



**Mayor's Report – November 7, 2023**

The people have spoken and the results of Saturday's referendum make it clear that it's not the right time for the proposed recreation centre project. Voter turnout at 46% was very high for a local vote, and I'd like to thank all residents and property owners who took the time to attend the information sessions and take the tours to learn about the proposal, assess the pro's and con's, and ultimately cast their ballot. The important thing isn't how any one person voted, but how the community came together to engage in the democratic process. We now need to put our differences aside, accept the referendum results, and move on. In the coming months, Council will discuss next steps and how to keep the community engaged as we work together to determine Summerland's future recreation needs.

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On Oct 28, at the invitation of the South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association, I had the honour of attending a Louis Riel 'Spirit of the Sash' Celebration held in Penticton. The evening included a sashing ceremony where Métis youth and people who have traced their lineage are formally recognized as being Métis. In Summerland, there are 265 people who self-identify as Métis, of whom 93 have a proven ancestral connection to the historic Métis community and are recognized as members of the Métis Nation. In fact, both the president and vice-president of the South Okanagan Similkameen Métis Association are Summerland residents.

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The Royal Canadian Legion's annual poppy campaign begins on the last Friday of October, which this year fell on the 27th. By tradition, the Governor-General receives the first poppy for Canada, and in towns across the country, the mayor receives the first poppy for their community. It was an honour to receive this year's poppy from Doug MacKay of the Summerland Legion. At the time of receiving the poppy, Fire Chief Robinson just happened to be walking by so we grabbed him to join us in the photo.

The November 11th Remembrance Day ceremony will be held as usual this Saturday at Memorial Park and again, as mayor, it will be an honour to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph on behalf of the District and the people of Summerland.

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I continue to sit in on various Council Advisory Committee meetings and on October 25, I attended the meeting of the Community Climate Action Advisory Committee along with Councillor Barkwill, who is Council liaison to the committee. The Committee received information about the provincial funding we receive under the Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) and discussed the process to be used for determining eligible projects for Council's consideration.

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Finally, on October 24, I attended the Chamber of Commerce's Business-after-Business event held at Unisus School, where I was joined by Councillor Betts (Council liaison to the Chamber), Councillor Peake, and Councillor Barkwill. Unisus staff provided an overview of the school and discussed the benefits that international students bring to the community.

Doug Holmes

Mayor of Summerland