



## Mayor's Report

November 8, 2021

Council did not have an evening meeting on October 25, so my report will cover activities for the last four weeks. My thanks again to Councillor Patan for chairing the October 25 afternoon council meeting and accepting the first poppy in his capacity as Acting Mayor in honour of Remembrance Day this Thursday.

On October 13, I attended the reporting out portion of the Memorial Park Design Charette led by District staff. I heard several thoughtful and innovative ideas about adapting the Park to make it more accessible, tie it in with other cultural spaces in the downtown core, and provide increased use for a variety of outdoor activities.

Later that day—and three more times the following week—I participated in Climate Solutions Council meetings in advance of the Province's October 25 release of the CleanBC Roadmap to 2030. The Roadmap "introduces new ideas to help B.C. achieve the Paris emissions reduction targets for 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050".

CAO Statt and I participated in a meeting with Municipal Affairs Minister Osborne and Lori-Anne Routenberg on October 14. Ms. Routenberg is the newly elected chair of the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). The topic of discussion was on how the Province might be able to assist local government in COVID-19 recovery; I spoke about how Summerland's tourism economy has struggled and how a strong recovery could be a joint priority of the Province and local governments. Several other mayors on the call echoed this concern; we are hopeful to have continued discussions with the Province.

On October 16 I attended an on-site reception hosted by the Hunter's Hill team as they begin selling lots for Phase 2 of the development. It was a good opportunity to talk to local builders, potential property owners and the project managers as we toured the second Phase.

As Council liaison to the Summerland Community Arts Council board, I attended their monthly meeting on October 19. The board is very pleased with their new space at the George Ryga Arts + Culture Centre. The fundraising committee has been working very hard make up for revenue losses due to COVID. The first annual Comedy Night for the Arts is on November 26, featuring Summerland's David Kopp, and the Light Up the Arts annual arts and crafts show begins November 12 and runs through to December 24. Whether you're looking for special gifts and stocking stuffers created by South Okanagan artists or not, a visit to the Centre to see the outstanding creations of the decorating committee is worth your while.

October 20, I attended the Development Process Improvement Advisory Committee meeting and, in the evening, the virtual Short Term Rentals presentation. Thanks to District staff for a detailed presentation and to the many community residents who shared their thoughts, concerns and ideas either during the session or through the online survey. A draft of the amended bylaws will come before Council next month for discussion.

October 21 the CAO and I attended the virtual Mayor's Vaccine Roundtable with IH and, that evening, MC'd the re-opening of the George Ryga Arts+ Culture Centre hosted jointly by the District and the Summerland Community Arts

Council. Members of the Ryga family travelled for the celebration and told some great stories about their Dad and his contributions to Summerland and beyond. The CAO will provide more updates on the renovations in his Report.

I was out of town from October 23 to 30 but attended two virtual Council meetings, one of which was the start to the 2022 budget process.

On Saturday, I joined several volunteers to plant Indigenous plants at the k'əmçnitkw Floodplain Re-engagement Project situated on donated Locatee land on the south side of the Penticton River channel. The Project has created an off-channel rearing backwater area for native fish, particularly Chinook and Rainbow Trout that offers refuge in high water and food sources during three seasons, as well as a wetland for amphibians and waterfowl. This year, in it's third phase, plants propagated at the En'owkin Centre's educational greenhouse and nursery facility are being planted to restore habitat for at-risk species at the k'əmçnitkw project site. The final planting day for 2021 is next Saturday, November 13.

This morning CAO Statt and I joined regional mayors, Forest, Lands, Natural Resources Operations Minister Katrine Conroy and ministry staff on a discussion about the old-growth forest two-year deferrals announcement. It was a very interesting conversation with plenty of answers to good questions from participants. Generally, the Province will be working with Indigenous leaders throughout B.C., then reaching out to local government, the forestry sector, environmental professional and other key stakeholders for input before formalizing a plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni Boot