



**Mayor's Report
January 11, 2021**

Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a relaxing and healthy holiday season.

Our last meeting of 2020 was held on December 14 and, with the holidays, I do not have too much to report on tonight.

On December 15, I was part of a recorded panel discussion called "Valuing Diversity in Leadership". The session is part of the Local Government Leadership Academy's (LGLA) Annual Form and will be presented virtually in February. The presentation will also include a Q&A live segment. Other participants were Duncan Mayor Michelle Staples; former UBCM president and Mayor of Sooke, Maja Tait; Coquitlam Mayor Duncan Stewart; and Kamloops Councillor Arjun Singh.

Despite the pandemic the District of Summerland was able to get a considerable amount of work done. Visit summerland.ca to see a summary in year-end column published on-line and in the January 7th Summerland Review.

2021 is a Census year. The Government of Canada is committed to hiring locally to ensure community safety during COVID and applications are now being accepted. Visit census.gc.ca/jobs for more information and to submit an application.

I am very pleased to introduce Mr. Graham Statt, the District's new Chief Administrative Officer. Graham comes to us from Alberta, where he has been involved in public administration in provincial government roles for many years. As head of staff, and Council's only employee, Graham's position bears considerable responsibility. New year, new job, new community, new house, new staff, new people to meet. In Graham's words "it's like drinking from a fire hose". On behalf of Council, District staff and residents, a warm welcome to Summerland, Graham.

While there are always predictions and resolutions at the beginning of a new year, sometimes—as the whole world experienced in 2020—we are tested in extraordinary ways. Over the last five years, Summerland residents have faced fire, flood, and pestilence. But we have adapted, and Council will continue to support projects and initiatives that build resilience, so we are better prepared for the challenges that inevitably lie ahead. May we continue to be caring of one another through 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni Boot