



## Mayor's Report – November 14, 2022

It was a busy first week for the new Council. We were each sworn in on Monday at our inaugural meeting, then on Tuesday and Wednesday, together with the District's senior management, we attended a workshop on effective governance led by George Cuff, who is a nationally-renowned local government guru, author of ten books on local government and a former 4-term mayor in Alberta.

We've also had presentations from each of the District's department heads, outlining their core responsibilities and work that's being carried over from the previous term.

It's important that Council has these orientation and governance sessions early in our term to ensure we get off on the right foot.

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen also had its inaugural meeting last week, on Thursday, when Councillor Van Alphen and I were sworn in as directors and Councillors Barkwill and Trainer were sworn in as alternates.

Friday, of course, was Remembrance Day and I would like to thank the Royal Canadian Legion Summerland Branch for organizing the public ceremony at the Cenotaph in Memorial Park. Deputy Mayor Trainer joined me to lay a wreath on behalf of the Municipality and the people of Summerland.

I have to say, after a couple years pause due to the pandemic, it was encouraging to see the community return in large numbers to hear the rolls of honour of fallen Summerland soldiers and to pay their respects.

What wasn't so encouraging was news the next day that thieves had broken into the Legion overnight and stole a sum of money, including the proceeds of the Poppy Fund that was meant to go to veterans.

Such an appalling act doesn't represent the Summerland most of us know. The Summerland most of us know is the one where residents responded by coming out to the Legion yesterday to make donations to help replace the stolen funds, and in return receiving a sandwich and soup from Chef Andy. I understand a Go Fund Me page has also been set up if people wish to donate.

Looking ahead over the next few weeks, Council together with senior management will be undertaking a strategic planning process to establish Council's priorities for the next four years.

We'll also be heading into budget discussions for the three utilities – water, sewer, and electrical.

Earlier today we set the schedule of meetings to review the general operating and capital budgets. These deliberations will be held throughout January.

Finally, I would like say – Light Up is back! After a hiatus, again due to the pandemic, the 35th 'Festival of Lights' will be back in its full glory and at its traditional time -- on Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:00PM to 9:00PM in beautiful downtown Summerland. Also returning are associated events Light Up the Vines, Light Up the Arts, and Light Up the Library.

In recognition of the importance of Light Up to the community, the District of Summerland is providing 20 thousand dollars and logistical support for this year's event. Many thanks to the Chamber of Commerce and its

partners for their organizational work and commitment to bringing this marquee event back to the community.

Further information can be found on the website: [summerlandlightup.com](http://summerlandlightup.com)