

Mayor's Report – July 8, 2025

On July 1, I participated in the annual Canada Day flag-raising ceremony and celebration at Memorial Park with Deputy Mayor Trainer and Councillors Peake, Van Alphen, and Barkwill. Like every year, the community turned out in large numbers to this happy event which once again was organized the Summerland Legion with support from Destination Summerland and a \$500 grant-in-aid from the District. It is, of course, the volunteers who make the event a success. My job as mayor is to cut and serve pieces of Canada Day cake, and thank you to Councillor Van Alphen for assisting me with that important task this year. Two years ago there was one cake that ran out fast. Last year we had a second cake but we still ran out. So this year we had three cakes and that seemed to be just about right.

Also on July 1, Destination Summerland's new temporary visitor's centre opened to the public and I and other councillors stopped by after the Canada Day celebrations. The new office at the District-owned house at 13230 Henry Avenue, just behind the Fire Hall, replaces the former tourist information centre on Highway 97. It is intended to serve as a stop-gap until Destination Summerland is able to move into new permanent quarters.

On July 3, Councillor Barkwill and I attended the regular board meeting of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) where the Board approved the waiving of Development Cost Charges (DCC) and other fees totally \$307,000 for a 36-unit affordable housing project in Okanagan Falls.

The RDOS is also launching a Pop-Up Office initiative to improve community engagement and access to regional services. Logistics are currently being co-ordinated with the municipalities and I suggested that for Summerland it might be useful if the RDOS could participate in the District's annual budget open house.

- Mayor Doug Holmes