

Mayor's Report

August 24, 2020

On behalf of Council, our thoughts are with Okanagan Falls Director Ron Obirek, Mayor Vassilaki and Council and the people of Heritage Hills and Penticton as they face the Christie Mountain wildfire. Our thanks to all those who are fighting the fire and keeping people safe. This includes the BC Wildfire Service, RDOS Emergency Operations Centre, City of Penticton fire department, Emergency Support Services (including Summerland's), Interior Health and others.

Over the last week I attended several Ryga Arts Festival events, including opening the Festival, Saturday, August 15. Most of the events were adapted to an online presentation but the signature event, the Primary Colours Concert, was held live at the Centre Stage Theatre. As usual, it was very enjoyable and included both Sergei Ryga and his son Shay, George Ryga's son and grandson.

Many artists, especially those in the so-called gig economy have experienced significant challenges during the pandemic because live events are their primary revenue source. Having said that, they, like Summerland retail stores eateries, wineries, professional services, and other businesses, have adapted the way they do business to ensure that people are safe.

Councillor Holmes and I attended a short RDOS Board meeting on Thursday, August 20. He will provide an update on meeting decisions.

We are all aware that B.C. is experiencing a spike in COVID-19 cases and that the Province and health authorities are preparing for a second wave of the virus. In Summerland, we have seen less illness from the virus, but we cannot be complacent, especially as we move into the traditional flu season. For the sake of those in our community who are health compromised, or those business owners who cannot survive a second business closure, I am appealing to all Summerland residents to continue to do their part.

Stay safe and continued health.

Respectfully submitted,
Mayor Toni Boot