

## **Mayor's Report - January 27, 2020**

It has been a very busy couple of weeks with budget, Minister announcements, RDOS, and Executive and Advisory Committee meetings.

Tonight, though, I would like to pay tribute to the man for whom the District's flags have been at half-mast over the last few days.

I first met Derek Chudyk within the first couple of years of him moving with Candy and their young family to Summerland. The District had contracted with Okanagan College for staff training on the fundamentals of computer use. Derek, who insisted on being referred to as "Zorgon", was most definitely a memorable student. He was never disrespectful or rude although in retrospect he could have been considered 'mildly disruptive'. I doubt there was anyone—including myself—who didn't look forward to Derek's classroom shenanigans.

Several years later, as I was transforming an open field into Grasslands Nursery, I met Derek again, this time in his capacity as an electrician for the District. Although most of his dealings were with the contractor who constructed the retail building, Derek was very professional and fair. He had such an open and easygoing manner.

In 2018, when Derek took leave from the District to fight his illness, he always said that he would come back and pick up where he had left off. It was a pleasure to see him at the District Christmas party and formally welcome him back. He was witty and entertaining and he, Candy and I had some good laughs. Derek's battle was behind him. At least, that is what we thought.

Candy and I spoke for some time on the weekend. She shared many stories about Derek that I had not heard before—stories that are for her or others to tell. We also talked about Derek's thirty years with the District of Summerland's electrical department. He was loyal, trustworthy, respected and well-liked by those he worked with and by the community. Derek loved his job, loved Summerland and loved his family.

Candy asked me to extend an invitation to Council and all District staff to attend Derek's funeral this Saturday, February 1 at the Summerland Baptist Church. The service begins at 1 pm.

On behalf of Council, District staff and the residents of Summerland, thank you, Derek, for your exemplary service.

Mayor Toni Boot