

## Mayor's Report – February 6, 2023

The Summerland Museum and Archives has put up a new art display in Council Chambers, I believe from the Tate collection, all paintings of Okanagan Lake.

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On January 17, every member of Council and all District of Summerland senior management attended the Budget Open House at the Arena Banquet Room. I would like to thank all members of the public who braved the inclement weather to come out to learn about Council's priority projects for this year and how our tax dollars will be invested in the community. Following the public feedback that we have received, the budget returned to Council this afternoon where it passed third reading.

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Regional District budget deliberations are a bit more drawn out than those of municipalities, but down at the RDOS we're making solid progress. At the January 18 board meeting, which Councillor Van Alphen and I attended, the draft regional district budget received first reading and is now being taken out to the region for public feedback, a part of which was CAO Jim Zaffino's presentation to Council this afternoon.

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On Saturday, January 20, I joined Councillors Peake and Barkwill at the Community Centre open house where the various groups that use centre introduced themselves to the community. Members of the Summerland Men's Shed have completely renovated the Community Centre basement, where they have also set up their workshop. I had the pleasure of presenting to the Men's Shed an old laptop donated by the District of Summerland IT department and arranged by Councillor Barkwill. The group will use the laptop to watch their how-to videos.

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On January 22, I was joined by Councillor Barkwill, our Director of Works and Infrastructure Joe Mitchell, Manager of Works Shawn Goodsell, and RDOS Area 'F' Director Riley Gettens, on a site visit of the Highway 97 rock slide just north of Summerland. Officials from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTi) and AIM Roads showed us the work being done to get the highway back open to four lanes. A huge amount of rock has been removed and blasting will continue throughout the month before slope stabilization can begin with the installation of bolts and rock anchors. Thank you to MOTi for reaching out to us, and for their open communications and regular updates on this major work project that's important not only to us in Summerland but to everyone in the Valley.

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On January 23, I was invited to a Summerland Rotary meeting to speak about what's in store for 2024. I provided updates on the pier and on phases 3 and 4 of the Giant's Head Mountain trail redevelopment – two projects where Rotary has provided strong support. We also had a wide-ranging discussion on such topics as the budget and capital works planned for this year, the curbside collection of food scraps, and the impact of the new housing-related legislation introduced by the province.

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On January 26, Deputy Mayor Trainer and I met with board members of First Things First Okanagan as a follow-up to the presentation they made to Council last August on the Zero Carbon Step Code. We talked about the experience of other communities that have begun to adopt the code, including Penticton, which is implementing the 'measure only' first level. We requested they send their data through to all of Council, which I believe they have done... The full Zero Carbon Step Code will be mandatory for all municipalities by 2030 so it's something we're going to have to look at soon, however I did mention to the group that we're currently facing capacity challenges due to the aforementioned housing-related legislation brought in by the province.

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On February 1, Councillor Barkwill and I rode the bus. We took Route 30 into Penticton as part of the Transit Week Challenge where mayors and councillors in the Okanagan and Shuswap were challenged to take public transportation as much as they could. The challenge was organized by the Okanagan Transit Alliance as a way to encourage municipal leaders to learn more about their public transit systems and meet people on the bus. When they issued the challenge, I wrote back to them explaining Summerland doesn't have a local bus service, just Route 30 to Penticton and Route 70 to Kelowna, and that I wasn't planning to go to either city that week. However, Councillor Richard Barkwill had other ideas – he convinced me we should hop on the bus and go into Penticton for lunch one day to support the challenge. So that's what we did. And I have to say it was useful meeting our fellow passengers, as well as our bus driver, and speaking to them about the bus service and their views on the free fare trial.

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Yesterday morning, February 5, CAO Statt and I had a meet-and-greet with the new RCMP officer-in-charge for the South Okanagan-Similkameen region, Superintendent Beth McAndie. We spoke about a number of concerns, including staffing levels at the Summerland detachment and the recruitment process underway for a new staff sergeant. We also spoke about improving co-ordination on call-outs between the RCMP, fire department and ambulance service, which is also something we spoke about with representatives from BC Emergency Health Services when CAO Statt and I met with them before Christmas. I understand a meeting of these first responders is now in the works.

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This morning (February 6), I attended a regular board meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB), where a new chair was chosen after Osoyoos Mayor Sue McKortoff stood down after five years as chair. The vice chair, Lake Country Mayor Blair Ireland, has moved up as chair and I drew the short straw and am now the vice.

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Finally, last week I extended our congratulations to Mayor Stéphane Boyer of the City of Laval, Quebec, on their being named spokesperson for the Earth Day 2024 campaign. Under Summerland's watch last year, 150 municipalities across the country joined the Earth Day movement, so Laval has lots of momentum to build on and I wish them *bonne chance*.

- Mayor Doug Holmes