



**Mayor's Report
May 11, 2020**

I hope everyone enjoyed the Okanagan sunshine on the weekend.

Although provincial orders require us to restrict in-person events and gatherings, many have embraced virtual functions and my mayoral activities over the past two weeks certainly reflect that.

On Wednesday, April 29 I attended the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) executive meeting. One of the convention sponsors has offered to fund a speaker or two for the membership; after much discussion we directed the executive director to submit a list of suggested topics—more updates to follow. Also, the executive decided to forego compensation for mileage or meals through to December 31, 2020 whether or not we are able to meet in-person again before the end of the year.

Later that day, I joined Mayor McKortoff, Mayor Vassilaki, MLA Dan Ashton and MP Richard Cannings at a virtual town hall hosted by the Community Foundation of South Okanagan-Similkameen. We were asked to each give a 10-minute presentation on what has been done to protect and advocate for constituents during the pandemic.

Also on April 29, I attended the virtual Ambassador Program meeting to give the candidates my perspective on the impacts (positive and negative) of COVID-19 on Summerland. This was followed by an interesting discussion on how the Program and the candidates have adjusted to the pandemic. The final event for the 2019/20 Program was scheduled for last weekend; they are now tentative planning to crown the new Summerland representatives this fall.

On April 30, 2020 Councillor Holmes and I attended a Special RDOS Corporate Services meeting. I left that meeting early to attend the AGM and executive meeting for the Southern Interior Municipal Employers Association meeting. That afternoon, I attended a presentation of the South Okanagan Food Hub Project made to key stakeholders.

Friday morning I attended a Special Council Meeting, followed by a preview of the OBWB's Okanagan Flood Story website. Primarily a tool for local governments to use when making land-use decisions relative to flood plains, the site also has a lot of information about high water in the Okanagan Basin and includes a tool for private property owners to determine their risk of flooding under varying conditions. The website, okanaganfloodstory.ca, was released to the public at a virtual media event on May 6.

Last Monday, May 4, we reconvened the April 27 Regular Council Meeting to complete the agenda.

I attended the joint Okanagan Basin Water Board and Water Stewardship Council (WSC) meeting on May 5. This joint meeting with the technical advisory group to the OBWB is held once each year. Items of note:

- Staff will be sending another letter to B.C. Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy George Heyman urging the Province to take all necessary action to prevent zebra and quagga mussels from being introduced into B.C. water bodies. The economic impacts these invasive mussels would have on the Okanagan would only add to the already significant impacts of the pandemic.

- Staff has established an ad hoc committee in response to the Board's request for options to address current and future Okanagan hydrometric information requirements. This information is essential for a number of water management topics, including local government infrastructure and environmental flow needs.

Still with OBWB, the Make Water Work program will be doing a virtual launch this year. Related to that, Okanagan mayors were asked to create a short video pledging to use water wisely this summer. My thanks to Summerland's Brandyn Steele for offering the District videography services for free so I could get my piece taped and submitted. The program launches on next week, at which time I encourage all Summerland residents to visit makewaterwork.ca to enter your pledge.

On May 6, I attended the Province's Joint Technical Freshet teleconference with pertinent District staff. An operational update on freshet is part of this evening's agenda. Councillor Patan and I attended the Development Process Improvement Advisory Committee meeting later on May 6.

May 7, Councillor Holmes and I attended the RDOS Board meeting. Later in the afternoon our CAO and I joined the teleconference call with Minister Robinson and Emergency Management BC.

Summerland, as we head into Phase 2 of the Province's Re-Open B.C. Plan, on behalf of Council, I again thank you for your continued efforts to slow the transmission of the coronavirus. It is encouraging to hear that restrictions are easing—let's continue to make the right choices so we don't jeopardize our collective efforts or the health and safety of frontline workers.

Be safe. Continued health.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni Boot