



CAO Report – May 6, 2025

Spring is upon us and with that wildlife is on the move. Residents are reminded that garbage needs to be kept in a secure location, and that carts should not be placed on the curb before 5:00am on your scheduled collection day.

It might seem like it's less risky to put out the green and blue bins the night before.... however, there are many attractants in those bins well so they are subject to the same rules. A fed bear is a dead bear as once they are habituated to humans; they can become a nuisance and threat to human safety. And even if they are trapped by Conservation Officers, locating them in another area can be dangerous to the bear given that bears are naturally territorial and can attack a newly introduced bear. Young bears likewise do what mom does, and so they also can become easily habituated which puts them on a trajectory for being a future problem. Summerland is situated near wildland areas which gives us incredible vistas and recreational opportunities, but this also means we all have to maintain a high level of stewardship since we are so close to these wild natural places.

On the theme of wildland environments and good stewardship – Emergency Preparedness Week runs this year from May 4-10. We will be pushing out information on Facebook including links to information and educational resources such as webinars.

It is a good time to think about being fire and flood ready, and what you can do to be prepared for an emergency. One simple thing any of us can do is firesmarting our property and cleaning up debris and dead branches and leaves, removing combustible materials and objects adjacent to your home. BC has about 1600 wildfires a year and we all need to do our part to protect our community. If you would like to learn more about firesmarting your home feel free to stop by or call the general line for the fire department or send an email to firesmart@summerland.ca. Another thing residents can do is to sign up for emergency notifications or to download the **Voyent Alert!** app at <https://voyent-alert.com/community/#registration>.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Statt, Chief Administrative Officer