



Mayor's Report

May 24, 2022

Many of Summerland's annual events returned this year and, with this being the traditional weekend to get seedlings and bedding plants into the ground, it may have been busier than usual. Whether you stayed in town or visited family or friends outside of the Okanagan, my hopes are that you had an enjoyable and safe Victoria Day Weekend.

In my role as a board governor with the Real Estate Foundation of BC, I spent much of last week attending a conference with other funders in BC and across Canada, including the Okanagan Basin Water Board. There is much good work going on in the province that is focussed on re-invigorating or protecting ecosystems for the betterment of all species—plants and animals.

Many of these projects are Indigenous-led and many of them are related to water, whether it be watershed or source water protection, restoration of wetlands, or renewing fish habitat. It's easy to look at Okanagan Lake and think we have an endless supply of water. In fact, the opposite is true, especially in this time of unpredictable and extreme weather events brought on by climate change.

Last Friday I and many Councillors attended the re-opening of the playground at Memorial Park. I use the word "re-opening" loosely, as the colourful and innovative structure now in place is unlike anything Summerland youngsters have enjoyed previously.

On behalf of Council, thank you to the Kinsmen Club, Kinsmen Foundation and the Summerland + District Credit Union for their financial contributions to the project. Also, sincere appreciation to the Rotary Club, CRL Group, Summerland Fire Department, the more than 40 volunteers who helped spread the mountains of wood fibre on Saturday, May 14, and District staff for their diligence in completing this destination playground on time and on budget. And, finally, a warm thank you to the children who joined us for the celebration and ribbon-cutting: The event was so enriched by your being there and seeing your delight.

After the playground event Friday, CAO Staff assisted me in creating a short video for the 2022 Make Water Work campaign, an Okanagan Basin Water Board initiative. I encourage all Summerland residents to take the pledge to Make Water Work this year by planting appropriately for our climate or not wasting water on driveways or sidewalks, for example. Please take the pledge at MakeWaterWork.ca.

Lastly, thank you to Councillor Holmes for stepping in for me at the Summerland Arts and Culture board meeting last Tuesday and for chairing the Council meetings today in my absence.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni Boot