

Mayor's Report

August 10, 2020

On July 29, Councillor Holmes and I attended a film set tour with—and organized by—RDOS Area F Director Riley Gettens. Director Gettens is the RDOS representative on the Film Commission. On Friday, July 31, I played the non-speaking part of Mayor Perez in the Christmas parade scene. Needless to say, it was a lot of fun to have a front row seat and a dedicated guide during the overnight filming.

Something I heard over and over again is how much the cast and crew loved Summerland and their appreciation for the assistance and cooperation of the downtown business owners, the District, and the general friendliness of Summerland folks. According to Jon Summerland, Film Commissioner for the Okanagan, the industry interest in Canadian locations and talent is benefiting from the pandemic travel restrictions. The movie, *Christmas Yule Blog*, will be aired in late November through mid-December 2020.

Earlier on Friday, I took part in another parade. This one was to honour Gary Ellis, who has retired from the District after 50 years of service, most recently as a By-Law Officer. Thank you, Gary, I am going to miss your interesting stories. We wish you all the best in the years ahead.

Tuesday August 4, I was a guest on Voices Unheard. This weekly series, produced by Kelowna's Unicorns Live, is designed to elevate voices and bring greater awareness to underrepresented members of society. The interview was primarily about my experiences as a Black woman in politics, including how Council has recently committed to continuing to build a healthy, inclusive community by having conversations about racism.

During this time of COVID-19, Canadian Blood Services still need blood donations. I gave on August 5—the first time in 19 years—and the process has changed dramatically. If you are able, please consider donating.

August 6, Councillor Holmes and I attended the RDOS Committee and Board meetings. Councillor Holmes will report on the meeting in his Councillor report later tonight.

Later on August 6, I enjoyed food, wine and entertainment at SummerGate Winery as they hosted a Sneak A Peek Event for the 2020 Ryga Arts Festival. The Festival runs from August 15 - 23 and while many events are only on-line, the popular Primary Colours Concert will be in-person at the Centre Stage Theatre on Wednesday, August 19th. The Ryga Arts Festival honours and celebrates the contributions of George Ryga to Canadian culture. Mr. Ryga lived and worked in Summerland from 1963 until his death in 1987.

Respectfully submitted,
Mayor Toni Boot