



CAO REPORT – June 13, 2022

First of all, I would like to thank Brad Dollevoet who covered for me for a few days so I could be with my daughter for the birth of our first grandchild – Isla Rose Ellen Bassendowski born June 3 and weighing in at 7 pounds and 1 one full ounce. Like most people I come to loath zoom and facetime during the pandemic ... but now that I am back home in Summerland, I am more grateful than ever for those platforms which allow me to see that precious little thing each day!

On June 1 I had the opportunity to participate in the Business Walk hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. It was great to hear the various ideas, opportunities, and concerns of business owners and managers as we walked around the community speaking to businesses. We have a vibrant business sector that provides fantastic services and products for the people right here in Summerland allowing people to be local and shop local. A shout out to those businesses who support our community each day.

After a cold winter and cool spring, bears and other wildlife are making their way through our community looking for an easy meal. Anticipating this, weeks ago, our bylaw staff were proactive and did several night shifts to provide more than 600 warning letters and education to citizens about leaving their garbage cans out overnight. We also have put up information on the digital sign, Facebook, the newsletter, bear-in-area signs in some of the most active areas and have worked with the media to get the message out. We have seen improvement in compliance, but we are planning to conduct an inter-agency enforcement action with provincial Conservation Officers who will provide a \$345 fine as a ticketable offense where necessary. We thank the public for working with us to ensure that they avoid leaving out attractants like garbage that habituates bears and other wildlife to people.

The weather has brought welcome rain to the area but unfortunately it has also slowed down some of our line painting program which continues to get caught up in the dry periods between the roaming showers we have been seeing. Paving also continues with some of our larger paving projects moving along now according to schedule.

I would like to recognize the work of staff in supporting community vibrancy in our parks these last few weeks. From car shows to picnics to Action Fest to the popularity of our new playground, I think we see a great level of service from our parks staff that I know we all appreciate.

Finally, I wanted Council to know that the large permanent signs for the Trappers area have arrived and the Public Works and Infrastructure staff will be mounting them and installing them in several locations up there. This should help make the public aware of the some of the sensitivities of the area, and the rules for its responsible use. We are looking to do some patrols in the coming weeks for public education and awareness with guardians from the Penticton Indian Band who often patrol their reserve lands right next to ours.

