



CAO REPORT – September 27, 2021

I start my report today with a bit of a staffing update for Council. First, I would like to officially introduce our new Director of Works and Infrastructure, Joe Mitchell. Joe is a civil engineer and a long-time resident of Summerland. He comes to us from the District of Peachland where he worked for many years holding senior roles in the organization including Director of Works and Chief Administrative Officer. Secondly, I wanted to let council know that we conducted interviews for the Sustainability and Alternative Energy Coordinator last week. A number of qualified candidates applied, and we are working on the second stage of the competition with the goal of making a final hiring decision within the next couple of weeks.

We were glad to rescind the campfire ban effective September 23 at noon, to reopen Giant's Head Mountain Park to vehicle traffic the day prior, and to move the water restrictions back to stage 1 a few days before that. These changes mark a shift to a lower risk status for the District after very dry conditions associated with high heat from the summer weather. Thank you to all residents for helping implement these measures to ensure a state of safety and resilience for the District.

On September 22 I had the opportunity to attend the Isintok Dam site and personally observe the significant work that is occurring to replace the antiquated outlet pipe and to armor the face of the structure from weathering elements into the future. Jim Dent Construction is doing a remarkable job and has made lots of progress in a very short period. I was impressed with the professionalism of the site crew, the focus on safety and the overall clean condition of the site. A drone video can be seen on the District Facebook page that shows the extent of the project from an arial view and it is worth watching.

On the same theme of infrastructure improvements, the pathway lighting planned for installation along the lakeshore pathway has seen some vendor material delays. This is not an uncommon occurrence in the supply chain right now given continued COVID impacts. We have been told that we can expect delivery in the next couple of weeks. Once the poles and lights arrive, we will ensure they are installed as a priority. We will be upgrading the lighting all the way to the Yacht Club with LED lighting to provide better and more efficient illumination than the previous light fixtures. We know that days are getting shorter, so we appreciate that patience of those who use the pathway and are looking forward to providing a much better lighting situation very soon. In the meantime, please consider adjusting the time of day you use the trail or bring a flashlight with you if you plan to be out there in the twilight or evening hours to avoid any tripping or slipping hazards.

Finally, I wanted to remind Council that in honour of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, all District of Summerland facilities will be closed, except for the Fire Department and select arena bookings.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham