



CAO Report – December 2, 2025

As we approach the end of the year, I wanted to use my report this week to reflect on the significant work accomplished this cycle.

2025 was the “heavy-lifting” year when it comes to Council’s published strategic priorities. The first two years of a mandate involve feasibility assessment and weighing of the options, which require deliberation and ultimately detailed project planning and draft designs can then be completed. Budget planning also takes place including priority setting, seeking grants and sometimes the detailed process for public assent for borrowing. Finally, procurement can take place so that mobilization for the projects take place by selected contractors, and the work can begin.

Highlights in 2025 include the successful completion of Prairie Valley Road, and the majority of work being done on the Wharton Street project. The Primary Clarifier at the wastewater plant is also very complex project that made good progress in 2025.

We can all celebrate this progress because major projects involve everyone – the planning team for visioning, Council for direction, the finance team for budget, corporate services for borrowing and procurement, engineering for plans, utilities for underground works, public works for project oversight and communications throughout. Speaking of communications, we also added Instagram to our suite of tools to profile our information to younger residents this year. By the end of this month, we will have also done more than 30 news releases, which is a record for Summerland, as we work harder than ever to keep our residents aware of things happening.

A few other highlights include the huge effort to update the Official Community Plan. Also, the collaborative work with Penticton Indian Band to launch the Source Water Protection strategy. And of course, the exciting launch of the Food Hub project. Two affordable housing projects broke ground and are making steady progress which will bring 150 new affordable housing units to the community. Just last week, we also received Cabinet approval to proceed with the hotel tax in the community which will support destination marketing and tourism work led by Destination Summerland.

Looking forward to 2026, the Victoria Road paving and infrastructure project will be launched in March, and Council has budgeted for a new Playground at Peach Orchard. The new pier additions will be ready for the enjoyment of the community, as well as the new Veterans Memorial Square amenities including a new four-season washroom there.

As they say, it takes a village and we can all be proud of the work done in 2025 and I sincerely appreciate the work of staff and the leadership of Council in this banner year.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Statt, Chief Administrative Officer