



On behalf of Council and the District of Summerland, I wish everyone a festive Christmas season and a peaceful and prosperous 2024.

There is no denying that recent years have been challenging for many people in the community. The pandemic, high inflation and supply chain disruptions, and impacts from wildfires and other emergencies have greatly restricted our everyday lives and brought difficulty to many of us.

In such times, our community has a history of coming together with neighbours supporting each other and businesses and non-profits stepping up to help the most vulnerable – not only now during the season of goodwill but year-round. It's this sense of community that makes Summerland a truly special place. It's a town I am proud to represent as your mayor and call home.

No matter what the challenges, Council will continue to work for the community in a spirit of collaboration. Together we can overcome adversity and get through this current period stronger than before. Merry Christmas to all.

~ Mayor Doug Holmes

### Sidewalk clearing

Municipal bylaws require that you remove the snow and ice from public footpaths and sidewalks bordering your property (business or residential). Any snow or ice that accumulates before noon must be removed by noon that day. If it snows in the afternoon, you have until noon of the next day to remove it. Failure to do so could result in the District having the sidewalk cleaned at your expense. We ask that you use a de-icing agent with "CMA" for sidewalks, please do not use salt as it causes damage to concrete. Please help to keep Summerland's sidewalks safe for all pedestrians.



### Project updates

**Dale Meadows watermain and road improvements** – Phase 1 of this project from the Dale Meadows Park entrance to Gould Road has been substantially completed with minor trail connection improvements through Dale Meadows Park to be completed in the new year when the weather warms up. We thank everyone for your patience during completion of this project.



### Curbside collection delays

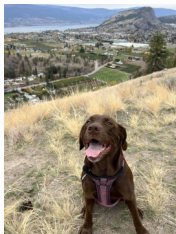
The District of Summerland curbside collection contractor will make every attempt to empty curbside carts during winter conditions. However, their top priority is resident and employee safety.

In the event of a collection delay:

- Contact Waste Connections of Canada at 250-490-3888 to see when any missed collection for your property will be collected
- To avoid animals getting into waste, bring in carts overnight
- When service is resumed, the contractor will collect any extra accumulated material, at no extra charge, equivalent to the amount that would have been collected if service had not been temporarily interrupted.

### Dog and business licence renewals

Dog and business licence renewals will be mailed out mid-December and are due January 31, 2024. If you do not receive your renewal in the mail or if you no longer require it, please call Municipal Hall 250-494-6451 or email [info@summerland.ca](mailto:info@summerland.ca).



### Christmas tree pick-up

With a donation to the 2024 Dry Grad Class, you can have your Christmas tree picked up from your house by the Summerland Fire Department. Trees will be chipped and composted by the Summerland Fire Department and the District of Summerland.



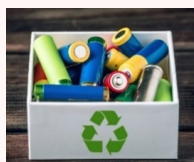
#### Pick-Up Dates will be:

Sunday, January 7 and Sunday, January 14, 2023

Starting December 15, you may call the Fire Department to schedule a pick-up. Phone 250-404-4087 or email [sfd@summerland.ca](mailto:sfd@summerland.ca).

### Battery disposal

Please take your used batteries to the Landfill Recycling Depot for free recycling. Smaller household batteries can also be recycled at the businesses listed below. Used batteries are extremely dangerous and should never be placed in your garbage or recycling carts. They can easily cause explosions, fires, or harm to workers.



[Call2Recycle.ca](http://Call2Recycle.ca) depots for household batteries in Summerland include Home Hardware, The Source, Pharmasave, and the Summerland Bottle Depot.

**Victoria Road South stormwater replacement and multi-use pathway installation project** – Storm system replacement and paving of the northern portion of this project has been completed, with the southern portion extending to Agur Road to be completed in Spring 2024. You may notice that the section of road that was paved appears to be a bit lower than



the curb. This was done intentionally as the top lift of asphalt will be placed upon completion of the full project in 2024, leaving a uniform, seamless finish. Thank you to everyone for your patience during this project.

**Solar Project** – The Summerland Energy Centre is in the final stages of commissioning and testing. Since connecting the solar panels in late October, the panels have generated 38,562 kWh of energy as of November 27, which is equivalent to the energy used by 42 Summerland homes for one month.

### General fund budget discussions

General fund budget discussions will be December 18 - 20, 2023 followed by an open house on January 17, 2024.

### Important utility information

Due to the office being closed for the holidays, the **due date** for this month's utility bills will be **Wednesday, December 20, 2023**.

If you are moving, please email [utilities@summerland.ca](mailto:utilities@summerland.ca) or visit our website to provide details.

### Snow removal

District staff are on standby seven days a week to provide essential services to our residents. Please help our snow removal crew by parking your vehicle(s) off the road when possible. When clearing your driveway, stockpile snow on the right side when facing the road and not onto roadways. This prevents the snow you removed from being ploughed back in front of your driveway. Heavy snow days and equipment failures can affect the delivery of snow removal services, priority routes are focused on first (e.g. school bus routes), then other streets. We appreciate your cooperation and patience as we work diligently to clear our roads throughout the winter. Your cooperation and patience are appreciated!



"You never fail until you stop trying."

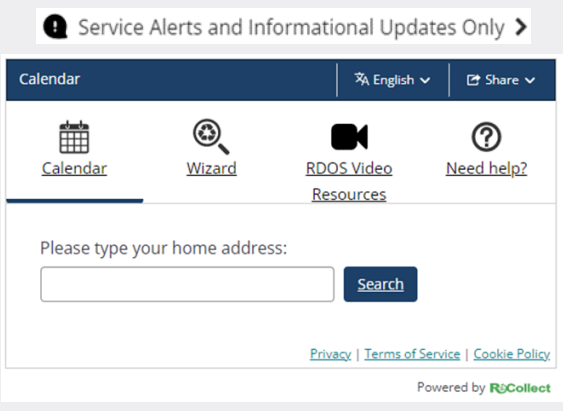
~ Albert Einstein

## Curbside collection reminders, service alerts and solid waste information

With winter coming, if you would like to receive curbside service alerts and information visit [www.summerland.ca/solidwaste](http://www.summerland.ca/solidwaste), scroll to the bottom, type in your address, choose the option, and select your preferred

method of **Get a reminder!** communication. This will sign you up for both collection day reminders and service alerts/information.

If you would only like to be notified of alerts and information, select:



## 36th Annual Toys & Toonies for Tots & Teens

The Summerland Fire Department, CIBC, Second Home Café & Grill, along with its many helpers, are once again sponsoring the annual drive for Toys & Toonies for Tots & Teens. We are now accepting **new** unwrapped gifts and toonies to purchase new gifts for tots and teens in Summerland.

Donations are accepted at:

**Summerland Fire Hall & Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC)**

Closing date: **December 16, 2023**

All gifts are distributed under the direction of the Summerland Food Bank.

## Invasive plants lurk beneath the snow

Did you know that many species of invasive plants happily lie beneath the snow waiting for spring? Winter annuals such as cheatgrass germinate in the fall and grow during any brief spell of warm weather, but otherwise remain dormant during the winter. Perennials can live for several years and survive the winter by storing food in their roots. For example, Dalmatian toadflax seemingly dies back in the late fall, but new buds appear before winter. Toadflax sprouts when temperatures rise in late winter or early spring. While winter doesn't give us the opportunity to get out and clip, mow or pull these undesirable plants, it does give us time to do some research on these invaders and plan for the new year. Learn more at [www.oasiss.ca](http://www.oasiss.ca) or [www.oiso.ca](http://www.oiso.ca).



## Skate with Santa

Join Santa and Summerland Recreation at the Summerland Arena on December 17 from 1:00 – 2:30 PM, for hot chocolate, crafts, skating and photos with Santa. This event is FREE, however; donations to Summerland Food Bank are encouraged.



## Be a "Snow Angel" this winter

When there is snow and ice, getting around can be difficult and dangerous, especially for seniors and those with limited mobility. The Snow Angel program is all about neighbours helping neighbours. Simply shovel snow or adopt a sidewalk and keep it clear whenever it snows. Nominate a Snow Angel online [www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/snow-angel](http://www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/snow-angel). All nominees will receive a certificate of acknowledgement and have their name entered into a draw. One lucky Snow Angel will win a prize!

## Keep up to date

The District posts community updates to our website and Facebook account. Council meetings can be viewed on the District's YouTube channel [www.youtube.com/c/DistrictofSummerland](http://www.youtube.com/c/DistrictofSummerland)

website: [summerland.ca](http://summerland.ca)

Facebook: [facebook.com/SummerlandBC](https://facebook.com/SummerlandBC)

Sign up for our monthly newsletter online:

[www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/newsletter-subscribe](http://www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/newsletter-subscribe)

## Winter home heating tips

You may find your electricity bill going up during the winter months.

Increased heating and other winter energy habits (such as using more lighting for longer hours), can make the average winter electricity bill 66% higher than the rest of the year. There are some steps you can take to heat your home more efficiently and help you avoid high winter bills.

### Baseboard heating

If your home has baseboard heaters you're likely already aware that they can be costly to run. In fact, they can account for up to 50% of your home's overall electricity use. Thankfully with a few simple tips – like turning them off in rooms you're not using, keeping them at an ideal temperature, and ensuring they're kept clean, can help keep your costs down.

### Draftproofing your home

A drafty home is an inefficiently-heated home. If your home is losing warm air to the outside and letting cold air gust in, you're wasting heat. Sealing gaps and cracks can help, reducing heat loss by up to 10%. Plus, it's a simple job that only involves a little bit of work.

- Apply weatherstripping
- Check for drafts in your home
- Install outlet and switch insulator pads

It's also important to use window coverings effectively to minimize heat loss during the winter.

### Using a space heater

Most portable space heaters use a lot of electricity so if the room you're trying to heat is large, or you have multiple heaters in multiple rooms, they can quickly rack up your bill.

To make the most of a portable heater, follow these tips:

- Use it in a small or enclosed space
- Place it in the corner of the room
- Keep doors to the room closed to keep the heat in
- Turn it off when you leave the room

No matter what kind of space heater you're using, it's important to keep safety top of mind. Ensure it won't tip over, use it on a level floor, keep blankets and fabric away, and never go to sleep with the heater on.



## District of Summerland Holiday Closures

**Municipal Offices**  
Closed Dec 22 at 2:00 PM  
Closed Dec 25 - Jan 1 (inclusive)

**Aquatic & Fitness Centre**  
Closed Dec 24 & 31 at 2:00 PM  
Closed Dec 25, 26 & Jan 1

**Summerland Arena**  
Closed Dec 24 & 31 at 3:00 PM  
Closed Dec 25, 26 and Jan 1

**Fire Hall Office**  
Closed Dec 24 & 31 at 2:00 PM  
Closed Dec 25, 26 & Jan 1  
Please always call 9-1-1 for emergencies

**Landfill**  
Closed Dec 25, 26 & Jan 1

\*Reminder that the Landfill is always closed on Sundays.

Check out Summerland Recreation's holiday Swim and Skate schedules on page 4 & 5 of the Winter 2024 Recreation Guide.

