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Media Release

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Hundreds of Summerlanders Provide Views on Local Culture

The Cultural Plan Task Force is winding down an extensive public consultation process in which hundreds of Summerland residents and visitors provided their opinions on local culture.

All public comments and suggestions will be reviewed by the Task Force in order to make informed decisions for the drafting of a municipal plan for cultural development.

Consultations started last summer and ran throughout the fall and into the winter. In all, public input included:

- 203 attendees at a series of 13 community conversations where people expressed their views on different aspects of local culture.
- 576 responses to a questionnaire that was handed out at community events such as the farmers' markets and Wednesdays on the Water, and made available online.
- More than 600 comments written on sticky notes and placed on display boards that rotated around to different public locations such as the rec centre, library, arena, art gallery, and local coffee shops.
- 15 written submissions where individuals or groups made specific comments or recommendations without any organizational constraints.
- Comments from 226 Summerland Secondary School students, as organized by the Grade 11 leadership class.

"All the input will be considered," said Task Force Chair Denese Espeut-Post. "That's important for ensuring we develop a plan that represents the expectations and aspirations of the community."

A draft plan will be presented and discussed at an open house sometime during the spring. After considering public feedback to the draft, a final report will be prepared and presented to Council.

The Cultural Plan Task Force, struck by Summerland Council on April 13, 2015, consists of 12 community members and two councillors. The Task Force is mandated to develop a Cultural Plan that reflects the values and perspectives of the community.

For more information, contact:

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