



Mayor's Report – May 15, 2023

You will notice that our Council Chambers have been redecorated. The paintings on the two side walls are from the collection of the Summerland Museum and Archives Society, who have kindly agreed to curate the space and will change the exhibit around every once in a while.

The first display features locally made art all with an agricultural theme. They are from the collection of Doreen Tait, who was born in 1921 to Summerland pioneers Magnus and Alice Tait. Doreen lived her whole life on the Tait family's Trout Creek property and she bequeathed her substantial art collection to the Museum upon her death in 2006.

There are also museum pieces being featured in the display case in the lobby of Municipal Hall.

The costumes and artwork from our sister city, Toyokoro, that had been adorning the chamber walls are now in the hands of the museum for safe-keeping and display. Except for the traditional Japanese firefighter's uniform (that had been hanging by the entrance); it is now on display at the Summerland Fire Hall.

Three weeks ago, from April 25 to April 28, Councillor Peake and I attended the annual convention of the Southern Interior Local Government Association, which this year was held in Vernon.

I'm pleased to report that convention delegates endorsed our resolution to ask the Union of BC Municipalities to work with the Provincial Government to address the problem of grant programs being routinely heavily oversubscribed. The resolution will now go to the UBCM convention in September.

Another resolution of interest that was put forward by the RDOS also passed. It was to ask the Ministry of Health to provide funding for the expansion of primary care networks outside of the constraints of Interior Health, in accordance to local and regional needs.

Speaking of Interior Health, on May 1st, CAO Statt and I met with Madeleine Csillag-Wong, the new Executive Director of Clinical Operations for the South Okanagan. She is taking over the position previously held by Carl Meadows. We spoke about our efforts to build a team-based primary care clinic in Summerland as well as the hours of operation at the Summerland Health Centre lab amidst Interior Health's ongoing staffing challenges.

On May 3rd, CAO Statt and I attended an RCMP workshop in Kelowna held for mayors and CAO's in the Southern Interior. We were given an overview of all things RCMP, from officer recruitment to homicide investigations. One topic of interest was the roll-out of body-worn cameras on officers, which will start to be deployed in B.C. next year. We were also given an update on the federally-mandated roll-out of Next Generation 9-1-1, or NG911, over the next couple of years. It will replace the current Enhanced 9-1-1 system, or E9-1-1, and changes the 9-1-1 platform over from phone lines to computers and will enable real-time video and text.

On May 4th, Councillor Van Alphen and I attended the regular RDOS meetings, where we heard from a delegation representing the South Okanagan and Similkameen Search and Rescue Teams. Both the Penticton and Oliver/Osoyoos teams are celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year. Summerland is covered by

Penticton Search and Rescue, who have 35 operational volunteers and four support members, and respond to an average 61 calls per years.

It shouldn't come as a surprise that the demand for search and rescue is increasing while their funding from government is decreasing. Increasingly, the Regional District is being looked upon to bridge the funding gap.

On May 5th, I attended a workshop organized by the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) and Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP) regarding the Okanagan Lake Responsibility Planning Initiative.

This initiative is seeking to bring together Syilx and local government leaders to focus on fresh water and jointly implement priority actions.

The idea is to build on the strong foundation of Syilx Okanagan knowledge, including the Syilx Water Declaration, while also gaining insights from municipal leaders and water champions like the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

With Syilx and local government leaders speaking with unified voice, it's hoped the process will drive policy and legislative reform at the provincial and federal levels.

On May 7th, I joined Legion members and local Royal watchers at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 22 for an Afternoon Tea to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles the 3rd. The celebration was organized by Chef Andy, who's from Yorkshire and probably knows better than anyone in Summerland how to prepare a proper English tea. Each table had the traditional three-tier food stand with tea sandwiches at the bottom, scones with clotted cream and jam in the middle, and sweets like eclairs and chocolate coated strawberries on the top. It was delicious; the best Coronation event I've ever attended.

On May 12th, all members of Council, together with MLA Dan Ashton, took a study tour of the following municipal facilities:

- the water treatment plant
- sewage treatment plant
- Works yard
- Fire Department training grounds
- Fire Station
- RCMP station
- Arena and curling rink
- Aquatics Centre
- and the solar project construction site.

We visited all these locations in one day. Besides deepening our understanding of the District's day-to-day operations, the site visits showed how fortunate Summerland is to have such skilled and dedicated municipal employees working to keep the town ticking day in and day out.

Finally, I went into the Rec Department last week and registered for the Giant's Head Run. Apparently, I'm supposed to challenge the rest of Council to compete in the race, however I will frame it as an invitation to join me in bringing up the rear. The run is on June 3rd, over the ActionFest weekend. Be sure to register by the early bird deadline of May 28 to be guaranteed a race t-shirt.

Doug Holmes
Mayor of Summerland