



The new year is a time for Council to deliberate the annual budget and every year we try to balance the need to invest in the community with the need to minimize the financial impact on residents and businesses.

This year Council is proposing a 7.25% property tax rate, which is higher than past years but still lower than most municipalities in the region. We always aim to keep our tax increases lower than other municipalities but that becomes challenging year after year, especially as we all face the same inflationary pressures. After two years of extensive cuts, including staff layoffs in 2024, the only way to lower this year's increase was to reduce service levels and add user-pay fees.



Therefore, effective April 1, to save on printing costs this newsletter will only be available digitally. A \$1.50 postage fee will also be charged on monthly utility bills sent by mail. Staff at Municipal Hall are available to assist anyone wishing to register to receive their bills and newsletter by email.

Residents are invited to provide feedback on the proposed 2025 budget at an Open House at the Summerland Arena Banquet Room (8820 Jubilee Road East) on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM with a presentation at 6:00 PM. The Open House is an opportunity to learn about how your tax dollars will be used for roads, parks and recreation, fire protection, policing, and more.

~Mayor Doug Holmes

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 projects:

Victoria Road South Upgrades – Loan Authorization Bylaw 2024-035

The District of Summerland is proceeding with an AAP for Loan Authorization – Victoria Road South Upgrades – Bylaw 2024-035. The bylaw proposes to borrow up to \$2,693,470 to be repaid over a 25-year term to complete the Victoria Road South Upgrades project. The question posed to the electors by this AAP is whether the District can proceed with long-term borrowing (25 years) to finance this project.

Wharton Street Upgrades – Loan Authorization Bylaw 2024-036

The District of Summerland is proceeding with an AAP for Loan Authorization – Wharton Street Upgrades – Bylaw 2024-036. The bylaw proposes to borrow up to \$3,365,080.00 to be repaid over a 25-year term towards the completion of the Wharton Street Upgrades project. The question posed to the electors by this AAP is whether the District can proceed with long-term borrowing (25 years) to finance this project.

Both AAP's will begin Thursday, January 23, 2025 and will close at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, February 25, 2025. The results of both AAP's will be reported to Council by the Director of Corporate Services at the March 4, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council.

Elector Response forms are available starting **January 16, 2025** 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. 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. If you are in favour of the long-term borrowing to finance both projects, you do not need to submit any forms or comments.

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.

Winter recreation guide

Join Summerland Recreation and make this your most active year yet. Swim lessons, volleyball, weight room basics, yoga and more ensures there is something for everyone. Visit www.summerland.ca/parks-recreation/recreation-guide to learn more about all our amazing programs and how to register. Please view the Rec Guide for the new 2025 admission fees for the pool, fitness room and arena.



Snow removal

Our staff members are ready seven days a week for snow removal on District roads. There are six main routes to maintain, and staff start as early as 5am to ensure snow removal is started or completed before most people go to work.



Staff also clear public sidewalks and walkways that do not border private property and a contractor assists with clearing municipally owned parking lots.

Designated routes take approximately eight hours to fully plough once it stops snowing, which generally means continuing the next day to widen, clear and clean up further. Each route has its "priority areas" (e.g. school bus routes) that must be revisited if snow continues to fall, therefore it may take some time before side streets are tended to. Heavy snowfall and equipment failures can also affect the delivery of snow removal services.

To help our staff, we ask that you do not park your vehicle(s) on the road and 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. Your cooperation and patience are appreciated.

2025 OCP Review: Lift-Off!

The District has initiated the review of the District's Official Community Plan (OCP) which is a requirement from the Province to complete by December 31, 2025. This 20 year plan provides guidance on the future vision state of Summerland: including growth management, land use, housing and the intersection of these themes with parks, transportation, and cultural values. Please see the project page at summerlandocp.ca to stay on top of project updates. Stay tuned for early engagement activities to start in February, 2025!



Winter curbside collection cart placement

As snow arrives this year, please clear an area to place your carts safely for



curbside collection. Rolling carts up snowbanks is unsafe as carts can easily tip over and cannot safely be placed back after being emptied. Carts can fall over into the street or flip backwards making them hard to bring inside.

Please bring carts in after they are collected. Carts left out on the street could be damaged during road clearing.

If you have a missed collection, please contact Waste Connections of Canada at 250-490-3888 or e-mail csr-penticton-osoyoos@wasteconnections.com. They can let you know if the truck is late or unable to make it to your property. Please bring in your carts at the end of the day to ensure that they are not struck or damaged by snow removal equipment.

Save electricity and water with showerheads and faucets

Save water, save money. You can cut down on water use and the electricity costs for heating that water by making a few fixes in your bathroom and kitchen.

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. The payback for installing low-flow showerheads is almost immediate, depending on the frequency of showers.

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 \$0.25.

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 2025 Dry Grad Class, you can have your Christmas tree picked up from your house by the Summerland Fire Department.



Pick-up dates will be:

Sunday, January 5 and Sunday, January 12, 2025 starting at 9:00 AM

To schedule a pick up, call 250-404-4087 or email sfd@summerland.ca.

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 to receive it in your inbox:

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.

Speed limit changes on lakeshore drive

The District recently engaged an ICBC audit team to conduct an engineering in-service review of Lakeshore Drive as part of their "Road Improvement Program." This study analyzed crash history, pedestrian safety, and vehicle speeds, and proposed several potential changes for the District to consider in the coming years.



One key recommendation involved updating road signage and extending the existing 30 km/h zone on Lakeshore Drive to run consistently from Peach Orchard Drive south to Beaver Street Park. This section currently has multiple speed changes due to the presence of parks. To improve safety and ensure consistency, the District has decided to implement this change, creating a unified 30 km/h speed limit for most of Lakeshore Drive. We are asking the public to be aware of the new speed limits and drive carefully.

Food scraps collection in yard waste carts

It can look silly placing a small amount of food scraps in a large yard waste cart, but it works! The collection truck will keep picking up the Green Cart weekly for the entire winter. Please keep placing food scraps in your Green Cart and have it to the curb by 7:00 AM on your collection day.

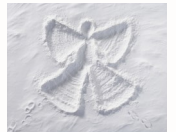
Some tips:

- Wrap your food scraps in newspaper or any paper bag. The type of paper bag can be a normal one or one designed for compost. Yard waste bags can also work.
- If you have the space, freeze your food scraps. This will stop materials from sticking to your cart.
- Keep some yard waste aside and place the yard waste at the bottom of your cart throughout the winter, this will help materials empty into the truck.

If you are a Summerland resident and can share your techniques to handle food scraps over winter, please contact works@summerland.ca. Food scraps collection has already diverted over 400 tonnes of waste from the Summerland Landfill, to composting since April.

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. 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!



Peach Orchard Beach Park Dog Park

Permanent fencing has been installed to replace the temporary fencing at Peach Orchard Beach Park to provide a one-acre welcoming green space for dogs to play. Winter dog park hours are 7:30 AM - 8:00 PM daily.



District of Summerland newsletter is moving online!

Beginning April 2025, the District of Summerland newsletter is moving to online only. View current and past newsletters online the District's website www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/newsletter. If you wish to receive the monthly newsletter right to your inbox, simply email info@summerland.ca with a subject line of "Newsletter Signup" and provide your name and email address.

Dog licence renewal

2025 dog licence renewals have been sent and are due by January 31. If payment is received after January 31, 2025 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.

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.