

Mayor's Report for March 14, 2011

March is Community Social Services Awareness month. Organizations involved with Community Social Services have three major goals: to increase awareness about the value of community social services to the citizens of our community; to change and expand perceptions about the people who use these services and their importance to our community and; to build greater public support for the services they provide and the work that they do.

FortisBC urges customers to switch off for Earth Hour from 8:30 – 9:30 pm on Saturday, March 26, 2011. Earth hour is a great opportunity for us to all think about the energy we use and how we use it. Making small lifestyle changes can significantly impact our collective conservation efforts. Last year, FortisBC customers from 32 different communities pledged support for Earth Hour and helped save more than six megawatts of electricity during Earth Hour – that is an equivalent of turning off 106,000 lights.

I would like to thank the Yacht Club, the Kiwanis and Lions Clubs for allowing me to speak to their members about the goals and objectives of council. Good questions and great input from everything, thank you.

Congratulations to SADI! They raised several thousand dollars at their gala dinner at Zias on March 8th. My thanks to the SADI board of directors, all the kids and especially Claude and Shannon for all of their help to make the evening a major success.

I want to thank the citizens of Summerland for sharing your opinions, your concerns and your knowledge with all of us last Monday evening at Centre Stage about the possibility of a Corrections Facility in Summerland. The District staff and the BC Corrections Branch staff gave us the best information they could to help us understand what it is like to have a facility like this in our community. I apologize to everyone we had to turn away at the door. We were jammed full.

Council spent a great deal of time talking about the location sites for a facility this morning. We are considering everything. There may be tremendous economic benefits but we must also consider infrastructure costs both now and in the future, how this would affect our policing, fire department, water and waste water treatment plants and how this might affect growth in the future and where growth is best located. We have asked staff to bring us all of the issues they can think of so that we can make an informed decision. We will have to make a final decision on what sites if any, are best to submit to the Province before the end of March. We will keep you informed. Please remember at the end of this journey it will be up to province to decide on a location.

One thing we can all agree on; a Corrections Facility somewhere in the South Okanagan is a good idea. Even if it isn't located in Summerland, as long as it is in our region, we believe our community will still have the benefits. If you would like to support the idea of having a Corrections Facility located somewhere in the South Okanagan, we encourage you to send us a letter of support.

We will be asking various groups in Summerland if they are interested in signing a letter to say they support a Corrections Facility somewhere in the South Okanagan. If you wish to sign the letter, get it back to us before April 1 and we will send it to the Solicitor Generals office.

Janice Perrino
Mayor