



Mayor's Report – April 24, 2023

Earth Week culminated yesterday with the traditional community planting event. This year it was held at Peach Orchard Beach Park and if you happen to be down in the area, take a look at all the newly planted bushes and shrubs on either side of the boat launch.

It was great to see so many members of the community out digging and planting, especially families with young children, including Councillor Betts and her kids. It was also great to see our Fire Department out in force, not just to supply water but to get involved in the planting themselves. Also, our District Gardener-Groundskeeper, Heather Manaog, provided amazing support the whole weekend. And a sincere thank you to Lisa Scott from the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society for organizing the planting celebration, as she has done every year for the past 17 years.

Earth Week in Summerland has always been a grassroots celebration where the municipality works in partnership with different community groups and individuals. It's what makes it possible for us to celebrate not just Earth Day, but a whole Earth Week, with events running from Monday to Sunday.

The actual international Earth Day is April 22nd, which this year fell on Saturday. So it was an especially busy day with the market and EV car show and other community happenings. I had the honour of kicking off the day with the ceremonial planting of a new maple tree in Memorial Park. I was joined by Odessa Cohen, our sustainability co-ordinator, and Phoebe Landers from the Earth Day Canada organization. And Heather was on hand to make sure we planted the tree properly!

Phoebe spent the weekend in Summerland to help facilitate our role as spokesperson for this year's national campaign to get more municipalities involved in Earth Day. A lot of photos and videos of Summerland were posted on Earth Day Canada's social media sites over the weekend.

I think Phoebe was highly impressed with all our efforts and the choice of Summerland as this year's spokesperson was most certainly validated. She said we have raised the bar for other communities.

Special thanks to Odessa for her work leading not only our local Earth Week events but also the national campaign.

Besides Earth Week, there have been quite a few other events of note recently.

On Thursday last week, Councillor Barkwill joined me at a reception in Penticton to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the South Okanagan-Similkameen Community Foundation, which has been working all these years to help the region build strong and resilient communities.

Last Sunday, April 16th, Councillor Van Alphen and I joined Summerland Minor Hockey for their year-end awards ceremony and the raising of the banner for the U15 Tier 4 provincial champions.

On Saturday April 15th, I attended the Hunter's Hill open house where Patrick Murphy gave me a tour of latest phase of the development.

On April 14th, Councillors Peake and Van Alphen joined me at a flag raising and name giving ceremony at the School District 67 administrative offices in Penticton. In a heartfelt ceremony, the flags of the Penticton Indian

Band and the Okanagan Nation were raised alongside the British Columbia and Canadian flags. That was followed by a ceremony unveiling the renaming of the School Board's IMC building to siya? House. Siya? is the Saskatoon berry and is the Sylix food chief representing what grows above the ground, which is meant to bring to mind our youth and children.

On April 12th, Councillors Van Alphen and Betts joined me at a sponsors' night for the Between the Lakes Pow Wow, hosted by the Four Seasons Cultural Society at the PIB community hall. This was the first of a series of Wednesday pow wow nights leading up to the main Pow Wow in June. Any member of the public can attend the Wednesday pow wow nights, and on sponsors' night we were treated to dances from Nicole Schellenberg and Tyrone Kruger, who will bear the titles of "head woman" and "head man" at the main Pow Wow.

Finally, on April 11th and 12th, Deputy Mayor Trainer and I had the honour of cutting the ribbons to open two new local day care centres – The Learning Cove and Making Waves Daycare. The District supports improving access and increasing the number of daycare spaces in the community, in line with the needs outlined in the South Okanagan-Similkameen Child Care Action Plan.

Doug Holmes
Mayor of Summerland