



CAO Report – November 7, 2023

With the referendum in the rear-view mirror now I wanted to take a quick moment to recognize staff for their hard work. From open houses to videos to communications updates to answering the multiplicity of questions, a lot of work went into the process. And the large turnout of voters shows the efforts paid off. Special thanks to Corporate Services, Finance and the Recreation teams who went the extra mile.

A quick update on the pier. With the old pier out now, our focus has been on getting the authorizations from the province to proceed with working in the water to install the piles for the new one. We are currently requesting an extension to our environmental window into the spring with the hopes of getting the piles in early in the new year. If we can get that approval, we should be able to get the basic pier replacement installed by May or June and target an official opening in July. As noted, this timeline depends **entirely** on the province allowing us additional time in our existing working window – if that cannot be provided, further delays should be expected.

Other projects are being buttoned up for this year, and if the weather holds out, we are going to try to get as much paving done as possible. Water turn-offs are complete, and we are winterizing our seasonal facilities and parks to get ready for the cold weather – as a reminder, as of October 30 the Giant’s Head Mountain Park Road gate will be closed for the season. It will reopen on April 15 to vehicle traffic in the spring. We are also working closely with the Chamber to ensure everything is ready for November 24 for the Festival of Lights, as we prepare to kick off the Christmas season!

After another record wildfire season for the province, I am proud that our fire department continues to be proactive in terms of Wildfire Risk Reduction work. Right now efforts are underway to reduce brush and thin certain forested areas especially in a 100 hectare area in the western reaches of the District on Crown land. Contractors will be pruning, thinning, tree falling, brushing, grazing, and burning piles of debris, along with reforestation. People in and around the area can expect chainsaw running and pile burning taking place. This work will continue until February 1, 2024.

Finally, just a reminder that from November 14-17 will be an unlimited yard and garden waste curbside collection. After filling your green bin, residents may also fill ‘kraft’ style bags, or specific containers marked ‘yard waste only’. Branches 5 cm or under that are properly bundled will also be picked up as long as long as they are tied together with string or twine and are under 25 kg.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Statt, Chief Administrative Officer