



CAO REPORT – August 23, 2021

I am pleased to report that we have been successful in our grant application to the Economic Trust of Southern Interior (ETSI) to fund our further analysis of the feasibility of the Okanagan Food and Innovation Hub. The Okanagan Food and Innovation Hub is a project that the District has been spearheading, along with a multitude of other regional economic development organizations, to create a “Food Innovation Hub” for the region. This would allow for value-added processing of local foods, new food entrepreneurs to ‘test’ products, food innovation and commercialization, and training and education to small-scale food producers and processors. This grant in the amount of nearly \$38,000 will support a “phasing” of the business plan to start with a smaller-scale model, the completion of an expression of interest process for a potential land and building partner, and Council selection of the hub location. District staff will be working hard to action these activities over the next few months.

We are nearing completion and final occupancy of the newly renovated and re-invigorated Arts and Cultural Centre building. Painting is almost complete, and final fixtures are being added to complete the building as we speak. The revamped Arts and Cultural Centre will be a new community amenity in celebration of the Arts and Culture, and supports and aligns with the District’s Cultural Plan. The District has been partnering with the Summerland Arts Council on the design elements of the building which includes the moving of the Art Gallery to the bottom floor to allow for a large multi-purpose room on the main floor for Arts and Culture programming and events. A grand opening will be scheduled soon to celebrate this important project.

The District of Summerland and the Grasslands Conservation Council of BC have partnered to host a grassland and weed walk on Giant’s Head Mountain this Wednesday morning at 8:30 am. Participants will learn about the important role of healthy grasslands, the threat of weeds and how to control them, as well as information on the Trails Redevelopment project. Hosts include District staff, a Habitat Biologist, representatives from the Grasslands Conservation Council, as well as Mayor Boot.

Finally, I am glad to report that we have now completed the Peach Orchard Campground court upgrades which included court resurfacing and new fences on the existing multiuse court to make 4 new pickleball courts (total of 6 pickleball courts at this location now). The Summerland Pickleball Club contributed \$5,000 to the project which will support their growing membership (which now totals over 150).

Respectfully submitted,

Graham