



CAO Report - September 3, 2024

It has been a fun week with film crews in and around the community, making a new Hallmark Christmas movie! It is a great reminder how special a place we live in, for it to be profiled as a storybook style community that the world will get a small snapshot into this Christmas season. The filming continues on parts of Main Street this week, with any temporary closures posted on the District website. The filming is all pre-approved by the District and permit fees and any costs are reimbursed, but there are of course economic spin-off benefits as well with crew members and support workers staying in and around the community and small businesses being engaged for some of the food and other services required for this kind of production.

The province is starting to respond to our requests for meetings at the upcoming Union of BC Municipalities meetings in Vancouver. Currently we have meetings arranged with the Municipal Affairs Minister regarding funding for the replacement of the Summerland Aquatic and Fitness Centre, general funding for infrastructure requirements related to Bill 44, and a meeting has been confirmed with the Minister of Health regarding a primary care centre in the community. A meeting with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation on a proposed back up connection to the BC Hydro grid has also been confirmed, and in the same meeting I understand that Council intends to bring up concerns on the recently-approved Garnet Valley gravel pit. We are still awaiting a response from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy on the concept of "PACE" Financing that would support BC residents in making environmentally friendly home improvements. A meeting with Health Ministry staff on aquamation cremation will be arranged outside of the conference given that some of the key Health staff on that subject are unable to attend the event. A meeting with BC Assessment staff has been confirmed.

Finally, just a reminder to residents – the Summerland Aquatic and Fitness Centre will be closed from August 24 – September 8th for annual maintenance. We are trying to complete the roof work at the same time, but it is expected that this work will take longer than that regular maintenance window. People can expect the fitness room to re-open on September 9 at 630am but the pool will remain closed until all the roof work is completed on that section.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Statt, Chief Administrative Officer