



Mayor's Report

June 27, 2022

On behalf of Council and the District of Summerland, an immense congratulations to the SSS Graduation Class of 2022. Each of you, your families, and all the educators and support staff that celebrate your accomplishment with you have every reason to be proud. We wish you the very best in the fall, whether you are taking up more studies, travelling, heading into the workforce, or otherwise. Whatever your choices, it is the right one for you! In the meantime, enjoy your summer.

On June 15, I attended the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) executive meeting. From the member responses about the 2022 convention in Salmon Arm, it was a huge success and a great learning and networking opportunity. All 33 resolutions (with the exception of one that was withdrawn), were carried and will be brought forward again at the Union of BC Municipalities convention in September. The executive is already starting to plan the 2023 SILGA convention which is being hosted by the City of Vernon. My thanks to Councillor Barkwill and CAO Statt for attending.

I attended the evening open house about Parkdale Housing Society's plans for a rebuild of the Legion Village seniors housing complex on Dickson Avenue. The proposed plan shows 88 units for folks aged 55+ above a primary health care centre to provide a space for family physicians, nurse practitioners and allied health workers. With the assistance of the Society, as of June 15 almost all of the people currently living in the Legion Village have found suitable housing in Summerland while the new housing is under construction. It is expected that this proposed development will be before Council in August.

Earlier this year, I joined the Adaptation Subcommittee of the Climate Solutions Council. On June 16 I attended my first meeting to hear a presentation on the provincial Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy released by Minister Heyman on Monday, June 20. Actions in the strategy fall under four key pathways: foundations for success; safe and healthy communities; resilient species and ecosystems; and climate-ready economy and infrastructure. The Strategy, which will be implemented between 2022 and 2025, will help communities recover from recent disasters and prepare for future climate impacts.

I attended a second open house this week on June 16—this time on the District's proposed Waterfront Concept Plan. The plan is based on the 2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and will set the direction for parkland, beaches, amenities, water activities and infrastructure along the lakeshore from Peach Orchard Beach Park boat launch to the south end of Rotary Beach Park. It also includes "Horse Beach" at 16997 Lakeshore Drive. It is expected that the final plan will be before Council in August.

On June 21, on National Indigenous Peoples Day, I presented at a “Day of Learning” at the Local Government Management Association convention being held in Penticton this year. Those attending were welcomed by Gracie, an elder with the Penticton Indian Band, followed by the singing of the Okanagan Song by Anona Kampe. The Day, organized by Resilience BC was about Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism and included presentations on how to incorporate Indigenous land justice and rights into planning policies (Jasindra Jawandra, an advocacy planner living in Saanich); understanding cultural humility and cultural appropriateness when conducting community consultations and community engagement with Indigenous, Black and People of Colour (IBPOC) communities (Michelle Buchholz); and the work of the South Okanagan-Similkameen Respect Network (a South Okanagan Immigrant and Community Services program). I presented on my recent lived experience as a Black female mayor and the Anti-Racial Discrimination and Anti-Racism policy recently adopted by the District of Summerland Council. Although I could only attend the first half of the day, the questions, comments, and stories shared by local government senior management was remarkable. EDI and Racism are not easy topics, but clearly people felt they could share without judgement or fear.

Although the timing of the Day of Learning kept me from attending local celebrations for National Indigenous Peoples Day, I think it was a perfect day to be talking about decolonization and reconciliation in the work of local government.

Later that day I travelled to Vancouver to attend two days of meetings with the Climate Solutions Council.

In closing, on behalf of Council my thanks to District Works and Infrastructure staff for organizing 2022’s second One Day Recycling Depot event. The depot was quite busy both times I was there—it appears others in the community appreciate the pop-up depot as much as we do!

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Toni Boot