

Council has recently concluded budget deliberations and is proposing a 5.38% tax rate increase for 2024. Of that increase, 4.44% can be attributed to expenditures committed last year but put off until this year. We dipped into savings to defer those increases in order to provide relief for residents feeling the pinch of inflation.

Unfortunately, inflation is still with us. The District itself is dealing with rising costs for everything we purchase – fuel, parts and equipment, office supplies, and so on. We’re also committed to many inflation-related contractual increases – insurance premiums, software licensing, garbage collection, RCMP contract, a new CUPE collective agreement, etc.

With costs up across the board, the only way we can keep taxes down is through operational efficiencies and cutbacks. To that end, we have made a number of reductions. For example, most community organizations will not be receiving as much in grant-in-aid as they requested, and we made the difficult decision to lay off two staff members.

It has not been an easy budget. We aimed to balance the need to invest in the community with the need to minimize the financial impact on residents and businesses. Both District staff and Council have worked hard to achieve this balance, as we do every year.

This is the 10th budget I’ve been involved in as either mayor or councillor and consistently Summerland’s tax increases are in line with other municipalities in the Valley and around the Province, and usually they are lower. This year is no exception.

~Mayor Doug Holmes

2024 Property Assessments

A common misconception is that a significant change in your assessed property value will result in a proportionately significant change in your property taxes. This is not correct!

The most important factor is not how much your assessed value has changed, but how your assessed value has changed relative to the average change for your property class in your municipality or taxing jurisdiction. In Summerland, residential property assessments have decreased approximately 2%, therefore, if your assessment has changed at that average rate, you should not see much of a change to your municipal taxes.

The following table, taken from the BC Assessment website, provides a summary of potential tax impacts based on assessment changes.

	Your Property's Value Change	Property Tax Impact
1.	 LOWER than Average Change for Property Class	Taxes Likely * DECREASE
2.	 SIMILAR to the Average Change for Property Class	Taxes Likely * DO NOT CHANGE
3.	 HIGHER than Average Change for Property Class	Taxes Likely INCREASE

We encourage residents to visit the BC Assessments website www.bcassessment.ca for further information on this and any other property assessment related items.

We're hiring – summer students!

The District of Summerland is hiring students from May 1 until August 31, 2024 (\$20.60 + 14% in lieu = \$23.48). Visit www.summerland.ca/jobs for details!



Pothole reporting

The weather we are currently experiencing is unfortunately a recipe for potholes. Potholes are created when heavy precipitation or snow melt occurs, results in standing water and leads to soft gravels under the asphalt. This is exacerbated with constant freeze/thaw cycles when the temperatures hover around the freezing mark. As water freezes and expands within and below the asphalt, the cracks expand and the asphalt breaks apart.

The ideal solution for potholes is to cut out the broken asphalt, replace the base gravels and reseal the road with hot mix asphalt. Unfortunately, at this time of year, hot mix asphalt is unavailable so cold mix asphalt is used. Cold mix asphalt is not as effective in the potholes, but does provide an element of sealing the surface of the road to protect the base gravels from moisture.

Please email road requests or inquiries to works&infrastructure@summerland.ca or call 250-494-0431.

Project Updates

James & Mary Gartrell Trail – this trail was recently repaired and upgraded in late 2023. The trail had received some damages over the last several years due to higher lake levels eroding portions of the trail.



It has now been restored back to a reasonable solution; wood border replacements, base material protected and replaced in eroded areas, restored wood kick rails replaced on footbridge and fully resurfaced for the length of the trail.

Snow course survey

Snowpack readings are taken monthly from January until the snow is melted. Average snow depth and average water equivalent (amount of water contained in the snow) are recorded and are compared to the historical average.

Snowpack readings from January 1 measured 58% of historical average for the Summerland Reservoir and 88% for Isintok Lake. For further information, please visit the District’s website at www.summerland.ca/city-services/utilities/water/snow-course-survey.

Yard & Garden Waste curbside collection

Yard & Garden Waste curbside collection begins the week of February 20 on your regular garbage collection day.



Christmas tree pick up campaign

Thank you to all Summerland residents who participated in the Christmas tree pick up campaign. The Summerland Fire Department and 2024 grad class raised \$2847.00! All trees that were picked up were chipped for compost.



Recycling curbside collection

Did you know you can place the following materials in your curbside recycling:

- Paper party decorations
- Single use paper and plastic bowls, such as take-away containers, microwaveable bowls
- Clean plastic utensils (no metal utensils)
- Plastic garden pots
- Clean aluminum foil pie plates and aluminum foil baking trays
- Plastic coat hangers with no metal parts



The Summerland Recycling Depot, located at the Landfill, also accepts more materials! For further details visit www.recyclebc.ca.

Family Day
SAVE the DATE

Come celebrate Family Day with us
February 17-18

Free Family Swims:
Feb 17-18 • 10:45am-12:30pm
Feb 17-18 • 5:15-6:30pm

Free Family Skate:
Feb 18 • 1:45-3:15pm

Skate rentals are limited. Swim admission is based on pool capacity.

Family Photo Scavenger Hunt will take place from Feb 17-19. Scavenger hunt list will be made available on the District Website on Feb 16 at noon. Copies will be available over the weekend at the Summerland Aquatic Centre.

Event details will be posted at summerland.ca/FamilyDay.



Visit www.summerland.ca or @SummerlandRec on Facebook

Business licence renewals

If you operate a business in Summerland (even if it's from your home) you must have a valid licence. Anyone with a business licence automatically becomes a member of the Summerland Chamber of Commerce. InterCommunity licences, to operate in surrounding areas, are also available to qualified businesses that have a regular licence.

Business licence renewals were mailed out mid-December and were due January 31, 2024. If you did 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.

Please note that the penalty for late payment is 10% of the licence fee if not paid within thirty days of January 31, 2024 due date; an additional penalty of 20% of the licence fee is applied if not paid within 60 days of the due date.

2024 Council meeting schedule

Regular Meetings of Council will be held on a three-week rotational schedule with meetings continuing to be held on Tuesdays. To view, visit www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/council-meetings.

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

Lighting energy savings

Use lighting controls to help save electricity

It can be hard to remember to turn off lights and other devices when they're not in use. Lighting controls like timers and occupancy sensors work automatically once installed, allowing you to set it and forget it.



Light timers

Using light timers for the lighting in and outside of your home is a convenient way to automatically turn lights on and off at certain times of the day. This can help reduce your energy use by only using light when and where you need it, and reducing the likelihood of leaving lights on unintended. They can also increase your home's safety and security. Advanced light switches feature programmable, digital timers that provide you with greater control and flexibility to create a schedule for your lighting. Set exterior lights to turn on at dusk and off at dawn or set interior lights to turn on and off for a lived-in look while you're away on vacation.



Occupancy sensors for lights

Occupancy sensors turn the light on when motion is detected in the covered range. You can typically set them to turn off when motion is no longer detected for 30 seconds, 5 minutes, 15 minutes, or 30 minutes. More sophisticated sensors can slowly dim the light rather than a hard shutoff. You can use occupancy sensors in your closets and pantries, garages, and in storage and utility rooms.

Light dimmers

Light dimmers allow you to control the output of the light bulbs they're connected to. Dimming the lights reduces your electricity use. It also creates a gentler, ambient light that's easier on the eyes, and prolongs the lifespan of your bulbs.



Pair lighting controls with LEDs

If you're adding light controls to switches around your home, it's a good time to also make sure that you're using energy-efficient LED light bulbs in each socket to maximize your savings. Check the packaging on your lighting controls to ensure they're compatible with your bulb type.

And if you're looking for added convenience, smart light bulbs allow you to control your home's lights from anywhere using your phone.

Save the date—Eco-village public open house

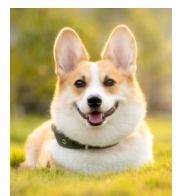
February 28, 2024 from 4:00 PM — 6:00 PM

George Ryga Arts Centre, Summerland (9525 Wharton St)

More details to come. For project information, visit www.summerland.ca/ecovillage

Dog licence renewals

Dog licence renewals have been sent for 2024 and were due January 31, 2024. 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.

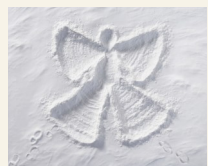


If you've lost/found a dog, have a barking or aggression complaint, or see a dog at large, please contact **Animal Control at 250-494-6446**.

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!