



CAO Report – November 5, 2024

It's with a heavy heart that I share the passing of Devon van der Meulen recently to personal health complications. Working with the District for more than 17 years, Devon was among our longest-serving and most-devoted team members. Over his time here, Devon was promoted several times to roles of progressive responsibility, rising to the position of Manager of the Water Utility. He demonstrated excellence in the management and oversight of critical utility projects and system functions so that all of us could enjoy safe drinking water and reliable sewer services. He was a true public servant, quietly and dutifully performing his role with commitment and consistency. His wise counsel and keen sense of humour will be greatly missed.

The district has been pressing the provincial Mining department to provide more detailed reasons for their decision to provide authorization for a new gravel pit in the heart of the sensitive Garnet Valley ecosystem. Last week they did provide more detailed reasons as to their rationale and the issues they considered, which we have uploaded onto the district website and posted on Facebook to keep everyone informed. It does not appear based on the content of the letter that the province intends to retreat from their original decision, so we will continue our work with the Penticton Indian Band and the Garnet Valley Agritourism Association on this matter.

It's not too late to share your feedback on our draft Transportation Plan!! The online survey remains open until November 12 – residents are encouraged to participate Everyone's input is crucial in shaping the future of transportation in our community for many years to come! For more information and to access the survey check out our website:

<http://www.summerlandtransportationplan.ca/>

Finally, now that budget deliberations have concluded for the Electrical, Sewer, and Water Utilities, we are planning to conduct a virtual open house on Tuesday November 19 starting at 5pm. The current proposal envisions a 6.51% utility rate increase to the typical single-family home – which will ensure we keep up with inflation on operational and capital costs, while also making reserve contributions to help with infrastructure renewal, including the replacement of a bioreactor for sewage treatment, burying power lines under Wharton Street, and separating treated and irrigation water mains under a key section of Victoria Road. The open House will include a question-and-

answer period and pre-registration is not required; please check out the district press release on our website for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Statt, Chief Administrative Officer