



DISTRICT OF SUMMERLAND

District of Summerland Newsletter

January 2024

On behalf of Summerland Council, I wish everyone a very happy and prosperous 2024.

In the coming year, the District will be keeping the momentum going on the many projects that Council established as priorities last year. One area of emphasis is investing in our infrastructure. In the past year, we completed the construction of an organics composting facility and the Summerland Energy Centre, and we have paved a lot more roads than usual – including Giants Head Road, Jubilee Road W, Victoria Road S, and Dale Meadows Road.



Affordability is another area of focus that needs to continue given that many residents are struggling with the rising cost of living. The free fare trial on bus route 30 to Penticton continues at least until the spring and so far we have seen a large increase in transit ridership. We are also working with a number of community groups on affordable housing projects, including Parkdale Place Housing Society on the development of a seniors housing project that should also include a new primary care health clinic.

Housing will require our attention throughout 2024 as we respond to sweeping changes to local planning recently introduced by the provincial government. We will need to change our bylaws to allow three or four housing units on land currently zoned for single-family use, and we will be required to update our Official Community Plan (OCP) to accommodate a 20-year housing supply with pre-zoning for increased density. The new regulations will prohibit public hearings for rezonings that are consistent with the OCP, meaning that it will be essential for residents to actively participate in the OCP update process.

Stay tuned as later this year Council will bring forward a range of public engagement opportunities so that we can work together to set a vision for the future growth and development of Summerland.

~ Mayor Doug Holmes

Snow removal

District staff are on standby seven days a week to provide essential services to 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 and priority routes are focused on first (e.g. school bus routes), followed by other streets and laneways. We appreciate your cooperation and patience as we work diligently to clear our roads throughout the winter.

Priority Routes:

- a) school bus routes;
- b) roads that are collector roads;
- c) roads that have sections with centreline grades over 10%; and
- d) all remaining roads within each zone, regardless of classification, that are deemed to be dangerous or impassable.

Winter road and sidewalk maintenance in all areas, other than the downtown business core, will not commence earlier than 6:00 AM; 5:00 AM on school days, or continue later than 9:00 PM.

Official Community Plan: Downtown & Area

The District will be amending the Official Community Plan (OCP) in 2024 to incorporate recommendations and policy objectives provided in the Downtown Neighbourhood Action Plan. This Plan was adopted by Council in July of 2022 and the proposed land use changes will affect areas in and around downtown.

District Planning staff will be looking to engage with the public in the new year to present work completed to date, and provide an opportunity for the public to share feedback on the proposed OCP amendments. An open house date will be announced in early 2024. For more information, please visit the District website at www.summerland.ca/planning-building/planning-development/current-projects or contact Development Services at devserv@summerland.ca or 250-494-1373.

2024 Utility rate increases

In order to meet Council's strategic priority to sustainably finance the District's future asset replacements, as well as to strengthen capital reserve levels and keep pace with operational inflationary increases, residents will see a 6.78% increase in water rates and a 3.0% increase in electric rates. There is no proposed rate increase for sewer rates, however, the \$200 parcel tax will continue to be billed until 2027. All rate increases are effective January 1, 2024.

Public Council Meetings were held regarding utility rates as well as an open house, prior to the adoption of these increases.

A typical single-family home will see annual utility increases in 2024 of approximately:

Sewer	\$ 0.00
Water	\$62.04
Electric	\$51.36

If you have any questions, call 250-494-6451 or email finance@summerland.ca

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.



Winter curbside collection cart placement

As snow arrives this year, please clear an area to place your carts safely for curbside collection. Rolling carts up snowbanks is unsafe as carts can easily tip over and cannot safely be placed back after being emptied. Carts can fall over into the street or flip backwards making them hard to bring inside. Please bring carts in after they are collected. Carts left out on the street could be damaged during road clearing. If you have a missed collection, please contact: **Waste Connections of Canada** at 250-490-3888 or e-mail csr-penticton-osoyoos@wasteconnections.com. They can let you know if the truck is late or unable to make it to your property.



2024 Budget Open House

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 from 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Arena Banquet Room (8820 Jubilee Rd E)



Winter Driving

Along with colder temperatures, snow and ice, winter also brings potentially dangerous driving conditions. Slippery roads and decreased visibility can make driving in Canadian winters a challenge. Slow down, get winter tires, top-up windshield fluid and keep the gas tank topped up. See and be seen—clear all snow from the hood, roof, windows, and lights, clear all windows of fog or ice. If visibility becomes poor, find a place to safely pull off the road as soon as possible. Always store an emergency car kit stocked with appropriate safety and emergency winter equipment. For an emergency kit checklist, visit www.roadsafetyatwork.ca/shift-into-winter/for-all-drivers/.

Check road and weather conditions before your trip by calling Drive BC 1-800-550-4997 or www.drivebc.ca.

Zoning Bylaw: Update

In Autumn of 2023, the Provincial Government introduced two pieces of legislation (Bills 35 & 44) that will affect land use regulations in the District and many other local governments in British Columbia.

Bill 35 gives local governments the ability to regulate short term rentals in their respective community. New regulations include stronger enforcement tools, restricting short-term rentals to principal residences and either a secondary suite or a carriage house, establishing a new provincial role in regulating short-term rentals.

Bill 44 requires that local governments update their zoning bylaws to allow either a minimum of one secondary suite or carriage house and to allow a minimum of three to four dwelling units on a single family lot within the District's urban growth boundary.

Local governments have until June 30, 2024 to make necessary changes to their respective zoning bylaws in order to comply with the new provincial legislation. The District of Summerland will be updating its zoning bylaw in the coming months to reflect these required changes by the Province.

For more information on the above planning initiatives, please visit the District website at www.summerland.ca or contact Development Services at devserv@summerland.ca or 250-494-1373.

Summerland Eco-Village

District staff have been busy in 2023 working on the Eco-Village project, a Council endorsed project that will see a sustainably-focused residential development at the toe of Cartwright Mountain (13500 Prairie Valley Road). Through the creation of a project specific zone in the District's Zoning Bylaw, and implementation of the project values, this will be a milestone sustainability project for the District.

Staff will be looking to engage with the public in the new year to present work to date, with the opportunity for you to share feedback on the proposed plans. An open house date will be announced in early 2024, in the meantime we encourage you to visit our website www.summerland.ca/ecovillage, to read about project work to date.



Warm up with 2024 Winter Activities

The 2024 Summerland Recreation Winter Guide is available online at www.summerland.ca/recreation. Packed full of fun programs to keep you warm this winter, there is an activity for everyone. Try increasing your discipline and focus with a Ninjutsu class, improving your swim skills with a private swim lesson, or find a new groove with Refit. Register online at summerland.perfectmind.com, in person at the Aquatic Centre or over the phone 250-494-0447.

Save the date for Family Day swims, skates, scavenger hunts and more on February 17 and 18. Stay up to date with all events on Facebook at Summerland Recreation.



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.

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

website: summerland.ca

Facebook: facebook.com/SummerlandBC

Sign up for our monthly newsletter online:

www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/newsletter-subscribe

Save electricity and water with showerheads and faucets

Save water, save money. You can cut down on water use and the electricity costs for heating water by making a few changes in your bathroom and kitchen.

Energy-efficient showerheads

Low-flow, energy-efficient showerheads will help cut down on the amount of water you use, without sacrificing water pressure or your shower time.



In many cases, showers can be the largest single contributor to overall hot water use in a home, accounting for 15% of total household energy use.

Replacing a conventional showerhead with a high-efficiency model is as inexpensive as \$15 and is usually a quick and simple job. The payback for installing low-flow showerheads is almost immediate, depending on the frequency of showers.

Energy-efficient tap aerators

Low-flow faucet aerators help you cut down on water usage which will cut down on your electricity costs. Installing a high-efficiency aerator on your kitchen sink could save you \$28 per year in hot water costs.

Fix leaky faucets

A leaky faucet can waste up to 11,350 litres of water each year. Fixing a leaky hot water faucet can save you up to \$33 per year in water heating costs.

Worn-out washers are the main cause of leaks in faucets, and a new one generally costs about 25 cents.



Wildflower seed mixes

Avid gardeners have probably noticed that seed catalogues are now available and nursery racks are stocked with seed packets. Planning for spring planting is what keeps many people motivated during grey skies and winter days. Unfortunately, packets of wildflower seeds typically do not contain species that are native to the local area. Common bluebells, oxeye daisy and bachelor's buttons are few examples of invasive plants that commonly show up in these mixes. Here are some guidelines for the purchase and use of wildflower seed mixes:



- Avoid purchasing wildflower mixes unless you are buying from a reputable plant nursery that has collected seed locally.
- Check the species list to make sure you are planting species you want.
- Contain the plants until you know what you've got. This will make it possible for you to remove any undesirable plants that appear.
- Properly dispose of garden plants at the end of the growing season.

Learn more at www.oasiss.ca or www.oiso.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. Carry on the Christmas Spirit and do a good deed for Dry Grad 2024 and the environment. 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, 2024
(between 9:00—10:00 AM)

To schedule a pick up, call the Summerland Fire Department 250-404-4087 or email sfd@summerland.ca.



Be a "Snow Angel" this winter

The Snow Angel program is all about neighbours helping neighbours. Simply shovel snow or adopt a sidewalk and keep it clear whenever it snows.

Residents are encouraged to complete the nomination form found on the District's website www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/snow-angel and let us know if a Snow Angel came to your rescue. The Mayor will acknowledge them with a certificate and their name will be entered into a draw. One lucky Snow Angel will win a prize.

Call Municipal Hall 250-494-6451 or email info@summerland.ca if you require more information. Spread kindness like confetti and make a difference in your community!