



Mayor's Report – February 27, 2023

Family Day was the weekend before last and, along with the District's traditional free public swimming and free public skating, I hope some of you were able to take in the Celebrate Summerland event on Saturday the 18th. It was one of a series of seven celebrations put on in seven different communities by the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association to celebrate the region's people and cultures and mark the reopening of the region post-pandemic.

The Chamber of Commerce and District of Summerland partnered to bring it to Summerland. Like Light Up, Celebrate Summerland was another example of the Chamber and District working together to put on an exciting event for the whole community to enjoy.

Speaking of the Chamber, a reception for the nominees of the Business Excellence Awards was held this past Thursday, the 23rd, at the Waterfront Resort. Congratulations to the 56 businesses that received a nomination. Both the quantity and quality of nominees in all categories is very high, and it's especially encouraging to see so many new, younger business owners up for an award. As I said at the reception, I'm glad I don't have a say in choosing the winners. If it was up to me, I'd give a prize to everyone.

The award recipients will be announced at the Awards Ceremony at Centre Stage Theatre on April 1st. I'm told it'll be a "denim and diamonds" event. I won't have problem with the denim but I may need to borrow someone's diamonds.

Incidentally, the District of Summerland was nominated for a Chamber award in the environment sustainability category. I don't know who nominated us, and I don't know if the municipality has ever been nominated for a Chamber award in the past, but it is an honour.

Summerland is also being recognized for our positive environmental impact at the national level. We have been named by Earth Day Canada as the 2023 spokesperson for its Mobilizing Municipalities Campaign. The City of Montreal served as the first municipal spokesperson in 2020, then it was Mississauga in 2021, Moncton last year, and now little old Summerland is once again punching above its weight.

Being spokesperson means that I as mayor am supposed to encourage other mayors to get their municipalities involved in the annual Earth Day campaign. I have already sent an email out to all the other mayors in the Interior, and I'll start reaching out to others in the province and across the country. I'll be participating in the national online campaign launch on March 22nd – which is one month before Earth Day itself, on April 22nd.

Please check out the Earth Day video featuring Summerland, which is now up on the Earth Day Canada website, and can also be accessed through the District's Facebook page.

Environmental issues such as water conservation and flood mitigation were also among the priorities identified in RDOS strategic planning that Councillor Van Alphen and I participated in last Wednesday and Thursday.

At the RDOS board meeting the previous week, on Feb 16th, the RCMP provided its 2022 annual report for the region. There has been a downward trend in almost all crime, including violent crime and property crime. The Summerland detachment received 2,558 calls for service last year, compared to 3,086 calls in 2021. Three thousand has been about the average since 2016. It was reported that in every community the majority of

crimes, especially stolen vehicles and break and enters, are committed by one or two prolific offenders. When they're locked up, the crime rate goes down. When they're released, the crime rate goes back up.

It's always good to remember to always lock your doors.

Doug Holmes

Mayor of Summerland