



Mayor's Report

February 28, 2022

Last day of February and spring will arrive next month, at least the calendar says it will!

On February 15 I attended the Summerland Community Arts Council board meeting as Council liaison. The Arts Council has a lot of activities in the works, some of which are dependent on COVID-19 restrictions not being increased. However, planning must proceed and the SCAC is optimistic. I'd like to speak about their partnership with the Summerland Rotary Club for the Club's last 50/50 draw. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets: It added \$3700 to the SCAC's budget. I'd also like to pass along the board's thanks for supporting their application for a \$7500 grant-in-aid.

February 23 I attended the third and final meeting of the working group on establishing a new terms of reference for the Thompson-Okanagan Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) for the Economic Trust of the Southern Interior (ETSI-BC). The work has already been completed by the Columbia-Kootenay RAC, and both terms of reference will be going to their respective RAC members for approval. Just a reminder that ETSI-BC is the agency that, with Council's support, provided funding for Business Recovery Advisors, including Kristin Parsons at the Summerland Chamber of Commerce.

Friday afternoon I was part of a panel discussion (providing a local government perspective) on the Province's Watershed Security Strategy and Fund. SILGA hosted the webinar for its members: Indigenous and non-Indigenous people outside of local government also attended. Related to this, the Minister of Municipal Affairs had been moved to a new Ministry: Land, Water and Resource Stewardship. Minister Osborne will also be the Minister Responsible for Fisheries and part of her new role will be providing provincial leadership on the Watershed Security Strategy and Fund. Former Minister of State for Lands and Natural Resource Operations Nathan Cullen is now "our" Minister (Minister of Municipal Affairs).

On Saturday, February 26 I attended parts of the virtual One World Festival put on by South Okanagan Immigrant Community Services (SOICS). Although I didn't participate in the sampling of various cuisines, the online portion was very enjoyable. I look forward to the Festival being in-person in 2023! Saturday was also the opening of the Stories of Diversity exhibit at the Summerland Museum. Presented in partnership with SOICS, the exhibit highlights first-person stories of diverse individuals of the South Okanagan. Stories of Diversity runs until July 30.

Provided time allows, I will be attending the Fall Fair Society AGM this evening after Council and on Wednesday am volunteering again for the United Way's Drive-Thru Breakfast fundraiser at the Lakeside

Resort in Penticton. If you live in Penticton and work in Summerland or the other way around, please consider supporting this worthy cause.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni J. Boot