



## CAO Report – May 26, 2026

I am pleased to report that most of our dams are still spilling and with the cool weather and the bit of precipitation we are having, it is the hope that continues for little longer. Once Thirsk stops spilling, we enter “water storage” which means we are then relying on the stored water for the rest of our growing season. Council has also provided special permission for large volume irrigators to use the surplus water at no charge until we enter water storage given the drought conditions in the region. The hope is that this will help charge the soils with water now to help take pressure off later in the growing season.

The District has been informed by the Province that the Garnet Valley Gravel Pit located at 27600 Garnet Valley Road is under reconsideration. The previous authorization for the mine was quashed by the BC Supreme Court. However, we have also been told that no broad public notice is being undertaken, so if a resident wants to make a comment that they should reach out directly. For this reason, we are making the community aware of this process and encourage any interested party to share comments with the decision maker, whose detailed contact information can be found on our Facebook page.

Given the amount of construction that happened last summer, we heard many comments about posted parking times in the downtown area. Listening to these concerns, Council directed staff to make some changes to extend free parking times in several locations. Residents will notice that we have now updated many signs to go from 2 hours to 3 hours, and it is hoped that will facilitate more convenient and stress-free access to our downtown businesses and events.

We also want to profile the Summerland On-Request Transit Service, which is a flexible, shared-ride transit option offering convenient door-to-door or stop-to-stop travel within Summerland for customers who pre-book. Open to everyone, this service does not require HandyDART registration. Riders simply create a quick On-Request account through the call centre, including address verification for pick-up locations. People can learn more by checking out the BC Transit website. Another great way to get downtown!

Finally, it is just a small thing, but folks might notice that there are now hanging baskets on the north side of Main Street. Due to a broken underground water line, for number of years there have been no baskets on that side of the street. I appreciate staff finding the time to do this as it is these little things that help make our downtown a special place.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Statt, Chief Administrative Officer