



## **Mayor's Report**

May 10, 2021

The Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) hosted its virtual annual general meeting on April 28. Aside from addresses by the Premier and a virtual meet and greet with Municipal Affairs Minister Josie Osborne, members had the opportunity to vote on 31 resolutions and elect directors for the 2021/22 year. The three table officers—President and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President—were acclaimed with all three roles being filled by elected officials in the South Okanagan. The resolutions now go on to the September convention of the Union of BC Municipalities.

On the afternoon of April 29 and through most of April 30, I attended the Chief Elected Officials Forum hosted by the Local Government Leadership Academy. Originally intended to be held in-person in Richmond, this was held virtually. The forum covered several timely and well-delivered topics, and the format allowed a good amount of time to network with other mayors and regional district chairs and to share tips, advice and solutions to challenges B.C. communities are facing.

The Friends of the Ornamental Gardens (FOG) held their Spring Plant sale the first week of May. I volunteered to pull plant orders on the morning of May 4 and am so impressed by the COVID-safe process this energetic group of volunteers have designed. Although COVID restricted work on the gardens in 2020, a lot of work has been done over the last month to bring them back to their former glory.

I received the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine on May 5 at the clinic set up at the Summerland Curling Rink. Just like the FOG plant sale, the entire process, including the brief wait times, took just 35 minutes. Summerland is currently a provincial 'hotspot', meaning that our community is experiencing a higher per capita COVID rate than most areas in BC. The CAO's report includes an update on how this uptick is being addressed.

Also on May 5, the CAO and I attended a video conference call with Ministers Josie Osborne (Municipal Affairs) and Lisa Beare (Tourism, Arts and Culture). Much of the discussion was about the new travel restrictions through the Victoria Day Long Weekend.

In closing, if you haven't already done so, please complete your Census by tomorrow, May 11. These data are important for the District and are used in planning, policy, and the overall decision-making process.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni Boot