

*May 6, 2011*

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## Parksville Mayor for a Day Essay Contest

On May 16, Acting Mayor Chris Burger will welcome to City Hall, the winner of the City's Mayor for a Day essay contest. In recognition of Youth Week BC, City Council recently announced the Mayor for a Day Essay contest winners.

Parksville Mayor for the Day, Liam Richardson, grade 10 student at Ballenas will see first-hand how the City operates on a typical day, spending the day with Acting Mayor Chris Burger. Liam's essay was chosen unanimously by Council as the winning essay. Sydney Snyder and Shelby Burrell, grade 6/7 students from Springwood Middle School were chosen as "Deputy Mayors" and Paxton Gilmour was awarded honourable mention.

Essays were passionate, honest and thoughtful and the concerns brought forward by the students are very similar to the issues faced by Council.

"We were impressed by many of the ideas expressed in the student essays," said Acting Mayor Chris Burger. "We hope that this contest will encourage students to learn about Parksville and their local government. We look forward to meeting the students and I personally look forward to hosting Liam as honorary mayor for the day on May 16."

The week of May 15-22 is Local Government Awareness week, held in conjunction with National Public Works Week to generate awareness and to educate the public about the roles and responsibilities of local government and to encourage the public to participate in their local government processes, including voting in local elections.

Students will read their winning essays and will be recognized for their participation at the May 16 Council meeting. The City will recognize National Public Works Week with a public open house at Public Works, 1116 Herring Gull Way on Thursday, May 19 from 10 am to 2 pm.

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For more information:

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