

## HOLMES IS NEW MAYOR

**Summerland votes in Doug Holmes as new mayor**

Casey Richardson - Oct 15, 2022 / 9:49 pm



Photo: Contributed

**UPDATE: 9:30 p.m.**

Summerland's new mayor is Doug Holmes.

Holmes took the victory handily, earning 73.4 per cent of the vote as reported Saturday evening. His opposition was Chuck Pinnell, a newcomer to politics.

Council saw four incumbents re-elected: Erin Trainer, Marty Van Alphen, Richard Barkwill and Doug Patan. Adrienne Betts is new to the crew, and Janet Peake rounds out the six council seats. She had previously served on council prior to 2018.

Incumbent mayor Toni Boot chose to run for council instead, but failed to earn that spot.

**ORIGINAL: 4 p.m.**

It won't be much longer until Summerland has a new mayor, as current mayor Toni Boot is running for council, leaving the top job open.

Longtime councillor [Doug Holmes](#) is taking his shot, challenged by retired businessman [Chuck Pinnell](#).

Holmes spoke on how he has "proven himself" in the last eight years, with two terms as a councillor, four years on the Regional District board and the last two years on the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

One of the key issues for Holmes was how to best tackle issues related to health care and walk-in clinics.

"Summerland currently has 13 family doctors and two more expected to retire within the next few years and so that'll put us, based on our current population, to be short, six to seven doctors. Then of course, our walk-in clinic was closed. Some people say, well, this isn't a municipal responsibility right. They say that's health care so it's provincial, but it's too serious of an issue for our community to ignore," he told Castanet.

Pinnell is a newcomer to municipal politics but believes his business experiences and leadership qualities, are the right fit for the role of Mayor.

"I think the biggest issue for most of the residents in Summerland is we need to fix the roads. We've got a lot of problems with the infrastructure and water issues, so it's kind of an ongoing and upgrading. I think it's time to get ahead of that a little bit, as we've been falling behind on it for many years," he said.

Mayoral candidates have been asked to discuss how they would increase the District's stock of affordable housing and their vision for Summerland four years from now after their run.

Voters are choosing between [Richard Barkwill](#), [Brad Besler](#), [Adrienne Betts](#), [Peter Boggar](#), [Toni Boot](#), [Doug Loep](#), [Blair Parker](#), [Doug Patan](#), [Janet Peake](#), [Nick Redding](#), [Mark Smed](#), [Erin Trainer](#) and [Martin Van Alphen](#), to fill the six councillor seats.

Barkwill, Patan, Trainer and Van Alphen held council seats over this past term.

Council candidate Besler has gotten media attention in the past year after [successfully overturning](#) a criminal mischief guilty verdict against himself and his brother, following a lengthy trial that was centred around a neighbour feud.

Around mid-day in Summerland, roughly 1000 votes had been cast with the in-person ballots at the Summerland Secondary School gymnasium.

Polls will close at 8 p.m., after which results will start to be released.

*Castanet Penticton is covering Election Day — until the polls close and into the night, with results as they come in and reaction to the evening's events. Check this story for regular updates on the race in Summerland.*