

Paton leaving Delta council

Sandor Gyarmati / Delta Optimist

MAY 23, 2018 10:02 PM



Ladner farmer and auctioneer Ian Paton has been on Delta council for the last eight years. Ian Paton is leaving Delta council to focus on his MLA duties.

Paton announced today he'll continue to take part in a few more meetings over the next few weeks and will resign as of July 1.

"It's really been gratifying. When I first got on, I didn't really know one end of municipal hall from the other but I learned a lot since then. It's been really rewarding," he told the *Optimist* on Wednesday.

Always making sure people know he's just a farm boy from Ladner, and darn proud of it, Paton first dipped his toe in the political waters in 2010 when he ran in a municipal by-election for a Delta council seat left vacant by the sudden passing of George Hawksworth.

A Delta Secondary grad, Paton said it took some convincing but he's glad he did it, finding his time on council productive and rewarding. He's taken a straight forward, home-spun approach on the issues, while also making sure he's the voice for the farming community.

“To be a municipal councillor, you really have to learn on the run. Nobody sits you down and gives you a lesson how the municipality works. Every day you learn about the engineering department, police and fire departments, parks and rec, and the list goes on and on. You’re tasked with learning a lot and I’ve really enjoyed it,” he said.

“I also enjoyed working with all the staff at the hall. I’ve also prided myself with going to staff with some common sense issues and approaches on how we can get things done. That’s how I basically approached everything, using my farming background, trying to cut through red tape and get problems solved with common sense,” he added

Paton was approached by the Liberals to run in Delta South in last year’s provincial election and took back the riding with a decisive victory. However, he found himself as member of the opposition when the Greens backed the NDP to form government.

Paton said he talked with Mayor Lois Jackson and former Liberal leader Christy Clark about resigning his council seat but was told he could stay. He said it’s been busy but he’s managed to make it work, wanting to stay on long enough to avoid the city requiring a by-election that could have cost Delta upwards of \$250,000.

“I found the last year pretty demanding because I deal a lot with municipal issues and people continue to phone me. My phone will keep ringing with people who feel I’m the guy to go to and help them solve some problems and get things done through our staff.”