

The provincial government has been tightening its environmental regulations, including the control of methane emissions from burying organic waste at landfills. Most local governments are dealing with this by diverting kitchen scraps from their landfill and composting it. Reducing the amount of garbage going into the landfill also helps control operating costs and extends the life of the landfill.

While not yet common in the Okanagan, most people in other parts of the province put their food scraps in with their yard waste in their green carts, which are collected every week year-round. The black lid garbage and blue lid recycling carts are collected on alternating weeks. Summerland will be switching to this same curbside collection schedule starting in April. All types of food – fruit, vegetables, meat, bones, fish, bread – will be able to go in the green cart, along with food-stained paper like napkins and paper plates.

Residents will soon be receiving a “kitchen catcher” for their food scraps along with an information package to explain what can and what can’t go into the green cart.

While garbage will be collected every other week rather than weekly, experience from other communities suggests most homeowners will not require a larger black lid cart. However, if necessary, residents can request a larger black lid garbage cart for an additional fee or purchase tag-a-bag stickers. The principle is that residents who recycle and minimize waste shouldn’t have to subsidize neighbours who produce a lot.

~Mayor Doug Holmes

Alternative Approval Process – Prairie Valley Road Upgrades & Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades

The District of Summerland is seeking electoral approval for long-term borrowing for the following projects:

Prairie Valley Road Upgrades – Loan Authorization Bylaw 2024-004

The District of Summerland is proceeding with an Alternative Approval Process (AAP) for Loan Authorization – Prairie Valley Road Upgrades – Bylaw 2024-004. The bylaw proposes to borrow up to \$2,500,000 to be repaid over a 20-year term to complete the Prairie Valley Road Upgrades project. The question posed to the electors by this AAP is whether the District can proceed with long-term borrowing (20 years) to finance this project.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades (Primary Clarifier) - Loan Authorization Bylaw 2024-005

The District of Summerland is proceeding with an Alternative Approval Process (AAP) for Loan Authorization – Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades (Primary Clarifier) – Bylaw 2024-005. The bylaw proposes to borrow up to \$1,232,000 to be repaid over a 20-year term to complete the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades (Primary Clarifier) project. The question posed to the electors by this AAP is whether the District can proceed with long-term borrowing (20 years) to finance this project.

Both AAP’s will begin **Thursday, March 7, 2024** and will close at **5:00 PM on Tuesday, April 9, 2024**. The results of both AAP’s will be reported to Council by the Corporate Officer at the April 11, 2024 Special Meeting of Council.

If you are opposed to the District using long-term borrowing to finance the Prairie Valley Road upgrades OR the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades (Primary Clarifier), 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.

Elector Response forms are available for pick up at Municipal Hall, 13211 Henry Avenue, during regular business hours, starting **February 29, 2024** and are available on the District website listed below.

More information regarding the alternate approval process, elector qualifications and the proposed project(s), may be found on the District’s website www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/elections/alternative-approval-process or by contacting the Corporate Officer at corporateofficer@summerland.ca or 250-404-4037.

Notice to Summerland irrigators

The Works Division will begin turning on irrigation services the week of **April 8, 2024**. Irrigators who wish to have their irrigation turned on prior to this date will be required to complete an Advanced Irrigation application form and pay \$57.03 plus GST per property no later than **Friday, April 5, 2024** at Municipal Hall, 13211 Henry Avenue, 8:15 AM to 5:00 PM, Tuesday to Friday.

Changes at the landfill starting April 1

The Summerland Landfill is updating fees starting April 1. To view the changes please visit www.summerland.ca/city-services/garbage-recycling/summerland-sanitary-landfill and click on 'Bylaws, Fees & Policies'.

New procedures for accepting materials that may contain asbestos are in development. This includes construction, renovation or demolition materials containing drywall, flooring or other sources of asbestos. For more information visit the 'Summerland Sanitary Landfill' webpage and click on 'Demolition, Construction & Demo'.

Food waste collection starting April 2

Over two thirds of residents in British Columbia receive food waste collection services from their home. Instead of filling up the landfill, food scraps can be collected and turned into valuable compost.

The District of Summerland received a Provincial grant of \$451,639 to assist in launching food waste collection to support the District in meeting environmental regulations and reducing garbage going to landfill to extend the life of the landfill.



The collection of food scraps with yard waste from residential homes starting the week of **April 2, 2024**. Food waste includes all left-over cooked food, meat, fish, bones, bread, fruits and vegetables. It also includes food soiled paper such as coffee filters, paper tea bags, used paper plates, and food soiled napkins.

Some key changes starting April 2:

- Yard waste with food scraps will be collected each week
- Garbage collection will happen every two weeks
- Recycling collection will stay the same

The District will be hosting open houses, providing videos and delivering educational materials door to door leading up to April 2, 2024.

Open House 1: Thursday, February 29, 2024

Open House 2: Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Location: George Ryga Arts and Cultural Centre, 9525 Wharton St (2nd floor)

Doors open: 5:30 PM to view information posters and ask questions

Presentation: 6:30 PM (Q&A to follow after)

Visit www.summerland.ca/city-services/garbage-recycling/food-scrap-collection-april-2024 for up to date information and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQ’s).

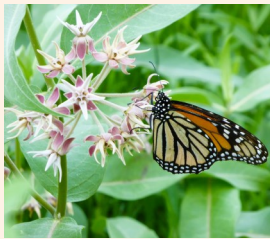
If you have questions, please email works@summerland.ca

Sani-station reopening in March

Weather dependent, the sani-station located at the Trout Creek pullout will reopen the week of March 11, 2024.

Biodiversity in the backyard

Did you know you can create your own biodiversity garden at home? It will benefit local wildlife, including pollinators, and prevent the spread of invasive plants which might harm the environment. Native plants have evolved along with the local ecosystem and play a vital role in food webs and as shelter for native animals.



STEP 1 - get to know your landscape. Plants differ in their needs including soil type and light levels.

STEP 2 - select a variety of local plants. There is a stunning variety of native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees available. Unfortunately, invasive plants can still be found in local garden centres and nurseries. Ask questions and get to know what species are local to our region.

STEP 3 - learn to identify invasive plants and remove them from your garden. Avoid composting invasive species and properly dispose of them to reduce spread.

Learn more about landscaping best practices and how to reduce invasive plants www.oasiss.ca/landscapers-horticulturalists.

Spring sweeping

The Works Crews will be heading out soon to sweep Summerland's 315 lane kilometres of roads, which is equivalent to driving to Salmon Arm and back! Crews start in the lower town area and work their way up to the higher elevations.

Sweeping takes approximately two months to complete and is a two-step process as follows:

Step 1 - Sand laden areas are cleaned with a front broom articulating sweeper, loader and dump truck.

Step 2 - Remaining sand particles are cleaned with a vacuum sweeper. This is a slower process as it takes several passes to cover the same amount of road area.

If you see or hear the sweeper in your neighbourhood, please give us a helping hand by moving your vehicle if it is parked on the street.

Did you know?

The pithy inducing name *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, common name Dawn Redwood (distantly related to California redwood and bald cypress), was considered extinct until it was found growing in mainland China in 1948. This deciduous conifer (meaning it loses its needles in winter) was adapted to living in the Arctic Circle (hence the needle drop due to prolonged darkness) only 45 million years ago. The shortest of redwoods, it can still reach a vertiginous 160' or 51m tall, but in cultivation more likely 60' or 20m so not suitable under power lines or really close to the house. Beautiful soft green needles change to a burnt orange before dropping in fall. It does not like to dry out, but suffers little from disease or insects. It can live on average 100 years and specimens 400 years old have been found, so ideal to plant in memoriam for yourself, if you want to linger that long.



You can see these living fossil (the trees) at Peach Orchard Campground (featured in the photo), Peach Orchard Park, and across from the Cenotaph at Memorial Park that may have been planted 70 years ago.

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

Spring/Summer 2024 Recreation Guide available now

Registration is now open for Spring and Summer programs! Gear up for the Giant's Head Run with a 10km run clinic, get your little one twisting and twirling in our new Little Leapers dance program, register in your favorite fitness class, and so much more with Summerland Recreation. Spring swim lessons are now open for registration and summer swim lessons will be announced mid-May. Follow us on Facebook at Summerland Recreation for information on new programs, events, and schedules. Register online at summerland.perfectmind.com, in person at the Aquatic Centre or phone 250-494-0447.



Ongoing and upcoming road construction projects

Victoria Road South Storm Drainage Upgrade - Installation of storm drainage infrastructure, a multi-use path and road restoration to continue on Victoria Road between Dunham Crescent and Agur Street with completion in spring 2024.

Dale Meadows Watermain Replacement (Phase 2) - The second phase of this project extends watermain replacement and road restoration west along Dale Meadows Road between Gould Avenue and Haddrell Avenue. Construction is anticipated to start in early spring and finish in the summer of 2024.

Be safe —

call or click before you dig

Whether your project is big or small... call or click before you dig! You may be planning to install fence posts, placing a foundation for a deck, planting bushes or trees or even building a house, if you are disturbing the ground, you may run the risk of cutting into an underground service that may cause potential for loss of life, personal injury, damage to property, or disruption of service(s). Please call 1-800-474-6886 or contact www.beforeyoudigpartners.com at least three working days in advance of your project to request underground locates, the service is free.



One-day recycling depot—April 20

Summerland Arena Recycling Compound,
8820 Jubilee Road
8:00 AM to 3:00 PM Saturday, April 20, 2024

Bring your glass jars/non-refundable bottles, white and coloured foam packaging, plastic bags and overwrap, other flexible plastic packaging, residential batteries, lightbulbs, electronics, TVs, and small appliances to the Summerland Arena Recycling Compound and help us keep recyclables out of our landfill. Staff will be on hand to answer questions on how to sort and place your recyclable materials.

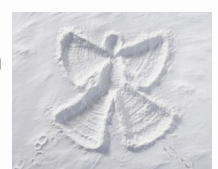


Snowpack readings

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 compared to the historical average, measured over 60 years. Snowpack readings from February 1 measured 93% of the historical average for the Summerland Reservoir (Headwaters) and 107% for Isintok Lake. Visit www.summerland.ca/city-services/utilities/water/snow-course-survey for more information.

Snow Angel nominations

Residents are encouraged to complete the nomination form found on the District's website www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/snow-angel and let us know if a Snow Angel came to your rescue. The Mayor will acknowledge them with a certificate and their name will be entered into a draw. One lucky Snow Angel will win a prize.



Deadline for nominations is **March 14**.