



Mayor's Report – April 3, 2023

Thank you to Deputy Mayor Trainer for aptly filling in for me while I was away last month and for chairing our last Council meeting.

Upon my return, on March 22, I participated as a panelist on Earth Day Canada's Mobilizing Municipalities conference. This was a virtual event that was recorded and it can be viewed on the Earth Day Canada YouTube channel.

As Summerland is this year's spokesperson to mobilize Canadian municipalities to take part in Earth Day, I spoke about the impact climate change is having on small rural communities like Summerland. I also outlined some of the actions we're taking to deal with it.

Thomas Mulcair, the chair of the Earth Day Canada board, was also on the panel and he said there were two reasons why Summerland was selected as this year's Earth Day spokesperson. First was the excellent job we have been doing to address climate change, not only with our Earth Day and Earth Week events but our work year-round.

The second reason, he said, was because of Summerland's natural beauty. He said that to create awareness of climate change, you need to connect with people emotionally and show them what could be lost if we don't take action. He said one of the best ways to do that is to show a beautiful location like Summerland and how that beauty is under threat.

Earth Week, by the way, is coming up in a few weeks and CAO Statt will be speaking in his report about some of the scheduled local events.

Earth Week is a sure sign that spring is around corner.

But we can't put winter to bed until we recognize our Snow Angels. This year we had 67 people nominated for using their snow shovels to perform good deeds and help out their neighbours. Each nominee received a Certificate of Appreciation and Henry Manning was this year's gift certificate prize winner.

On Saturday evening at Centre Stage Theatre, along with Councillors Trainer, Betts, and Van Alphen, I attended the Business and Community Excellence Awards hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

On behalf of Council, I would like to extend congratulations to all the nominees, and thank you to all the sponsors and to the Chamber for organizing a successful event.

It was the first awards ceremony in two years due to the pandemic, so it wasn't surprising to see it so well attended. With the large turn-out and quality of nominees, the event was a showcase for what makes Summerland such a special place.

For those who weren't there, the winners in the business categories were: Zia's Stonehouse Restaurant for business of the year, Millionaires' Row Cider for new business of the year, Timber Mart for retailer of the year, LocalMotive Organic Delivery for agriculture and agr-business excellence, Maple Roch Pure Canadian Maple Syrup for equality, diversity and inclusion, OK Tire for customer service, Hunters Hill Holdings for environmental and sustainability, Dirty Laundry Vineyard for hospitality and tourism, and Yvonne Whiting Notary Public for excellence in accredited professional services. South Okanagan Immigrant and Community Services received the non-profit organization award.

For individual awards, Colin Powell from IGA was named business person of the year, Jonah Cadieux-Johnson from Detonate Brewing is young entrepreneur of the year, Scarlett Bloom received the youth leadership award, Petra Holler received the arts and culture award, and Linda Van Alphen is this year's citizen of the year.

The Summerland Auxiliary Firefighters were my choice for the Mayor's Award of Excellence. This award is given out by the mayor of the day to recognize a local group's outstanding contribution to the community.

Currently we have 29 on-call auxiliary firefighters, all of whom have regular jobs in the community like tradespersons, orchardists, school teachers, and municipal employees.

Five of the auxiliaries were present at the awards ceremony and I was pleased they all were able to take the stage to accept the award.

Auxiliary Firefighters can be called out to an emergency at any time, day or night, and their work is strenuous and often performed in hazardous conditions. They are a special group of people who provide an invaluable service to the community and they are most deserving recipients of this year's Mayor's Award of Excellence.

Doug Holmes
Mayor of Summerland