



CAO Report

April 12, 2021

Summerland's 15th annual Earth Week Celebration is from April 19-25. Our theme this year is "Restore Our Earth" and the activities are all COVID-friendly and geared to families and individuals who want to learn about and contribute to a healthy and resilient natural environment in Summerland. Details are available at www.summerland.ca/earthweek.

Also, as part of Earth Day on April 22, the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen is looking to promote transit in the region. The District of Summerland will, in conjunction with the RDOS, be promoting Earth Day by waiving fare collection on public transit routes that day. Marketing is expected to commence next week and will be supported through media advisories and information releases.

A few points on the recreation side of our service offerings. Summerland Arena ice is out (after Easter weekend) and we have transitioned to our annual spring dry-floor season. Additional restrictions were issued from the Province which has put our indoor fitness classes on pause until at least April 19 (with the exception of aquafitness) and stricter protocols in our Fitness Room. Regarding personal fitness, Fitness Room equipment is now being spaced further apart (from 2 meters to 2.5 meters) and our capacity level has been reduced from 12 people to 8 people per booking slot. Pool operations continue with lane swimming, public swims, aquafit, and Red Cross lessons. We appreciate the patience of our customers as we aim to adapt to the health guidance set forth by the province to keep our facilities and activities compliant with the latest COVID protocols.

The Senior Management Team has been working on a Code of Ethics for all staff. The document speaks to the values of how we do our work, and effectively codifies what I see to be the good practices performed by staff everyday who are in the public service of the District. In the coming weeks we will engage the broader staff contingent on finalizing the document and at that time I will also bring it back to Council for information.

Finally, I wanted to provide a short update on where we are at with our exploration of the Eco-Village Concept in the vicinity of the Solar and Battery Storage Project. I have formed an oversight committee to guide the work with key department heads participating. We have had several meetings to plan the methodology, which has included initial review of the area, some ground-truthing of site locations and setting out the rough parameters of our analysis. Associated Engineering has been brought on board to help with some of the engineering pieces such as the overall development potential and grade and access considerations, sewer and water service options, and siting options in relation to Solar and

Battery Storage project. An RFP was posted to procure a qualified environmental firm to support the environmental considerations, and last week we evaluated and rated submissions to select the vendor who will be notified shortly. We have begun consideration of the recreational values on the site as well through evaluation of existing inventories of trails and other features in the area, and I have had an initial meeting with the CAO of Penticton Indian Band to make him aware of the work. Further engagement of the Band will occur through the planning phases to ensure we are aware of any cultural values. We should be in a position to report back to Council in June on the feasibility of an environmentally sensitive eco-village style development that would enhance and complement the District Solar and Storage project

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Statt, CAO