



Mayor's Report

January 10, 2022

Happy New Year, all. I hope that—despite everything—everyone found some time to relax with family over the holidays. I also hope that, by this time next year, COVID and all its variants have been tamed and we have sufficiently adapted to living with the virus.

On December 14 I attended the final Summerland Community Arts Council board meeting for 2021. Just before Christmas I learned that *Light Up the Arts* showed a 50% increase in sales over last year, a year that also set a sales record.

A Development Improvement Process Advisory Committee meeting was held on December 15. As usual, there was good discussion among members about topics on the agenda. Agendas and minutes of these meetings are available on the District website.

CAO Statt and I attended a call on December 16 with Municipal Affairs Minister Josie Osborne and Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Murray Rankin. It was very interesting to hear what other municipalities in the Southern Interior and Kootenay region are working together on, as well as some of the challenges we are facing. Graham and senior staff worked diligently to meet the December 24 deadline to submit a grant application to the 150 Time Immemorial Fund Program. If successful, it will allow the District to do more work together in the Trappers area to manage access and random camping and unlawful dumping.

Council met briefly on December 17 to adopt the proposed utility rates for 2022; these took effect on January 1.

Last Thursday, January 6, I attended the Mayors Vaccine Roundtable call hosted every two weeks by Interior Health. These calls have morphed into a COVID update and Q+A session from a vaccine roll-out update but they continue to be informative.

Finally, although it's hard to believe it's already been a full year, congratulations to Graham Statt on his first-year anniversary with the District. On behalf of Council, thank you for your commitment to Summerland; 2022 will be another year of challenges and opportunities and we're grateful to have you working with us to serve our community and make Summerland an even better place to live.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni Boot