

Mayor's Report – April 14, 2026

Yesterday, on April 13, members of the Summerland Healthcare Auxiliary voted to support the development of a Summerland team-based primary care centre with a \$1 million contribution derived from its thrift store revenues. The vote was taken following a presentation to the full membership from local family doctor Murali Venkataraman, Tracy St. Claire from the Division of Family Practice, Kelly Hawes from the South Okanagan Healthcare Society, and myself representing the District. We spoke about the need for primary care in Summerland, all the efforts made in the past decade to get a clinic established here, how the centre would operate, and how every local resident, if they want, will finally be able to have a family doctor based right here in Summerland.

On Friday, April 10, I ventured partway up Giant's Head Mountain along with Deputy Mayor Trainer and Councillors Betts, Peake and Barkwill, and many others for a ceremony to mark the completion of Phases 3 and 4 of the Giant's Head Mountain trails redevelopment project.

Also in attendance were representatives from the SnPink'tn/Penticton Indian Band, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Summerland Rotary, Destination Summerland, Thompson-Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA), District of Summerland staff, members of the media, the prime contractor Associated Engineering, and subcontractors Cabin and the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS).

The project included improvements to the upper section of the Grind Trail, erosion control, brush removal and fire hazard remediation, remedial planting and invasive weed management, a new washroom at the park entrance, improvements to the upper parking lot washroom, road upgrades, and Indigenous interpretive signage.

At the ceremony, knowledge keeper Richard Armstrong shared many Sylx stories and provided a blessing as we recognized the cultural, ecological and recreational value of Giant's Head Mountain.

Before Easter, on April 2, Councillor Barkwill and I attended the regular board meeting of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) where a delegation from BC Transit updated the Board on regional bus services. He mentioned that no expansion of either new or existing routes was being planned for the foreseeable future due to government budget restrictions.

The Board also heard from a consultant on the current structure and future direction of RDOS parks, trails and recreation services, with discussion confirming the Board's priority for developing regional trails.

- Mayor Doug Holmes