



**Mayor's Report – October 17, 2023**

On September 29, I was joined at the Summerland Landfill by Councillor Peake, MLA Ashton, several District staff, and members of the media for the grand opening of our new organics processing facility. This is a split compost site with food and yard waste on one side and wastewater sludge on the other, providing two different compost types.

Changes in provincial regulations required us to upgrade our composting system and the \$2.4 million project was one-third funded by the provincial government, one-third by the federal government, and one-third by the District.

Newer technologies will allow us to safely compost different materials, including residential food waste, which we'll start collecting from people's homes next spring.

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On October 4, I was joined by Deputy Mayor Trainer and Councillor Peake and some our Parks staff for the planting of several bushes and trees at Memorial Park as part of the Earth Day Canada Tree Planting Relay. The Relay is a way for us to highlight our commitment to take climate action and make our town greener. We previously received Earth Day funds to plants trees in 2021, and we're happy to have received funds this year for a second time.

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Last Wednesday, October 11, most of Council joined me at the Rec Centre Referendum open house, which had a great turnout. Four or five hundred people, I understand. People came with some good questions and between us council members and District staff, I think we were able to answer most of them. CAO Statt will speak more about the referendum process in his update but I'd like to acknowledge all the staff – especially those in Community Services, Corporate Services, and Finance – who have been working diligently in recent weeks to ensure people have all the information they need to make an informed decision.

As this is our last Council meeting before the Referendum, I want to say it's really important that people to get out to vote on November 4th. As I've said before, this as not just a referendum on a new rec centre, it's a referendum on the future direction of our community.

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Finally, yesterday (October 16), I attended an online mayor's briefing with Ministry of Housing staff about the government's announcement earlier in the day on new legislation to regulate short-term rentals. The Province will institute a principle residence requirement, which more or less aligns with our approach here in Summerland. It was noted in the briefing that half of all short-term rentals in B.C. are not compliant with municipal regulations, so a province-wide registry will be introduced to give us for more tools and resources for enforcement.

Doug Holmes

Mayor of Summerland