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OKANAGAN FALLS Ministerial Meetings Issues and Key Requests

Honourable Nathan Cullen, Minister of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship

Primary Issue.... Short-Rayed Alkali Aster (SRAA)

Background.... Short Rayed Alkali Aster has been recognized under the Species At Risk Act (SARA) and a stewardship agreement established on Christie Memorial Park Beach.

Issue.... The Short-Rayed Alkali Aster (SRAA) is growing very well in the designated area with over a 1,000-fold increase in population. The stewardship agreement is now overdue for a review. With the clear demonstration that the SRAA is well established, increasing in numbers, and under no risk of disappearing from the area covered by the stewardship agreement, the community is respectfully seeking ways of maintaining a healthy SRAA population while at the same time reducing the area in question.

Request.... The Community wants to engage in a discussion with WLRS (prov) and CWS (fed) staff with a view to maintaining the SRAA population while reducing the size of it's footprint on this community's principal beach.

Photos....

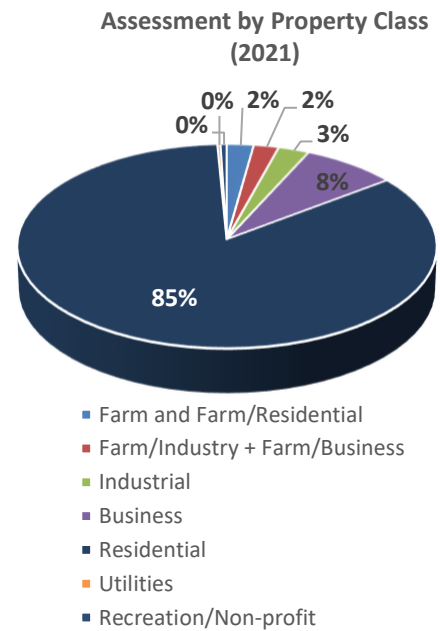


Secondary Issues.... Siltation & Milfoil Growth (Vaseux and Skaha Lakes)

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this letter are those of the Director and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

OKANAGAN FALLS (2023, except as noted)

Land Area	1,000 hectares
Estimated Population	Approximately 2,500
Local Road Length	40 km
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Okanagan Falls sewer service (RDOS) • Okanagan Falls Irrigation District water service (RDOS) • Sun Valley water service (RDOS) • Rolling Hills Improvement District water service
Total Assessment	\$808 million (2021)
Growth Potential	Includes primary growth area identified in the Regional Growth Strategy, and the Official Community Plan. Vacant and under-developed sites provide opportunity for additional growth
Environment	Majority of lands are not identified as Hillside/Steep Slope development permit areas. Some environmentally sensitive and important ecosystem lands.



One of the largest UN-incorporated communities in BC. Presently undergoing an ‘incorporation study’ to evaluate and inform residents the pros / cons of incorporating. In 2024 a citizen oversight committee will recommend that RDOS request a ‘referendum’ on incorporation, or not.

One of the largest areas of undeveloped ‘industrial’ land. Some 180 acres recently purchased have been extensively repurposed and rezoned, to form a new light industry ‘business park’ presently awaiting subdivision approval. Many of the 20 lots created in the business park may be further subdivided. One employer has already located, built and is now entering full production. They are bringing some 50 full time equivalent positions to the community. Another 3 employers are anticipated within 3 years, bringing another 150 workers to the community and a significant increase to the tax base.

Already the only ‘Growth Area’ within the RDOS that is unincorporated, some 150-250 new homes are presently proposed or already in process. This represents an increase exceeding 10% of the number of homes in the community within 3 years. School enrolment has increased from 75 to 113, a 50% increase in 6 years.

With the present extreme housing shortage, both hotel / motel operations have been purchased by employers to provide temporary accommodation for workers. As new employers move in to the community, housing and infrastructure and community amenities like child care are an immediate problem.