

Mayor's Report, February 24, 2020

I hope everyone enjoyed their Family Day weekend and had a chance to enjoy some time with family out and about in Summerland.

On February 11, Councillors Holmes and Van Alphen and I attended the Summerland Chamber luncheon. Guest speaker MP Dan Albas answered several questions.

On February 12 I attended the Community Open House along with all of Council. For those who were not able to attend, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the room was filled with information boards highlighting specific projects in the proposed 2020 budget. Staff was on hand to answer any questions attendees may have had on major capital projects or other community investment priorities. This was the first of many community engagement events planned for this year on such proposals as the Summerland Community Health and Wellness Centre (including the new aquatic centre); the Downtown Plan and the Solar and Storage project, to name a few. On behalf of Council I again thank CAO Anthony Haddad, Director of Finance, and the many staff who worked so diligently to make the open house so interactive and interesting.

On February 13, I attended the Water Stewardship Council meeting in Kelowna. This group is the technical advisory group for the Okanagan Basin Water Board. Of particular interest was a presentation on the Okanagan Climate Projections report released earlier this month. In short, we can expect warmer temperatures year-round, with summers getting considerably hotter. We can also expect increased precipitation throughout the year, except in summer, and rain events will be more severe. The growing season will increase from about 5.5 months to almost 7 months by the 2050s, and almost 8 months by the 2080s.

It is important to note that, as always, the **weather** will vary year to year. These are **climate** projects, meaning they look at trends over a 30-year period. On a related matter, while a high snowpack cannot be dismissed, it is the rate at which the snowpack melts and/or the intensity of spring rain that makes the risk of flooding rise.

For local government there are three key takeaways from this presentation:

- Education and collaboration will play an important role in preparing for these changes.
- Designing to current and future climate parameters is markedly more cost effective than reacting to climate shocks and stresses over time.
- Local and global mitigation is a powerful tool to curb GHG emissions at 2050 level and reduce the amount we need to adapt.

On February 14th, Councillor Holmes and I (as RDOS directors) attended the "Hearts of the Land Celebration" at the En'owkin Centre. The event was held to honour and thank the individuals and groups (including RDOS) for their contributions to the habitat securement project on Penticton Indian Band located lands. Special recognition was given to Louie Alec and Ken and Darlene Lezard on behalf of the Lezard family, who donated or leased land for the project, as well as the Armstrong family and two trustees of the project: Grand Chief Stewart Phillip and Jeannette Armstrong. Bryn White, Program Manager for the SOS Conservation Program, was also honoured for her invaluable expertise in habitat restoration.

On February 20th I and Councillor Holmes attended the RDOS board and committee meetings; Councillor Holmes has written a report on the meeting. We also had a Regional Hospital District meeting and, as Vice Chair I'd like to report out on two items: there will not be an increase in the hospital taxes this year; the Board directed staff to explore options for funding proposed primary care and community clinics, such as the proposed one in Summerland.

Later that day Councillors Holmes and Patan and I attended the Chamber's Nominee's Reception for the Business Excellence and Community Awards nominees. Then, I took some time to myself and attended the SSS production of Matilda at Centre Stage. Fantastic, as always!

Speaking of our high school, both the Sr. Boys and Sr. Girls basketball teams made it to the Provincial championships currently being held in Langley. We wish them all the best!

Last Friday Councillor Holmes and I attended the Primary Care Network meeting. Much of the discussion was about possible funding models for centres and clinics in the RDOS region.

On Saturday I attended the One World Festival in Penticton, organized by South Okanagan Immigrant Community Services. It was another colourful, entertaining and educational day ... and the food! I also attended the Summerland Art Council's AGM on Saturday and want to again thank Diane Hildebrand, Betty-Ann Xenis, Peter Hay and Jean Evanishen for their many years of devotion to raising the profile of arts and culture in Summerland.

Toni Boot