

Mayor & Council

On behalf of Summerland Council and District staff, I wish a Happy New Year to everyone in the community and beyond.

The new year is a time to reflect and make plans to better oneself, as embodied in the longstanding tradition of making a New Year's resolution.

For Council, making resolutions is what we do. We consider the concerns and needs of the community, then resolve to take action.

In 2023, the scourge of inflation alongside the persistence of the pandemic will present on-going challenges in our ability to act in certain areas. We will need to focus on what's most critical.

Over the coming month, Council will be taking stock and establishing our strategic priorities for the next four years of our term. The ensuing Strategic Plan will be our resolution to act, within our means, to improve the quality of life of all Summerlanders.

We have our work cut out for us and some difficult decisions to make, but with the energy of a new Council wholeheartedly committed to the community, I believe the new year brings reasons for optimism.

~Mayor Doug Holmes



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.



Ice safety

Many factors affect ice thickness including type of water, location, time of year and other environmental factors such as:

- water depth and size of body of water;
- currents, tides and other moving water;
- chemicals including salt;
- fluctuations in water levels;
- logs, rocks and docks absorbing heat from the sun;
- changing air temperature; and
- shock waves from vehicles traveling on the ice.



The colour of ice may be an indication of its strength:

- clear blue ice is strongest;
- white opaque or snow ice is half as strong as blue ice; opaque ice is formed by wet snow freezing on the ice; and
- grey ice is unsafe; the grayness indicates the presence of water.

Minimum ice thickness should be:

- 15 cm for walking or skating alone;
- 20 cm for skating parties or games; and
- 25 cm for snowmobiles.

Christmas tree pick-up

With a donation to the 2023 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 2023 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 8 and Sunday, January 15, 2023

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



"When you learn, teach. When you get, give"

- Maya Angelou

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. Thank you for keeping Summerland's sidewalks safe for all pedestrians that use them.



Dog licence renewal

2023 dog licence renewals have been sent and are due by January 31. Licence fees have recently been increased to \$60 per year for unspayed or unneutered dogs and \$30 for spayed/neutered. If payment is received after January 31, 2023 it is subject to a \$10 late payment fee. 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.



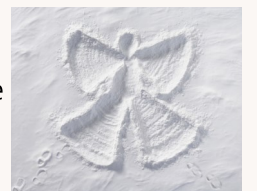
All dogs in Summerland must be licensed by the age of six months. Having a licence is the best way to ensure a lost dog is returned. Unless you are authorized to run a kennel, no more than three dogs are allowed per household.

Dogs must always be leashed in public places and secured/fenced or tethered while in a building, on property or in a vehicle. Peach Orchard Beach Park has a fenced area at the south end that is designated as a Dog Park where your dog can run and swim freely. The District has also established a temporary dog park at Dale Meadows Sports Complex. Please pick up after your pets and obey all posted signage.

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

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.



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!

Winter Driving Safety

Snow, sleet, rain, and fog are just some of the challenging conditions we can experience when driving in our province. Since weather is unpredictable, be sure to always plan ahead to make your trip safer and that your vehicle's seasonally prepared — it's just as important as slowing down and observing the posted traffic or road advisories.

If you can't avoid driving in poor conditions, here are some tips to make your drive safer:

- posted speed limits are designed for ideal road conditions—slow down when driving on snow, ice, slush, or rain;
- allow yourself at least twice the normal braking distance on wet or slippery roads;
- avoid driving through flooded or washed-out roads;
- use extreme caution when approaching highway maintenance equipment including ploughs, salt and sand trucks—never pass on the right;
- low beams are more effective in fog or heavy snow;
- check tire pressure regularly; pressure drops in colder conditions;
- keep the wiper fluid topped up for clearer visibility; and
- keep your gas tank full to prevent gasoline from freezing in extreme temperatures.

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



Winter Clothing: Bulky snowsuits can affect the child car seat harness with respect to additional compressibility. This can affect the harness system should the chest clip of the restraint not be used properly. When using bulky winter clothing ensure that the harness system is tight, compressing the material to ensure a snug fit. Check with the car seat manufacturer for alternative methods of clothing

during the winter. For more safety tips, visit the ICBC website www.icbc.com/road-safety/driving-tips/Pages/Winter-driving.aspx.

Invest in you and get active in 2023!



Check out our 2023 Winter Recreation Guide online at www.summerland.ca/recreation to see all the programs and services we have to offer.

NEW for 2023! The Summerland Aquatic Centre will transition to the Lifesaving Society "Swim for Life" program starting in January. The "Swim for Life" swim level transition chart can be found on page 17 of the 2023 Winter Recreation Guide.

Save the date for our 2023 BC Family Day Celebrations. There will be free skates, free swims, a family scavenger hunt and more. For more information visit www.summerland.ca/recreation.

Registration is **NOW OPEN** for Winter 2023. Deadline for programs is one week from the course start date. If registration minimums are not met, the program will be cancelled. Register online at www.summerland.perfectmind.com, in person at the Summerland Aquatic Centre or over the phone at 250-494-0447.

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

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.

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.

2023 Utility budget changes

What the changes to the 2023 Utility Budget mean for you:

The 10% discount program is being removed **January 1, 2023**. The District will use the revenue generated from the removal of this discount to keep the actual utility rate increases as low as possible.

Actual **RATE** increases:

- **0%** Electricity increase (base + consumption rates stay the same)
- **0%** Sewer increase (base rate stays the same)
- **4.86%** Water increase (base rate stays the same, consumption rate increases to cover the utility portion of Giants Head Road project).

However, because the 10% program is being eliminated account holders will feel an impact on their utility bills.

For the typical residential account (based on annual usage), the impact will be:

- Increase of \$171.12 in electric charges for the entire 2023 year
- Increase of \$44.04 in sewer charges for the entire 2023 year
- Increase of \$138.00 in water charges for the entire 2023 year (includes the 4.86% rate increase)

TOTAL = \$353.16

In order to off-set this increase, Summerland Council voted to match the Province's one-time \$100 electrical utility credit, meaning that Summerland residential account holders who qualify for the provincial credit will see a rebate of \$200 on their electricity bills in the first quarter of 2023. Both credits will be automatically applied to utility bills.

When the utility increases and the utility credits are taken together, the overall impact to the typical resident is \$153.16:
 $\$353.16 - \$200 \text{ credit} = \$153.16$

Summary of Net Impact as a percentage

In 2022, the typical resident's entire utility bill was \$2,719

- With the increases for 2023, this is forecast to be \$3,072
 - Therefore the increase to the entire utility bill in 2023 = 12.99%
- After the application of the credits (\$3,072 - \$200 credit) the net impact = 5.6%

As a result, the effective overall annual impact inclusive of elimination of the 10% discount and adding in the credit = **5.6%**.

Curbside recycling cart

The following items are accepted in your curbside recycling cart:

- Newspapers, flyers, magazines, catalogues, telephone books, note pads, loose leaf paper, white or coloured paper, printed paper, plain and window envelopes
- Shredded Paper, place in a paper bag or box and place inside recycling cart
- Corrugated cardboard boxes, cardboard and boxboard from cereal, shoes, tissues, pizza, frozen entrees, desserts, detergent, and carrier trays for bulk bottled water, soft drinks, cans, food, etc.
- Cores for paper towel and toilet tissue, moulded boxboard packaging like egg cartons, take-out beverage trays, empty paper-based garden pots, etc.
- Paper bags and multi-layer paper bags for flour, sugar, paper cups, gable-top cartons from dairy, cream, substitute eggs, sugar, molasses, etc.

For a complete list of what is accepted, visit www.summerland.ca/city-services/garbage-recycling/curbside-collection.