the 2022 audit was equivalent to the combined audit fees of the four previous years. BDO's Audit Management letter, which provides details, is attached, and very clear on the new government's role regarding the irregularities. It is plainly written and worth the time to read it.**
- **2 years late, BDO completed the 2022 audit in April 2024 and immediately terminated its relationship with LB. Proposals for new Auditors went unanswered. Ultimately Financial Officer Joe Cherkoff leaned on a previous relationship and MNP was retained as Lions Bay's auditor for fiscal year ends 2023-2026 inclusive.**
- **Because the 2022 audit was received 2 years late due to the irregularities, subsequent year-end audits were also completed years late. This May 2026 is the first time this Council is in compliance with its mandatory statutory Provincial filings during its term.**

My goal continues to be to engage with you, answer your questions, and provide a web site that easily allows you to access Village information. I would value hearing from you.

Since I began corresponding to you the number of recipients to my messages has grown. If you would prefer not to receive future emails, please advise and I will ensure that you are removed from future communications.

Sincerely,
Ron McLaughlin
Councillor

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