



CAO Report – August 29, 2023

I would like to start by acknowledging that it has been a tough couple weeks for many in our region who are displaced by wildfire and who have had lost homes or livelihoods due to the fires. While we have not had any direct impact in Summerland, there have certainly been indirect effects. Some staff have been displaced who live outside the city, and in some cases friends and relatives are being hosted by our staff until things settle. Smoke in the area also made for uncomfortable working conditions especially for our outside workers, and those conditions are also hard on local businesses.

While we did not stand up our own Emergency Operations Centre, we did coordinate with the regional EOC run by RDOS. Here is a snapshot of some of the things the District actioned during this event:

- Updated Facebook and the digital sign with key info and messages.
- Checked up on staff who have been displaced.
- Sent firetruck 232 with a crew of 4 to assist structure firefighting efforts in Kelowna.
- Accepted commercial and residential waste from Kelowna, West Kelowna and Peachland while the Kelowna landfill is closed.
- Deputy Chief Kevin Holder was dispatched to the RDOS EOC to support operations there.
- We sent our ESS director to support the RDOS reception centre in Penticton.
- Sent out a joint statement requesting the public to avoid natural areas and the backcountry to reduce fire risk.
- Reposted the Mayor's podcast on emergency preparedness and pushed VoyentAlert! Signups (about 400 more joined up!)
- Offered additional public swimming and public skating sessions to avoid the smoke/heat and to support community recreation.
- Worked quickly to provide new indoor family drop-in recreation opportunities on the curling club dry floor surface and in the arena banquet room.
- Some details as follows:
 - 2 morning public swims (142 attendees)
 - 2 afternoon public swims (77 attendees)
 - Regular weekday evening public swims were extremely busy (320 attendees)
 - 2 parent & tot play sessions (70 attendees)
 - 2 bike & scooter sessions in Curling Club (33 attendees)
 - Family time with inflatable bouncy castles in the Curling Club (65 attendees) in partnership with Par-T Perfect
 - 5 afternoon public skates (133 attendees)

Total = 840 drop-ins!!!

In addition to these specific efforts, I am proud of staff who continued to show up and do their job each day to keep the services people rely on running, particularly since our city became a kind of safe harbour

for many in the region. I sincerely appreciate the many late hours that have been worked by some staff during this time, and the big team effort to serve our people.

Work on the pier is finally about to start again. We had to put down tools when it was discovered that a threatened bird species made a nest under the old pier. Biologists assigned to work with us from the federal and provincial governments further asked that we not communicate about the issue as it could result in public curiosity about the nest, or perhaps even the removal of the nest.

We were relieved to see that bird leave the nest after the baby birds were out Except that when we were about to restart the work the biologists noted another, different nest from the same protected species under the pier. Once again, we had to pause work on this project while the eggs hatched, and the fledglings grew and finally left the nest. In the coming week we should receive the go ahead to bring back our contractors and staff to get the old pier out, and to start working on the piles for the new one.

Our operating window is tight because we could not start the project until the Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel survey was completed, which required a water temperature of 72 degrees at the bottom of the lake at the end of the pier, and we have to stop working in the water due to other environmental windows, likely by mid-October. We are excited to get going on this important community project. We thank everyone for their patience as we worked through these unforeseen circumstances outside of our control.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Statt, Chief Administrative Officer