

Message from Council

One month of 2021 already gone. While this may not mean current restrictions will be lifted on February 5, it does mean we are one month closer to the end of the pandemic.

For a number of reasons, including more robust debate, Council prefers to meet in person to conduct business and made the decision to do so during our January budget sessions. To ensure we were meeting the public health orders, in addition to wearing masks when indoors, District staff ensured that seating was physically distanced by at least six feet, sanitizer was provided at each seating position and numbers were restricted in Council Chambers. Many members of the senior management team reported to Council electronically to further reduce the numbers in Chambers. The public is still not able to attend Council meetings in person, but meetings are recorded and streamed live on the District's YouTube channel. If you wish to speak electronically during a meeting of Council, please register to speak, preferably in advance, and staff will call you to link you to the meeting by phone.

Last year, we often heard that we are living in "strange times". Although we may all have been hoping that COVID-19 would be behind us as we welcomed 2021, clearly there are still strange—and stressful—times ahead. Council and District staff will continue to do all we can to ease the disquiet so many are feeling by adapting programs and services to support mental, physical and emotional health.

Council knows that the novelty of the coronavirus—if there ever was any—has worn off and has been replaced with boredom, loneliness, and an increased longing for social interaction. We thank you for staying steadfast and doing your part to keep Summerland numbers low. Although it may not seem like it some days, "it's not forever, it's just for now." Stay strong and stay safe.

2021 Business Licence Fees Waived

We are pleased to share that at the January 13, 2021 Committee-of-the-Whole (Budget) meeting Council provided the following direction: **THAT Council waive the District of Summerland 2021 Business Licence fees to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our business community.**

Please be advised that all new or existing businesses in the District are still required to maintain a valid 2021 Business Licence for the calendar year and conform to the regulations of the District's Business Licence bylaw. (Mobile Business Licence fees are provincially regulated therefore the \$150 fee must be paid.)

If you have already provided payment to the District for your 2021 Business Licence, and would like District staff to process a refund, please contact us at business@summerland.ca with your refund request. Alternatively, the District will hold your payment as a credit to be applied against your 2022 Business Licence fee, if no refund is requested. 2021 Business Licences are valid without a collector's stamp.

The Summerland Chamber of Commerce is pleased to be able to offer complimentary memberships for 2021. Its Board has worked closely with District Staff and Council to mitigate the economic effects the pandemic has had on the business community, and while in this transition year a basic membership is free.

Register for 2021 Virtual Budget Open House

District of Summerland Council are supportive of a property tax rate increase of 1.65% for 2021. The average Summerland home assessed at \$591,790 will see an increase in annual property taxes of approximately \$22.07. Curbside collection fees are also proposed to increase by \$2.35 per month (effective March 1, 2021), in part to provide for two unlimited yard waste events in 2021.

Prior to finalizing the 2021 budget, Summerland Council is seeking to obtain public feedback on the proposed 2021 budget. Although COVID-19 has curtailed in-person meetings, **please join us remotely on Wednesday, February 10 at 4:00pm to attend the 2021 Virtual Budget Open House via Zoom.**

In order to ensure public comments and input are available for Council consideration prior to finalizing the budget, please submit all budget comments to budget@summerland.ca by 12:00 noon on Monday, February 15.

The proposed tax increase and curbside collection fee increase will help maintain or improve current service levels and allow for initiatives and projects that will improve the livability and resiliency of our community.

BC Family Day



Family Bubble Photo Scavenger Hunt

The photo scavenger hunt will run from Feb 13-15. For more information visit www.summerland.ca/familyday. *Prizes will be available*

Family Day Skates

Saturday, Feb 13
12:30-2:00pm & 2:30-4:00pm
Sunday, Feb 14

1:30-3:00pm & 3:30-5:00pm

FREE

25 spots/skate - Pre-registration is required

Free Skate Rentals



Family Day Swims

Sunday, Feb 14

1:30-2:30pm & 2:45-3:45pm

FREE

25 spots/swim - Pre-registration is required.

Registration for the Family Day Swim & Skate will open on February 8 at 8am
Register online at <https://summerland.perfectmind.com> or
by phone at 250-494-0447



District Facilities Update

Some District facilities have begun gradual re-opening plans. Face masks are mandatory in District facilities. Call to check what hours facilities may be open to the public. Staff is available during regular business hours at the numbers below:

- Municipal Hall - General Enquiries: (250) 494-6451 Monday to Friday 8:30am - 4:00pm
- Development Services: (250) 494-1373
- Utility Billing: (250) 404-4047
- Property Tax/Accounts Receivable/Accounts Payable: (250) 404-4055
- Parks & Recreation: (250) 494-0447
- Fire Department (Non emergency): (250) 494-7211
- Works & Infrastructure: (250) 494-0431
- After Hours Emergency 3:30pm - 7:00am Monday to Friday, weekends or Statutory Holidays for Water/Sewer/Roads/Parks/Electrical Utility: (250) 493-0005

Spring Break Swim Lessons

Spring Break swim lessons will run Monday to Friday, March 15-26. Registration will open on February 16. To view the upcoming Spring Break swim lessons, please visit: www.summerland.ca/recreation.



Nominate Your Snow Angel

Has someone helped you out this winter by shovelling your driveway or walkway?



Don't forget to nominate them by completing the Nomination Form found on the District website www.summerland.ca or at Municipal Hall.

The Mayor will thank them for making our community an even better place to live by sending them a certificate. Their name will also be entered into a draw and one nominee will win a prize from the District.

Snow Removal

Please help our snow removal crew by parking your vehicle(s) off the road. When clearing your driveway, stockpile snow on the right side when facing the road. This prevents the snow you removed from being ploughed back in front of your driveway. Thank you for your cooperation.

Summerland Health & Wellness Series

The Summerland Healthy Community Initiative is excited to host the next Summerland Health & Wellness Series. The topic for this series will be Food Security. This will be a virtual presentation on Tuesday, February 23 from 6:00-7:30pm. Pre-registration is required. If you would like to sign up for this presentation, please email lmccarron@summerland.ca.



Christmas Tree Pick Up Fundraiser Success

The Fire Department and the Summerland 2021 Graduation Class would like to thank the residents who took part in the Christmas Tree Pick Up and their generous donations that totalled \$3,072.00. Trees were chipped and used for compost.

Pictured Below (left to right):

SFD member Brad Hanley and graduating daughter Alysha Hanley, SFD members Ricky Leardo and Anthony Leardo.



Want Notifications and Alerts Regarding Curbside Collection?

You can sign up to receive a reminder for your collection day and any service alerts that may affect your collection. At the bottom of the District of Summerland: Garbage, Recycling, and Yard & Garden Waste webpage, found at www.summerland.ca/solidwaste, you will see:

My Schedule English Share

My Schedule What goes where Need help?

Please type your home address:

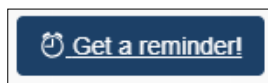
Search

Example: 101 Martin Street, Penticton

Privacy | Terms of Service | Cookie Policy

Powered by ReCollect

Simply type in your address and search. Then click on and select your preferred reminder method.



You can also search items to learn how to properly dispose of them by selecting the button and typing in your material.



Keep Up To Date: The District will post community updates to our website, Facebook and Twitter accounts. Please follow our pages to keep up to date on COVID-19 information and more.

Website: summerland.ca

Facebook: facebook.com/SummerlandBC

Twitter: twitter.com/SummerlandBC

Sign up for our Online Newsletter:

<https://www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/newsletter-subscribe>

Use of Home Generators

Home generators are handy for backup electricity in case of an outage. A backup generator may only be connected to your home's electrical system through an approved transfer panel and switch that has been installed by a qualified electrician.

Never plug a generator into a wall outlet as serious injury can result when the current produced by the home generator is fed back into the Summerland power grid. **This can endanger the lives of utility employees working to restore the power.**

To operate a generator safely:

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Ensure that the generator operates outdoors in well-ventilated conditions, well away from doors or windows, to prevent exhaust gases from entering the house.
- Use properly rated extension cords to connect lights and appliances directly to the generator or have a qualified electrician hard wire it to your home following the Canadian Electrical Code.

Sign Up for the Online Newsletter

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please email info@summerland.ca and we can set you up. To receive your utility bill by email, sign up by registering on the District website under City Services - Utility Billing - Online Services.