

## Mayor's Report - February 10, 2020

Earlier today Lori Mullin, Manager of Recreation, and I had the honour of recognizing three of the lifeguards at the District's Aquatic Centre. Aysha Curley, Micaela MacDougall and Anna Lock put their CPR and lifesaving training into practise January 31 and saved a life. Council and District staff join Lori in saying "we are so proud of these three—and all the recreation staff who supported them—for their incredible teamwork, professionalism and competence".

On January 29 and 30 I attended the BC Natural Resources Forum in Prince George. Although our economy is not heavily reliant on resource extraction such as mining or oil and gas, agricultural land is also a natural resource. Our community has a rich agricultural history and this sector is still economically important to Summerland.

I spoke to some of the five northwest B.C. mayors who, with the Resource Works Society, formed the Resource Municipalities Coalition in 2016. Since these discussions, which included how local governments can protect community watersheds, I have expressed my interest in exploring the possibility of being part of a southern interior Coalition, perhaps one that covers the SILGA region. The Coalition's executive director offered to discuss this possibility at their next executive meeting.

Over 1200 delegates heard from many Indigenous speakers and panelists about what Reconciliation means to them and their general openness to collaborate with non-Indigenous governments and private organizations for mutual benefit. Other speakers, including the Premier, spoke about how the forestry sector can regain its economic strength, specifically through implementing a truly sustainable management plan and diversifying forest products, such as mass timber.

The Premier also spoke about the B.C. Food Security Task Force and the imminent release of the *Future of B.C.'s Food System*. This 80-page report makes four key recommendations on how B.C. can lead the next agricultural revolution and is now available on the Province's website.

Last Tuesday I attended the first Okanagan Basin Water Board board meeting of 2020. Highlights include:

FLNRORD is working with UBCO to conduct research on milfoil management in Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel habitat, including along the Summerland foreshore. The research is expected to provide answers on whether milfoil management has any significant negative impact on the native mussel.

LiDAR data on community watersheds is expected to be available to local government staff by the end of March 2020. These data provide 3-D aerial images of our watersheds that can be added to our GIS.

As of February 5, 132 teams have signed up for the AquaHacking Challenge. The Challenge is to find technological solutions for one of five different water issues. Five teams will move on to the finals.

OBWB continues to work with the provincial government to enact Pull the Plug legislation. This is seen as another tool against the transfer of invasive mussels into BC water bodies.

The Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy has been printed; planning departments will receive a copy.

OBWB 2020 grant applications are closed. The District is supporting the Peachland Watershed Protection Alliance's application for a study in our shared watershed. The project will be conducted by UBC Vancouver.

Mayor Toni Boot