

## Message from Council



If ever there was a year when plans changed, this was it.

Due to the pandemic and the ensuing provincial orders to try to contain its spread, we have changed our plans to limit in-person contact with our families (especially older members), our friends, and our communities. Many other household and business plans have changed too, due to decreases in income or revenue.



The District was not immune to having to change plans. In April—in an effort to provide some financial support to Summerland residents while maintaining acceptable service levels—Council cut almost \$1.5M in operating expenses from the 2020 budget.

Fortunately, in November the District received a COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant of \$2,724,000 to help offset “increased operating costs and lower revenue” due to the coronavirus. Recognizing that the impact of COVID-19 on District revenue will be felt beyond 2021, Council will make every effort to be strategic and fiscally prudent as we move into capital and operational budget discussions beginning next week.

2020 was a difficult, stressful and—for far too many—a traumatic and deadly year. Having said that, as we start this new year we have much to be thankful for. On behalf of Council and District of Summerland management and staff, may you be safe, healthy and content through 2021.

## 2021 Get Back to Fitness – New Year’s Resolutions

Set goals for 2021. We all need to support our mental and physical health. Exercise is known to help release stress and improve overall health.



Following COVID-19 Safety Protocols, we provide a safe environment for exercise in our Fitness Centre, Aquatic Centre (lane swimming, public swim, aquafit and swimming lessons) and Arena (public skate).

Book your sessions online at [www.summerland.ca/recreation](http://www.summerland.ca/recreation).

Limited spots available. Pre-registration required.

Register for winter programs (January - March 2021) programs.

View the Winter 2021 Recreation Guide online at [www.summerland.ca](http://www.summerland.ca).

Please ensure you review the COVID-19 Code of Conduct prior to attending our facility. Masks are required to enter facilities. Stay healthy. Stay safe.

## BC Assessment

In January of each year, BC Assessment sends out property assessment notices. Please note, on the form it tells you how to contact them if you want to appeal an amount. This is NOT done through the District of Summerland. If you have questions, please call BC Assessment at 1-866-825-8322 or visit their website [bcassessment.ca](http://bcassessment.ca).

## District Facilities Update

Some District facilities have begun gradual re-opening plans. Call to check what hours facilities may be open to the public. Masks are required. Staff is available during regular business hours at the numbers below:

- Municipal Hall - General Enquiries: (250) 494-6451 Monday to Friday 8:30am - 4:00pm
- Development Services: (250) 494-1373

## 2021 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, residents will see a 5.0% increase in water rates and a 3.5% increase in sewer rates.

Additionally, FortisBC is increasing the District’s wholesale electricity costs which requires an increase to Summerland electrical rates of 3.62%. All rate increases are effective January 1, 2021.

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

An average single-family home will see annual utility increases in 2021 of approximately:

Sewer	\$14.30
Water	\$39.50
Electric	\$54.61

If you have any questions, please call the Director of Finance at 250-494-6451 or email [dsvetlichny@summerland.ca](mailto:dsvetlichny@summerland.ca)

## Happy New Year! Schedule Your Christmas Tree Pick-Up



With a donation to the 2021 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.

To be scheduled for the final pick-up on **Sunday, January 10**, call the Summerland Fire Department 250-404-4087 or email [sfd@summerland.ca](mailto:sfd@summerland.ca).

## Save A Tree – Sign Up for the Online Newsletter

If you are receiving this newsletter by mail and would like to receive it by email please email [info@summerland.ca](mailto:info@summerland.ca) and we can set you up. To receive utility bills by email, sign up by registering on the District website at [online.services](http://online.services).

- Utility Billing: (250) 404-4047
- Property Tax/Accounts Receivable/Accounts Payable: (250) 404-4055
- Parks & Recreation: (250) 494-0447
- Fire Department (Non emergency): (250) 494-7211
- Works & Infrastructure: (250) 494-0431
- After Hours Emergency 3:30pm - 7:00am Monday to Friday, weekends or Statutory Holidays for Water/Sewer/Roads/Parks/Electrical Utility: (250) 493-0005

## Dog Licence Renewal

Dog Licence renewals have now been sent for 2021 and are due by February 1. If you did not receive your renewal in the mail or if you no longer require a licence, please call Municipal Hall 250-494-6451 or email [info@summerland.ca](mailto:info@summerland.ca).



All dogs in Summerland must be licensed by the age of six months. Having a licence is the best way to ensure a lost dog is returned. Unless you are authorized to run a kennel, no more than three dogs are allowed per household. Licences cost \$40 per year, but if your dog is spayed or neutered the cost is \$20.

Dogs must always be leashed in a public place and secured/fenced or tethered while in a building, on property or in a vehicle. They can run freely at the Dog Beach anytime or at Peach Orchard Beach from October to April.

Owners are required to pick up after their dogs, so please carry plastic bags with you or find one in a District Doggy Bag stand.

The District contracts out Dog Control services. If you've found or lost a dog, have a complaint about a dog barking or being aggressive, or see a dog at large, please call Dog Control at 250-494-6446.

## Be a "Snow Angel" this Winter

For safety reasons, it is important that snow is cleared from sidewalks. For some this task can be very difficult. Snow Angel is a snow removal awareness and recognition program to encourage residents to help their neighbours in need during the winter months. To be a Snow Angel, simply help out a neighbour and 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 or at Municipal Hall 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](mailto:info@summerland.ca) if you require more information. Be a good neighbour this winter and make a difference in your community!

## Business Licence Renewal

The 2021 Business Licence renewals have been mailed out and are due February 1. If you operate a business in Summerland (even if it is from your home) you must have a valid licence. Inter-Community Licences to operate in surrounding areas are also available to qualified businesses that already have a regular licence.

Look for a stamped 2021 Business Licence displayed in the places where you shop and support our local businesses.

Chamber memberships are no longer included with a Business Licence. Visit [www.summerlandchamber.com](http://www.summerlandchamber.com) to sign up for a Chamber of Commerce membership. The District of Summerland will be reviewing our Business Licence fees in 2021 to potentially adjust fees for 2022.

For inquiries regarding Business Licences, or if you no longer require a licence, please call Municipal Hall 250-494-6451 or email [business@summerland.ca](mailto:business@summerland.ca).

## Be Safe - Do Not Place Lithium-Ion Batteries and Other Hazardous Materials in the Garbage

Placing hazardous materials such as propane and butane canisters, bear spray, knives and sharps, ammunition, lighters, lithium-ion batteries, etc. in your garbage or recycling can cause explosions, fires and even injuries or death to landfill and recycling workers.

Across North America, the industry saw a 26 percent increase in the number of fires in waste and recycling facilities in 2018, with 371 unique incidents reported between February 2018 and January 2019. The waste industry also reported three deaths and 13 injuries.



Spontaneous Lithium-Ion Battery Tablet Fire in Summerland Curbside Garbage

Residents should DISPOSE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROPERLY, which means not placing these materials in your garbage or recycling. Instead TAKE THEM SEPARATELY TO THEIR DESIGNATED AREA AT THE SUMMERLAND SANITARY LANDFILL for safe disposal and recycling.

For questions regarding where to recycle hazardous materials nearby, residents can contact the Recycling Council of British Columbia at [www.rcbc.ca](http://www.rcbc.ca) or call 1-800-667-4321.

## Snow 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 a fine. We ask that you use a de-icing "CMA" for sidewalks, please do not use salt as it can cause damage. Please help to keep Summerland's sidewalks safe for all that use them.

## Snow Removal

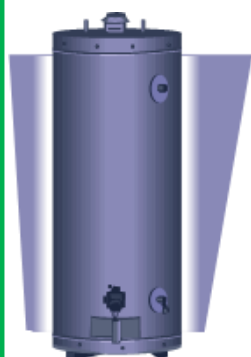
Please help our snow removal crew by parking your vehicle(s) off the road. When clearing snow from your driveway, stockpile snow on the right side when facing the road. This prevents the snow you removed from being pushed back in front of your driveway by the snow plough. Thank you for your cooperation.

## TIPS FOR HOT WATER ENERGY SAVINGS

Take more showers than baths and shorten your showers.



Install aerating, low-flow faucets and showerheads.



Repair leaky faucets.

Turning your water heater temperature down 5°C can save 3% of your energy costs.

Insulate the first 2 metres of the hot water pipes and the first 1 metre of cold water pipes connected to the water heater.

Wash and rinse your clothes in cold water. Consider buying an ENERGY STAR® qualified, water-saving model to reduce hot water use.

**Keep Up To Date:** The District will post community updates to our website, Facebook and Twitter accounts. Please follow our pages to keep up to date on COVID-19 information and more.

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

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

Twitter: [twitter.com/SummerlandBC](https://twitter.com/SummerlandBC)

Sign Up for our Online Newsletter:

<https://www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/newsletter-subscribe>