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2017 Water, Wastewater (Sewer) and Electrical Rates

Over the next month, Summerland Mayor and Council will be considering water, wastewater (sewer) and electrical utility rates for 2017.

The poor state of infrastructure is a topic which is currently widely discussed across the country. Aging infrastructure is overdue for replacement and new infrastructure is required for the continued provision of clean water, environmentally friendly wastewater treatment and ongoing operation of the electrical utility.

Last year, council acknowledged that the level of funds available in each utility was not sufficient to adequately address the costs of the ongoing maintenance and repair of the infrastructure (water and sewer mains as examples) or to address the large amount of infrastructure maintenance and repair that historically has not been done and is now in “deficit”. Summerland purchases power from FortisBC for operation of the electrical utility. Therefore, rates are partially dependant on rate increases imposed from FortisBC. The increase in FortisBC rates will be reflected in Summerland’s 2017 electrical rates.

It is a priority of Summerland to develop a long term plan and financing strategy for the water, wastewater and electrical utilities. The development of these plans will provide greater certainty regarding future rates to residents and businesses in Summerland. Development of these plans is underway beginning with a comprehensive project to identify all of the assets, their age, state of repair and cost of replacement. This is a grant funded project “Asset Management Investment Plan” and a long term financing strategy will be developed as this information is available.

Fee increases for 2017 were recommended in last year’s financial plan. The proposed 2017 increase will allow for the completion of the current projects but will not contribute to the future upgrades. Before considering the increases further, council has planned an information session for Tuesday, November 29th at the District office. Information regarding the costs associated with the operation of the utilities and upcoming projects will be provided.

It is beneficial to customers that 2017 rates are finalized by January 1st so that customer billing is consistent throughout the year. When rates are not set until later in the year the increases are retroactive to January 1st and bills are adjusted to capture the amount of increase from previous months. This delay can cause confusion for utility customers.

If you have questions, contact Linda Tynan, CAO at 250-404-4043 (Ltynan@summerland.ca) or Renee Belyk, Manager of Finance at 250-404-4041 (rbelyk@summerland.ca).

2017 Proposed Utility Rates (based on typical residential home) (5% Water/Sewer; 4% Electrical)		
	2016	2017
Water	\$ 514/year	\$ 539/year
Sewer	\$ 341/year	\$ 358/year
Electrical	\$ 118/month	\$ 122/month

**2017 Water, Sewer and Electrical Utility Rates
 Open House/Information Session
 7:00pm Tuesday, November 29, 2016
 Council Chambers—Summerland Municipal Hall**

March 2017 Water Shutoff - Update

Two information sessions have been held regarding the district-wide water shutoff which is scheduled to start at 7pm on March 3, 2017 and end at 7am March 6, 2017. Over the next few months further information sessions will be held to ensure residents and businesses have access to the most up to date information. Questions and answers from last week’s information sessions will be posted on Summerland’s website along with other information provided to date.

The District has continued work on the logistics for the shutdown and it is now expected that most residents will have access to some running water for a period during the weekend of the shutdown. Unfortunately, this cannot be guaranteed as it requires diverting water from Summerland’s other water systems into the main domestic system—and the success of this will be dependant on whether all valves in the system operate as designed despite their age. All residents and businesses must still prepare for a total shutdown as we cannot guarantee the diversion will work. A “boil water notice” will be necessary before, during and after the shutdown. More information about this will be provided in the coming months.

Information regarding the water shutoff will continue to be posted on our website, on Facebook and in the newsletter. If you are a Facebook user, we encourage you to “LIKE” us at “District of Summerland” as we will post all updates as they become available. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call Devon van der Meulen, Manager of Utilities at 250-404-4075 or email dvandermeulen@summerland.ca.

Summerland Skatepark - Let's Make it Happen



Congratulations to Erin Toews—winner of the Summerland Skate Shirt Design Contest. Erin won a donated skateboard from Freeride Boardshop. Interior Ink Works generously donated \$1000 worth of t-shirts. The fundraising skate shirts will debut at the Summerland Festival of Lights on November 25th and will sell for \$20.00 each.

A **Summerland Skatepark Donation Program** is now underway and provides an opportunity for individuals and businesses to donate funds to contribute to the building of a new Skatepark in Summerland.

Donating is easy! Go to www.summerland.ca to make an online donation of any quantity or donate in person at Municipal Hall. Donations are tax deductible and income tax letters will be issued.

Facts About the New Summerland Skatepark

- The new location will be a safe, open and visible section of the Summerland Secondary School playfield.
- Skateparks encourage youth to be stewards of their community and mentoring programs will be created.
- Skateparks help to improve physical activity rates among youth while creating a positive space for social interactions and well-being.

Check out our website to see details and the final skatepark design. If you require further information regarding the Skatepark Donation Program please contact Municipal Hall or email skatepark@summerland.ca. Any contribution is greatly appreciated. Please support this project for our community - buy a skate shirt or make a donation to the Summerland Skatepark today!

Annual Festival of Lights Friday, November 25th Downtown Summerland

Enjoy an evening filled with food, music, a visit with Santa, ice sculptures, and many other activities and festivities.

See the town “light up” at 7pm and end the evening watching the amazing fireworks!



Free Family Skate Event

Fun for the whole family!
Saturday December 3rd
from 10:00am – 11:00am,
Summerland Arena
(\$2.00 Skate Rental available)

Skate with Santa, enjoy hot chocolate and cookies and dress up for the Best Holiday Outfit Contest.

Please bring a donation for the food bank.



Toys and Toonies for Tots & Teens Let the Summerland Fire Department serve you breakfast!

Join them at Santorini's Restaurant for the 29th Annual Toys & Toonies for Tots and Teens Breakfast taking place

Saturday, November 26th, 8:00am - 11:00am

Enjoy pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs and True Grain pastries. Also sponsored by Nesters.

The Fire Department will be “shaking the boot” for donations at Light Up on Friday, Nov. 25th as well.

Accepting Canadian Tire Money, new unwrapped gifts or cash donations to purchase new gifts for many tots and teens in Summerland. Donations will be accepted until December 14th at the Firehall or Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Thanks for your community support!



Open Burning Permits are issued from October 15 to April 15 to owners of agricultural properties with over two acres for the purpose of burning orchard prunings and stumps. Permits are issued by the Fire Department. Those with permits are required to call the Fire Department at 250-494-7211 to check the venting index and obtain approval each time they burn. **Open burning on residential properties is strictly prohibited.**

Please take time on **Remembrance Day, Friday, November 11th** to honour and remember those who served our country proud. The Legion will hold its annual service in Memorial Park at the Cenotaph at 11:00am. District offices will be closed.

