



Message from Mayor Peter Waterman

I hope everybody had a wonderful Christmas and New Years with friends and family. I would like to thank all our municipal staff for doing a great job over the past year. Our brand new council is off to a running start.

Our multiple orientation sessions are completed; they were intense but very worthwhile. We would like to thank Tom Day, retiring CAO for the incredible work he has done over the last couple of years and wish him well in his retirement. We now have an interim CAO in place, Mr. Tim Wood. Mr. Wood is part of a pool of retired administrative talent that can be available to municipalities in times of transition. We look forward to working with him in making our transition to a new permanent CAO as seamless as possible. As council begins its first year, our first order of business is budget consultations and goals and objectives planning sessions. In addition, we will be making changes to our Council Procedure Bylaw to allow a 10 minute public comment on agenda items early in our evening meetings. There will also be time for comments and questions from the public and the press prior to adjournment. Hopefully this will allow more public participation at the meetings. Council and I wish you all every success in the New Year!

ELECTRICAL POWER LINES

The unusual, heavy snowfall on November 26th resulted in a significant number of power outages and equipment damage. Most of the problems were caused by downed or sagging trees damaging power lines and staff were able to deal with these in a timely manner. **Trees cause most of the damage to the electrical system, especially during heavy snow falls. Property owners are reminded of their responsibility to keep their trees trimmed at all times.**

Unfortunately a very unusual power surge also occurred this day causing damage to many homes. Staff had to replace 69 damaged electrical meters. This was a very unique situation. A report from our Electrical Engineer to summarize their conclusions regarding the snow event and power surge of November 26th is now complete. This report can be found on our website. Those affected have been invited to a Public Meeting which will be held on Tuesday, January 6th at 7pm in the Arena Banquet Room. The Electrical Engineer, staff and a representative from the BC Safety Authority will be in attendance for a presentation and questions.



If you did not receive a 2015 Curbside Garbage/Recycling/Yard Waste Calendar in the mail, one can be picked up at Municipal Hall. The schedule carries on with recycling and garbage pickup in January taking place the 6th, 7th or 8th.



GONE FISHING...or GOLFING...

Best Wishes to Tom Day, our Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), who will be retiring early January after over 30 years in local government. Tom has been a well respected, knowledgeable, and great leader of our community. He will be greatly missed by staff and Council.

Tim Wood has been hired as an interim CAO until a replacement is found. The hiring process is currently underway and should be finalized in January with a start date by April.



Residential/Condo and Commercial Water Meter Billing

The utility bill you receive in February will reflect the new water meter charges for

consumption used in January. Residents and commercial water users will be charged a flat rate of \$26.67 per month (\$24 with the discount) plus 29¢ per cubic metre of water used (26¢ with the discount).

Residential users will also pay \$1.00 per cubic metre for any additional water used over the allotted amount for the month.

Agricultural/irrigation rates will be determined in 2015 and at that time properties with second water services will also be reviewed. The decision to charge second service users has been amended and there will be no charges until a comprehensive public consultation process takes place on agricultural rates.

LAST CALL FOR CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP

Dispose of your tree an easy, environmentally friendly way this year and help out the Grad 2015 class. Call the Summerland Fire Dept. at 250-404-4088 or email sfd@summerland.ca to book a pickup time for Sunday, January 4th or Sunday, January 11th. Donations will go to the 2015 Grad Class. Trees will be picked up from your house, chipped and used for compost.



A Few Council Hi-Lites...

Check our website for full Council Minutes, Agendas and Broadcasts of meetings. Municipal Hall also has paper copies available. Shaw TV broadcasts on Wednesdays and Fridays at 11:00am.

- ◆ Our newly elected Council were sworn in on December 1st at the Inaugural Meeting.
- ◆ At the first Regular Council meeting on December 8th, Council voted to withdraw the application for inclusion and exclusion of lands from the Agricultural Land Reserve.
- ◆ Each year the District congratulates and recognizes long time employees. This year we had seven 10 year employees, two employees with 15 years, one employee with 20 years, and special mention to Derek Chudyk and Brenda Ingram with 25 years of service and Rick Leardo with 30 years of service.
- ◆ The Fees and Charges Bylaw was amended to remove the second water meter service charge until agricultural rates are reviewed.

Do You Have a Snow Angel?

Someone who helps you out when the snow falls...a neighbour or a friend. If so, we want to know about them. Please email or send us their name and address, along with your name and address so we can acknowledge them and put their name in for a draw at the end of the season.

Snow Angel is a snow removal awareness and recognition program to encourage residents to help their neighbours in need during the winter months. To be a Snow Angel, simply help out a neighbour by shoveling snow for them or adopt a sidewalk and keep it clear whenever it snows.

Call Karen at 250-404-4042 or email info@summerland.ca.

Municipal bylaws require you to remove the snow and ice from public footpaths and sidewalks bordering your property. If the sidewalks are not cleaned, the District may have to hire a contractor to do the work and bill you the costs. Snow or ice that accumulates before noon must be removed by noon that day.



Dog Licences and Business Licences

A friendly reminder that Dog Licences and Business Licences are due on January 15th, 2015. Renewals were sent out the middle of December. If you did not receive a renewal or if you no longer require one, please contact Municipal Hall 250-494-6451.

PROPERTY VALUES

Every January, BC Assessment sends out Assessment Notices advising of your land and building values. The values determined are used by the District to calculate your property taxes. You have until January 31st to appeal the BC Assessment Notice. Details are on the Assessment Notice you receive. Call BC Assessment at 1-866-825-8322 if you do not receive a notice or visit their website at www.bcassessment.ca.

SUMMERLAND CLIMATE ACTION PILOT PROJECT

Whenever we save energy - or use it more efficiently - we reduce the demand for gasoline, oil, coal and natural gas. Less burning of these fossil fuels means lower emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. The choices we make TODAY will affect the amount of greenhouse gases we put in the atmosphere in the near future and for years to come. The Summerland Climate Action Committee (CAC) challenges YOU to come up with an idea that will have a positive environmental impact in our community, and help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Community, neighbourhood or school groups, individuals or non-profit organizations can apply for funding that can be used for equipment and supplies. Submission deadline is March 31, 2015. Visit www.summerlandclimateaction.ca or Municipal Hall for more detailed information.

FUNDING AVAILABLE



SIGN UP FOR E-BILL SERVICE AND NOT ONLY DO YOU SAVE A TREE, BUT MONEY IS SET ASIDE TO A TREE PURCHASING FUND

Start the year off right and sign up to receive your utility bill by email (e-bill). The District will set aside an amount equal to the monthly postage fee to a tree purchasing fund. Money saved will be used to replace or add new trees in our parks and around town. You will also receive this newsletter by email. Don't wait for the mail - receive your bill and newsletter quicker. Sign up at Municipal Hall or on the website under Residents - Utility Billing.

New Year's Resolution

✓ Sign up for pre-authorized payments and never be late on a utility bill

✓ Sign up for E-bill Service and save a tree

✓ Join the Health Club, Pool, or one of their many programs and feel good

SUMMERLAND PHONE BOOK

The deadline to make any changes for the Summerland phone book is January 23, 2015. Call the Chamber of Commerce 250-494-2686 or go online to www.summerlandrotary.org/teldir.htm