



Message from Mayor and Council

We're well into the dog days of summer and with that comes yet another record-setting wildfire season, this year combined with unprecedented drought. While the fires have so far been concentrated in the northern part of the province, this is the time of year they start to move south.

Our firefighters are highly trained and experienced but they still rely on all of us to be responsible and do our part to prevent human-caused wildfires. The wildfire situation this year is complicated by drought conditions. It has been abnormally dry for the past year, which is creating a dangerous trajectory as we get deeper into the summer.

While the heat dome of two years ago affected mainly the southern part of B.C., drought conditions this year are found throughout the province. Record low water levels have been recorded in one-third of all rivers and streams in the province. Lower streamflows can not only impact residential and agricultural water supply, they also result in higher water temperatures which affect fish populations.

The Provincial Government measures drought impact on a scale of zero to five, with severe adverse impacts almost certain at Level 5. Most of the province is currently at Level 4 or 5. The Okanagan is so far bucking the trend at Level 3, which is of concern but not yet severe.

Water levels in Summerland's upland reservoirs are good for this time of year and we remain on Stage 1 restrictions (three times/week) for the residential watering of lawns, trees and shrubs. It should be noted, however, that a prolonged heatwave and increased water use could change the situation rapidly.

For tips on making water work better in your yard, visit the 'Make Water Work' website www.makewaterwork.ca.

~ Mayor Doug Holmes

Road Closure—Giant's Head Mountain Park Road Closed to Vehicle Traffic!

Effective July 24, 2023, and until further notice, Giant's Head Mountain Park Road is closed to vehicle traffic. This closure is in effect to protect public safety and to limit the risk of person-caused fires. The Summerland Fire Department thanks the public for their co-operation in complying with this closure.



Projects around town

- The Peach Orchard all-season washroom and Rotary Beach upgraded accessibility washroom facilities are now open.
- Construction of a stormwater upgrade, multi-use pathway and asphalt repaving on Victoria Road from Agur Street to Dunham Crescent is anticipated to begin this month and be completed later this fall.
- The tender for Dale Meadows watermain replacement and road improvements from Gould Avenue to Dale Meadows Park entrance closes mid-August, with construction anticipated to be completed this fall.
- Giants Head Road watermain and multi-use pathway improvements are in the final stages of completion, including signage upgrades and line painting.

Campfire ban in effect

Effective at noon (12:00 PM) on Friday, July 7, 2023 and until further notice, campfires are prohibited within the District of Summerland.



This campfire ban is in effect to protect public safety and to limit the risk of person-caused fires. Due to extreme temperatures, dry conditions and the high-extreme fire danger rating, the campfire ban will remain in effect until further notice. This ban does not restrict fires in stoves, barbecues or portable campfire rings utilizing gas, propane, or briquettes.

Anyone found in contravention of an open burning prohibition may be issued a ticket up to \$2,000. In addition, if the contravention causes or contributes to a wildfire, the person responsible may be responsible for all firefighting and associated costs.

The Summerland Fire Department thanks the public for their co-operation in complying with the ban. Additional information on the ban can be found here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-bans-and-restrictions/kamloops-fire-centre-bans>.

Make water work smarter in your yard

How can I make my water more productive?

- Put water on the night shift—water between dusk and dawn (10:00 PM—6:00 AM). Putting water to work during the coolest part of the day prevents evaporation. Get a timer! Most hardware stores supply timers for sprinklers.

Is my water working effectively?

- Leave grass 2-3 inches tall (5-8cm). Never mow low — let it grow! Water stays longer when grass is longer. Leaving your grass longer slows evaporation from the soil, making it work more effectively! Don't let water waste your time, effort and money! It should sprinkle your lawn or garden, not pavement.
- Leave grass clippings as mulch. Leaving grass clippings on your lawn helps feed the lawn and keep moisture, requiring less water and reducing evaporation.
- Aerate your lawn and top dress with compost. Aerating the lawn in early spring or fall improves water penetration. Water also works best with organic products like compost, which minimize over-fertilizing and help prevent stormwater pollution.

For more information and making water work smarter in your yard, please visit <https://www.makewaterwork.ca/>.

Summerland Pier—survey

The District of Summerland is in the process of removing the existing pier at Gordon Beggs Rotary Beach due to safety reasons as identified in a condition assessment report. The District has confirmed funding to build a new "basic" pier similar to the existing pier through the Growing Communities Fund.



The Summerland Rotary Club is taking a leadership role in engaging the community to raise funds for additional enhancements which would likely be implemented in a later phase of the project.

Provide your input through the Community Survey to identify what pier features and enhancements you recommend as priorities at www.summerland.ca/pier.



"All of our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them."

~Walt Disney



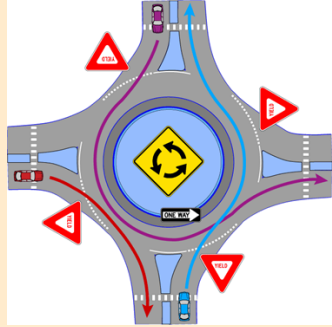
Jubilee Road construction

Construction on Jubilee Road between Rosedale Avenue and Kelly Avenue intersection is underway. The project will include installation of a bike path, pedestrian safety improvements at the Kelly Avenue intersection and asphalt repaving. This section of road will remain closed until the completion of the project in late August. Businesses in the area of construction are still open!

Roundabouts

1. Approach

- Reduce your speed and watch for pedestrians and cyclists and be ready to stop at the crosswalk. Do not use your turn signal until you are ready to exit the roundabout.



2. Yield

- Always yield to traffic in the roundabout.
- Wait for a safe gap in traffic, remembering those in the roundabout have the right of way.

3. Enter

- Enter the roundabout and continue counter-clockwise until you reach your exit.

4. Exit

- Use your right turn signal before exiting.
- Again, watch for pedestrians and cyclists and be ready to stop at the crosswalk.

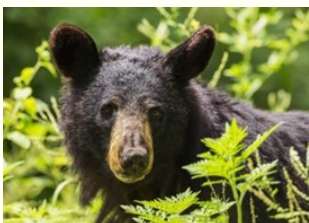
Living in wildlife country

How we manage our living space has a great deal of influence on the amount of human-wildlife conflict we experience. While wildlife may need to pass through our living space, if we provide food, water, shelter and space, they may linger too long near our homes and this can lead to undesirable consequences both for us and the animals. WildSafeBC recommends that residents walk around their property at least once a year and review how they can reduce providing habitat to potential conflict species.



Remove or Secure Attractants

- Do not store garbage or other organic waste outdoors. If you have curbside collection, only put the containers out on the morning of collection day, no earlier than 5:00 AM – never the night before. Make sure recyclables have been cleaned.
- Protect fruit trees with electric fencing or pick fruit early and do not let windfall accumulate.
- Avoid feeding birds when bears are most active (April to November) and ensure birdfeeders are always inaccessible to non-target species such as bears, deer, squirrels and raccoons. Do not let seed accumulate that may attract rats and other rodents.
- Feed pets indoors and keep pets inside at night.
- Keep your barbecue clean by burning off uncooked food and emptying the grease container.



You can report all wildlife encounters to the BC Conservation Officer Service RAPP Line at 1-877-952-7277 or visit www.wildsafebc.com to learn more about how to protect the species around you.

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

Good bugs

Did you know there are good bugs that have been purposefully released in nature to control invasive plants? Summer is the ideal time to watch for the many beetles, moths, flies and other insects that are helping to reduce the spread of invasive plants. BIOCONTROL is the process of reuniting invasive plants with the natural enemies that help control the plant in its native range. BC has close to 90 species that target over 30 invasive plants. Some insects reduce the number of seeds a plant produces or they decrease plant strength by feeding on the leaves and stems. Others directly weaken the plants by attacking the roots, resulting in stunted growth. The insects are "host-specific" meaning they only attack the target invasive plant. Many invasive plants in the Okanagan are now considered under control in localized areas due to the establishment of biocontrol agents. These species include diffuse knapweed, Dalmatian toadflax, purple loosestrife, St. John's-wort and hound's-tongue. In Summerland watch for the knapweed root beetle - a large, mottled grey-brown weevil that feeds on knapweed in the summer. The larval, or over-wintering stage, provides the most damage as it tunnels through and feeds on the roots.



Contact OASISS if you want to learn more: oasiss@shaw.ca

Explore, Play and Learn with Summerland Recreation

Summerland Recreation is happy to offer a variety of fitness, recreation and education programs for all ages and abilities this Fall. Registration starts August 8. The Fall Guide includes our Holiday Schedules and more information on the Halloween Swim and Santa Skate.

*** Please note that the Aquatic Centre, pool and fitness room, will be closed August 26 – September 10 for yearly maintenance. ***

All summer sessions are open for registration. Late registration will be automatically prorated to charge you for only the remaining sessions.

New Fall Programs and Changes

Mountain Biking, Coaching Courses, Children and Youth Martial Arts and much more makes this Fall 2023 Recreation Guide a must read. This Fall, all District run Aquafit classes will be updated to 45 minutes in length. We do our best to honour advertised times and dates, however, all programs and schedules are subject to change. To keep up to date on any program changes and schedule updates follow us on Facebook at Summerland Recreation.

Register online at summerland.perfectmind.com, in person at the Summerland Aquatic Centre, or over the phone at 250-494-0447. Questions can be emailed to recreation@summerland.ca.

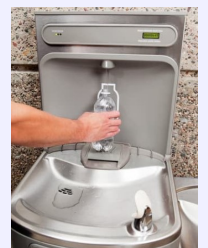


Water Bottle Fill Stations

Summerland offers two outdoor water bottle fill stations—one at Memorial Park and the other at Rotary Beach Park, open seasonally from April to October.

An indoor water bottle fill station is located in the Summerland Aquatic Centre and available for public use during operating hours.

A third outdoor fill station is being installed at Peach Orchard Beach Park on the outside wall of the washroom building and will be available for use by month's end.



Sewer main and hydrant flushing

The District of Summerland is performing annual sewer main and hydrant flushing throughout Summerland until the end of October. Annual maintenance ensures that sewer mains and hydrants are working properly. Please use caution when driving by Crews working on the road.

