



Mayor's Report

August 9, 2021

To begin, I am so grateful for the rain on the weekend. Not only was it good for local crops but it reduced the fire activity and the local smoke. For the first time in several weeks, I hiked the Giant's Head Grind yesterday and was thrilled to see dozens and dozens of other people doing the same. This municipal mountain park is such a treasure for our community—for residents and visitors alike. As noted in the August newsletter, the District is co-hosting a Grassland and Weed Walk on August 25. Contact Aquatic Centre staff for more information or to register for this free event.

On July 15, Councillor Holmes, CAO Statt and I attended the Summerland Community Arts Council banner reveal reception. Attendees had the opportunity to hear from the five artists who created the five juried selections on how their artwork reflected the 2021 theme of Diversity and Inclusion. These banners join the 2019 pieces and are now installed on lamp standards in the downtown and lower town areas.

I took part in a Modernizing Forest Policy virtual engagement session with provincial ministerial staff on July 20. As noted in the Paper released in June of this year, the forestry industry is important for a strong economy and a good quality of life for over 50,000 British Columbians. This session was specifically for heads of local government and is one of many being held over the next many months.

July 21, I attended the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) executive board meeting. The planning for next spring's Convention in-person in Salmon Arm is well underway as is a three-part fall speakers series for SILGA members.

On July 27 I attended the launch of Summerland's expanding electric vehicle charging network along with Councillors Carlson, Barkwill and Holmes. This brings the number of EV chargers, both Level 2 and Level 3, to 25 and adds to Summerland's reputation of being a leader on taking action on climate change. Attendees had the opportunity to explore several electric vehicles on-site and speak to members of the District's Climate Action Committee. Thank you to staff and committee members for this successful public event. More information on electric vehicles, including stories from local EV drivers, and details about the District's charging network is available at summerland.ca/evcharging.

July 28 I participated in the first meeting of the Watershed Security Sustainable Funding Working Group. Following on the BC government's Fall 2020 announcement to create a Watershed Security Fund, I was invited to contribute the perspective of local government; other members represent a broad cross-section of other water interests. The Working Group is tasked by the Province to provide options on a number of aspects of the Fund.

Last Thursday, August 5, Interior Health held another Mayor's Vaccine Roundtable session. Discussion included the increased restrictions in the Central Okanagan, IH's work to address wildfire evacuation orders for long-term care residents and patients, and the rise in COVID-19 case counts in the Interior Health region. The next meeting is scheduled for August 19.

Also on August 5, as vice president I attended a B.C. Economic Recovery Plan engagement session on behalf of the president of SILGA. Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation Ravi Kahlon is holding dozens of virtual sessions to hear from key interest groups on what global trends we are seeing as well as where we see opportunities to create good-paying jobs, strengthen the economy and increase our competitiveness in international markets.

The Ryga Arts Festival opens on Saturday, August 14 with a musical event at Lunessence Winery. My thanks to Councillor Carlson for opening the Festival on behalf of the District. Events run until August 22.

Lastly, Interior Health is hosting an interactive telephone town hall on August 11 at 7 pm to discuss BC's COVID-19 vaccination efforts in the Interior Health region. Minister of Health Adrian Dix and provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry will join IH representatives to answer questions. Visit interiorhealth.ca or summerland.ca for details.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni Boot