



Mayor's Report – June 26, 2023

This morning, together with Councillors Betts and Peake, I had the pleasure of attending the Summerland Secondary School graduation ceremony. Congratulations to all the 2023 graduating class as you set forth on new adventures and interact with the wider world.

Yesterday, I took in the first Sunday Market of the year, and it was packed. Congratulations and thank you to Rotary for once again taking the bull by the horns and organizing this special happening that brings vibrancy to our downtown core every Sunday throughout the summer.

Also over the weekend, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, I had the honour of participating in all four grand entries at the Pow Wow Between the Lakes, which was held at the South Okanagan Events Centre. Most of council were also able to attend at least one day of the Pow Wow.

It was an amazing display of Indigenous culture – powerful, moving, inspirational, and a lot of fun. Everybody I know who attended was absolutely blown away.

And everyone I know who attended felt completely welcome to be at what is often thought as an exclusively Indigenous event.

The theme of the Pow Wow was “Healing the Nation” and, as I said on Saturday when they made the mistake of giving me the microphone, nothing heals and brings people together more than music, dance, the arts, food and culture.

Congratulations to the Four Seasons Cultural Society for their incredible work pulling it all together.

Speaking of cultural significance, Giant's Head Mountain has important meaning to the sylix Okanagan people, and it is recognized by everybody for its recreational and ecological value.

On June 9th, Deputy Mayor Trainer, Councillor Barkwill and Councillor Peake joined me up on the Mountain for the official kick-off of Phases 3 and 4 of the Giant's Head Mountain trails redevelopment project.

Sylix knowledge keeper Richard Armstrong provided a blessing as we unveiled a new Indigenous interpretive sign. Penticton Indian Band Chief Greg Gabriel and Municipal Affairs Minister Anne Kang were present and both said a few words of congratulations and spoke about how the project demonstrated the value of working in partnership.

Also in attendance were MLA Dan Ashton, representatives from the Okanagan Nation Alliance, Summerland Rotary, Associated Engineering (project consultants), District of Summerland staff, and members of the media.

Final design work of Phases 3 and 4 is underway with construction scheduled for next spring. Work will include improvements to the upper section of the Grind Trail and connecting trails as well as erosion control, brush removal and fire hazard remediation, and remedial planting and invasive weed management. There will also be a new washroom at the park entrance, improvements to the upper parking lot washroom, and park road upgrades.

There will also be continued collaboration with the Penticton Indian Band and Okanagan Nation Alliance for additional interpretive signage.

Following the kick-off, Deputy Mayor Trainer and I took Chief Gabriel and Minister Kang out for lunch. We updated the Minister on our plans for a referendum for a new rec centre and spoke about funding for municipal infrastructure. We also talked about the various collaborations between the PIB and ourselves, and of course we told the Minister all about the Pow Wow.

Mayor Doug Holmes