



Mayor's Report

June 14, 2021

Tonight's Mayor's Report begins with recognition for some very deserving individuals, beginning with the announcement of the first round of approved Neighbourhood Small Grant award winners. They are Heather Pescada, for the Trout Creek Virtual Scavenger Hunt, Jane Campardo for offering Polynesian Dance Classes; Sherry Taylor, who is coordinating a native plant installation and Petra Holler who is using the award to start Okanagan Podcast. The Neighbourhood Small Grants program unites neighbours and sparks creativity. Some of the projects are a one-time experience, others are the start of an annual community program that will continue to grow. Congratulations to each of you.

The Summerland Rotary Club also deserves recognition for their continuing work at the West Summerland Station. A cycling map and historical interpretive signage was recently added to the covered picnic area, which serves as a stop for cyclists and hikers using the portion of the Trans Canada Trail that goes through Summerland. The Station was an original stop on the Kettle Valley Railway and the steam train still travels by. This is a community effort combining Rotary funding and labour with donations of materials and services by local businesses.

And finally, but in no way less deserving, congratulations to the Summerland Secondary School Class of 2021. I cannot begin to understand what it has been like to experience your entire final year of high school with COVID-19 but it appears you've taken it in stride. Like the Neighbourhood Small Grant award winners and the Summerland Rotary Club and supporters, you are an important part of Summerland. Whether you volunteer, participate in sports or are a loving big brother or sister, your choices make Summerland a better place to live. On behalf of the District of Summerland, I wish you all the very best in whatever road you choose—or chooses you.

Ending tonight on a much more somber tone, late last month the Summerland Review released this statement:

"Following the discovery of the remains of 215 Missing Children on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School, on behalf of the District of Summerland Council and staff, I offer our deepest condolences to the members of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and all Indigenous communities who struggle with the lasting impacts of the residential school system.

We are deeply saddened by the profoundly disturbing treatment these young lives endured, even in death. Every Child Matters."

The municipality's flags were lowered to half mast for 215 hours.

Over the last 18 months I have been part of a working group that has attended a series of workshops that explore how Syilx and non-Syilx partners can work together to co-create a vision and a framework for an Okanagan Lake Responsibility Strategy. This morning I attended the latest session that focussed on what we (non-Syilx people) need to know for understanding our role in reconciliation and our role in the implementation of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Topics included Indigenous law, knowledge and leadership and how western science can work together to protect and restore the cultural, environmental and economic values for Okanagan Lake. The information is, of course, transferable to other initiatives in the region as all sectors begin to examine how UNDRIP will be incorporated or will shape new legislation and policy in British Columbia.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni Boot