



Highway 97 is the backbone of the Okanagan, connecting all communities in the valley and providing the only way in and out for many of us. In recent years, there has been an unprecedented number of unplanned closures on the stretch of highway between Summerland and Peachland, due to landslides, wildfires, downed power lines, and motor vehicle accidents. The rockslide of August 2023 remains unresolved with stabilization work to resume in the spring.

Highway closures result in significant disruptions, especially when there is no viable bypass route. Peachland and Summerland are only 20km apart, and it normally takes 20 minutes to travel between the two communities. However, when Highway 97 is closed, the shortest paved alternate route is through Princeton – nearly 300 km long via the Okanagan Connector, Highway 5A and Highway 3. While there is a rough forestry road along the 'Trout Main' route, it is not appropriate for most vehicles and the Ministry of Transportation and Transit will no longer maintain and signpost it as a detour option should Highway 97 close due to work at the rockslide.

The mayors and councils of both Summerland and Peachland believe there should be a year-round secondary route connecting our communities and we are working together to make the case to the provincial government. We are speaking with Ministry officials and have invited Transportation and Transit Minister Mike Farnworth to visit the rockslide and other highway pinch points so he may gain a better appreciation of the issue. We continue to work in lockstep with Peachland to press for greater infrastructure resilience and travelling options between our respective communities.

~ Mayor Doug Holmes

Recycling curbside collection

Placing the wrong materials in your curbside recycling can cost the District of Summerland thousands of dollars in fines and dangerous materials can harm recyclers. Please be mindful of the items you are placing in your curbside recycling cart. Below are a few items that do not belong in it:



- NO Clothing! If clothing is in good condition bring it to a thrift shop, if not, then place in your garbage cart.
- NO Durable Plastics such as laundry baskets or furniture! These are treated plastics and are not recyclable.
- NO Electronics or Batteries! These are dangerous items that have the potential to start a fire. Bring electronics and batteries to the Landfill Recycling Depot for free.
- NO Pressurized Tanks! Even small single use propane tanks used for camping have the potential to cause an explosion. Please take pressurized tanks to the Landfill for free.

Non-hazardous aerosol containers for cooking spray can be emptied and placed in your curbside recycling cart.

The Summerland Landfill and Recycling Depot also accepts more materials! For further details visit www.recyclebc.ca or contact the Recycling Council of BC at 1-800-667-4321.

Looking for committee members

The District of Summerland is currently recruiting for community members to get involved in local government by participating in the following committees:

- **Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)** Nine (9) positions are available for a two (2) year term, ending March 31, 2027;
- **Community Climate Action Advisory Committee (CCAAC)** Seven (7) positions available for a two (2) year term, ending March 31, 2027;
- **Development Process Improvement Advisory Committee (DPIAC)** Nine (9) positions available for a two (2) year term, ending March 31, 2027
- **Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC)** Seven (7) positions available for a two (2) year term, ending March 31, 2027
- **Advisory Planning Commission (APC)** Eight (8) positions available for a three (3) year term

If you have an interest in being involved in the community, an ability to work with others, and a willingness to contribute your viewpoint, then this opportunity is for you!

More information and application forms can be found on our website www.summerland.ca/committees. Send completed applications to corporateofficer@summerland.ca by February 28, 2025.

We're hiring – summer students!

The District of Summerland is hiring students from May 1 to September 1, 2025. Rate of pay ranges from \$21.64 - \$22.08 per hour + 14% in lieu (\$24.67 - \$25.17). Details are available at www.summerland.ca/jobs. There are positions open in both the Parks Department and Works & Infrastructure Department and are full time at 40 hours per week for 17 weeks.



Alternative Approval Process (AAP) – Victoria Road South Upgrades & Wharton Street Upgrades

The District of Summerland is seeking electoral approval, through an Alternative Approval Process (AAP), for long-term borrowing for the following 2 projects:

- Victoria Road South Upgrades—Loan Authorization Bylaw 2024-035
- Wharton Street Upgrades—Loan Authorization Bylaw 2024-036

If you are in favour of the District using long-term borrowing to finance the Victoria Road South upgrades OR Wharton Street Upgrades, you do not need to do anything.

If you are opposed to the District using long-term borrowing to finance the Victoria Road South upgrades OR Wharton Street Upgrades, you may submit an Elector Response form to indicate your opposition. Elector Response forms are available for pick up at Municipal Hall, 13211 Henry Avenue, during regular business hours, Tuesday to Friday, 8:15 AM to 5:00 PM, except statutory holidays and are also available on the District website listed below.

More information regarding the costs to property owners, the proposed project(s), alternative approval process, and elector qualifications may be found on the District's website www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/elections/alternative-approval-process or by contacting the Director of Corporate Services at corporateofficer@summerland.ca or 250-404-4037.



The District of Summerland is updating its **Official Community Plan** – a long-term plan that will guide the future of our community.

Let's shape tomorrow, together!

For more information and to get involved, visit summerlandocp.ca



What's your vision for the future of Summerland?

Participate in the **online survey** and other engagement opportunities to have your say!

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 117% of the historical average for the Summerland Reservoir and 69% for Isintok Lake. For further information, please visit the District's website at www.summerland.ca/city-services/water/snow-course-survey.

Family Day Fun

The return of the annual Family Day Long Weekend Photo Scavenger Hunt starts Friday, February 14, 2025. Pick up your scavenger hunt card from the Summerland Aquatic and Fitness Centre and return it by Tuesday, February 18, 2025 to be entered into a prize draw. Summerland Recreation would also like to thank The Kinsmen Club of Summerland for sponsoring this year's Family Day Swim and Skate.

Swim and skate dates/times to be announced online www.summerland.ca/parks-recreation/community-events-races/family-day and on Facebook www.facebook.com/SummerlandRec.



Invasive species: top ten tips

The New Year presents a great opportunity to remind Summerland residents of our **top ten tips** when it comes to invasive species:



1. Learn to identify invasive species. Check out local websites such as www.oiso.ca and www.oasiss.ca
2. Choose garden plants wisely. Be suspicious of plants promoted as "fast spreaders" or "vigorous self-seeders".
3. Avoid using wildflower seed mixes unless you are confident the species are native.
4. Dispose of invasive plants carefully. Do not compost or put in yard waste bins.
5. Reduce soil disturbances and re-seed or plant bare soils with an ecologically suitable species.
6. Avoid picking plants from roadsides or other disturbed areas.
7. Check your vehicle, boat, bike, camping gear, shoes and pets for invasive species that may have hitched a ride. Clean everything thoroughly.
8. Share your knowledge with friends and neighbours.
9. Report any suspicious plants or insects to OASISS@shaw.ca
10. Get involved with local efforts to control invasive plants and replant with indigenous species.

Be a "Snow Angel" this winter

Nominate a Snow Angel online www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/snow-angel. All nominees will receive a certificate of acknowledgement and have their name entered into a draw to win a prize!

Dog and business licence renewals

Dog and business licence renewals have been mailed out mid-December and are due January 31, 2024. If you do 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.

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.

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

Check out the Mayor's podcast on all major streaming platforms or on the District's website: www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/mayor-council/mayor-s-podcast

Municipal Hall hours of operation: Tuesday - Friday from 8:15 AM to 5:00 PM. Closed Mondays and Statutory Holidays.

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 2025 grad class raised \$2,641.00! All trees that were picked up were chipped for compost.



Fireworks in the District of Summerland

In the District of Summerland, fireworks are illegal unless used at sanctioned events with a valid Special Permit. They are issued only to licensed and trained professionals for specific events and must adhere to strict conditions.

The Fire and Life Safety Bylaw bans the sale, possession, discharge, and disposal of fireworks within the District of Summerland's borders. Residents in violation of any of the provisions of the bylaw will face fines and their firework materials will be confiscated.

To report the use or sale of fireworks, please report to Bylaw Services at 250-494-6451 (option 4) or bylaw@summerland.ca. For inquiries about obtaining a Special Permit, contact the Summerland Fire Department at 250-494-7211.

Giant's Head Mountain Park – new 4-season washroom open

The District of Summerland has officially opened the new year-round fully serviced and accessible washroom building at the lower parking lot trailhead of Giant's Head Mountain Park. This new public park amenity is part of the roll out of phases 3 and 4 of the Giant's Head Mountain Trails Redevelopment project. Winter hours are 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM.



Pothole reporting

The weather we are currently experiencing is unfortunately a recipe for potholes. Potholes are created when heavy precipitation or snow melt occurs, resulting in standing water that 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/inquiries to works@summerland.ca or call 250-494-0431.

Changes to landfill fees – March 1, 2025

The Summerland Landfill will be updating landfill fees beginning March 1, 2025. Some of the changes include:

Material Type	Change
Clean soil	\$ 10 per tonne
Yard Waste / Green Wood	\$ 30 per tonne
Asphalt Shingles	\$ 65 per tonne
Concrete with rebar	\$90 per tonne
Gypsum Wallboard (drywall)* verified not to contain asbestos	\$ 160 per tonne
Fibreglass and Preserved Wood	\$125 per tonne
Fruit Waste, Byproduct Fruit Grain	\$ 30 per tonne
Carcasses	\$ 210 per tonne

*Note: new requirements for residential asbestos—please visit the link below. Visit www.summerland.ca/city-services/garbage-recycling/summerland-sanitary-landfill to view the updated landfill fees.