



Mayor's Report

September 27, 2021

I am beginning my report tonight with a few good news stories.

The first is the life-saving measures of the District's two bylaw officers Dan Maja and Darren Krell. Saving the life of a resident is hardly a daily operational duty, but Dan and Darren took it in stride, using their first aid training to save the life of a resident. Summerland Ambulance Unit Chief Tom Ratcliffe honoured the two men September 17 for their efforts. On behalf of Council, thank you Dan and Darren for going above and beyond the call of duty. My personal thanks to Councillor Erin Carlson for attending the recognition event on my behalf.

Secondly, congratulations Lindsey Craig, the winner of a \$750 waterwise yard upgrade. Ms. Craig made an online pledge to conserve outdoor water use as part of the 2021 MakeWaterWork campaign. Thank you for participating in the campaign. Summerland came second in the Community campaign, behind the District of Peachland.

The third piece of good news is that the District of Summerland has been presented with a 2021 Climate + Energy Action Award for our Low Carbon + Renewable Energy Project Implementation. The award was presented by the Community Energy Association (CEA) who, since 1998, has worked in partnership with the Province of British Columbia, Union of BC Municipalities, BC Hydro, FortisBC, and Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia. The District's award is in the Corporate Operations category, which profiles local governments that know how to "walk the walk" and are demonstrated leaders when it comes to implementing their own work. Administration is working with CEA to organize a formal presentation of the award.

Finally, the District has achieved Milestones 2 and 3 in the Partners for Climate Protection Program (PCP). The Program is a national network of over 400 municipalities with the shared goal of taking action against climate change and reducing local greenhouse gas emissions. PCP is managed and delivered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and ICLEI Canada—Local Governments for Sustainability Canada. As PCP members achieve milestones—such as developing, then implementing Local Action Plans they receive another puzzle piece.

In January 2021 CAO Statt, then corporate officer Karen Needham and myself were invited by South Okanagan Immigrant and Community Services to work with the Respect Network on addressing racism in our communities. The UnBox initiative has recently started in collaboration with the Okanagan

Regional Library in Summerland and Osoyoos and the Penticton Public Library. Unbox focuses on the experiences of racism by new immigrants and other racialized community members. It encourages participants to conduct an audit of their local community and identify areas that preserve racial inequities embedded in our society. Unbox also provides the opportunity to enhance knowledge and appreciation for various cultures in our town. Visit soics.ca for more information and to register for an UnBox.

You may have noticed the harvest displays in District planters, on light posts and in other areas of the downtown area. These imaginative and attractive displays are created and installed by Therese Washtock and Peter Holler with coordination assistance from Fall Fair president Denise McDonald. Councillor Richard Barkwill also helps out—in his words he is on the “pick it up and take it home crew”. These displays extend the Summerland Fall Fair beyond the activities held yesterday, as does the 2021 Photo Showcase. Thank you all for the 2021 celebration of agriculture—I know it’s a lot of work at an already busy time of year.

The 118th Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) Convention is over for another year. This year’s theme was “Obstacles to Opportunities”. Panel discussions and resolutions reflected matters that are top-of-mind in local governments across the province: attainable housing, reconciliation, health matters (mental health, COVID-19 and the opioid crisis), climate action, and post-pandemic economic recovery. Summerland Council had meetings with the Ministers and staff of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries; Municipal Affairs; and Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation.

Lastly, Thursday is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. As I heard the Honourable Murray Sinclair say in an interview Saturday, on September 30 take the time to learn something about Indigenous people that you don’t know today. In recognition of this day and Council’s commitment to reconciliation, District flags will be at half mast.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni Boot