



### CAO Report – April 9, 2024

Last week we began our residential organics collection program, and so far, things are going well; however, since the first week also included collection of the garbage bin, this week will be a true test of our efforts to communicate the program. This week we only have a collection of blue bins for recyclable materials, and green bins for yard waste and organic waste. Residents who need more information are encouraged to consult our web page for more information or check out the links on the District Facebook page.

On the theme of environmental stewardship, I would like to remind everyone that Earth Week is April 21-26 this year. Join us on April 21st for the 18th Earth Day Celebration hosted by OASISS and the Summerland Environmental Science Group, and the Earth Day Fair hosted by the District at Memorial Park. Visit [www.summerland.ca/earthweek](http://www.summerland.ca/earthweek) for event details, and the full week of events.

Phases 3 and 4 of the Giants Head Trail Project are now underway. Residents can expect to see upgrades to the upper circulation road and connecting pedestrian trails, upper parking lot washroom, the upper section of the Grind trail, and a new park entrance washroom. We are also bucking up deadfall and dangerous trees to place large woody debris on certain trails and access points which we desire to decommission for environmental reasons. At this phase in the project, it can look like we are causing more damage to those areas, but all the work is conducted under the supervision of a Registered Professional Biologist to ensure contractors follow conservation best practices and the project's environmental plan. This visual impact will quickly return to a more natural effect if we all stay out of those areas.

The work also includes remedial planting and invasive weed management, brush removal and fire hazard remediation work, and additional split rail fencing to keep people on dedicated trails. Once it is all complete the efforts and investment will translate into an even safer place for public recreation, and even better protections for the natural environment of this special place.

Finally, I just wanted to point out that a 'for sale' sign will be going up on the visitor centre property on Highway 97 in the next week or two. The Chamber-owned building and District-owned land will be put up for sale together, with the Chamber using its portion of the sale to relocate into a new downtown location and the District earmarking its proceeds for tourism-related ventures. We are posting the opportunity in the newspaper, but any interested party can certainly reach out to REMAX Real Estate is facilitating the sale of the highway land and building. Until the sale is completed, residents and the travelling public can continue to enjoy the services offered at the location.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Statt, Chief Administrative Officer