



**Administration Department**  
13211 Henry Ave. Box 159  
Summerland, BC V0H 1Z0  
Phone 250 494-6451 Fax 250 494-1415  
[www.summerland.ca](http://www.summerland.ca)

**Media Release**

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After several years of discussions and planning, The District of Summerland is thrilled to be finally breaking ground to build the much-anticipated Summerland Skatepark.

The 10,000+ square foot skatepark will include bowl and street features to accommodate all levels of users. The park will act as one of the recreational focal points for the District, in addition to providing much-needed recreational opportunities for youth, family and other community groups.

“Construction of a new skatepark in Summerland has been a long-time objective for Summerland Council,” says Mayor Peter Waterman “I anticipate this new community asset will be a hub of activity for residents and visitors to Summerland.”

NewLine Skateparks Inc., a full-service design and construction firm specializing in the development of integrated concrete skateparks and other progressive skateable environments, was contracted to both design and construct Summerland’s skatepark. Construction start-up began the end of August and is anticipated to be substantially complete by the end of November.

School District 67, a key stakeholder of this project, has provided the property at the corner of Rosedale Avenue and Jubilee Road West (north of Summerland Secondary School) as the project site.

“The Board of Education has been pleased to have been an integral partner in bringing the dream of the Summerland Skatepark to this reality by providing the property,” says School District 67 Acting Chair Julie Planiden “The trustees believe that this family focused asset will benefit the entire community and attract young families as future residents.”

The Pennylane Charity Shop Society was founded over 15 years ago to help the youth of Summerland and continues that work today. “The Pennylane Charity Shop Society is very pleased to see the skatepark project come to fruition. It has been a long 5 years since the Society made the initial commitment of \$145,000 toward this very worthwhile amenity for the youth of our community,” says Bruce Hallquist, founding director of the Pennylane Charity Shop Society. “I am sure that the youth will appreciate the efforts of the Community of Summerland. Ultimately the whole community came together to get the project done.”

In addition to approximately \$10,000 of local contributions, the District of Summerland provided the remaining construction funding through Federal Gas Tax – Community Works Funding. Total construction costs are approximately \$600,000.

The District of Summerland Skatepark Committee is looking forward to hosting an official grand opening celebration in the Spring of 2019.

For more information and to contribute to fundraising efforts for skatepark amenities, contact Summerland Recreation at 250.494.0447.

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**Media Contact:**

Linda Tynan, Chief Administrative Officer, [Ltynan@summerland.ca](mailto:Ltynan@summerland.ca), 250-486-6011 (cell), 250-404-4043 (office)