

New Year's Message from Mayor Waterman

Hopefully everyone had a wonderful holiday with family and friends. 2017 was an incredibly busy year for staff and a tough one for many residents due to water issues, windstorms and wildfires. On behalf of Council, I want to thank all District staff for their dedication and commitment to keeping Summerland safe. I would also like to thank residents for their patience and cooperation during these events. In 2017, Summerland proved to be a strong community that works well together under any circumstance.

The spring flooding and the Finlay Creek wildfire in the summer demanded response from staff in all departments. Looking back, it becomes clear that much was accomplished despite these unexpected events. The projects that were undertaken fell within the priorities which council will continue to focus on for their remaining term:

1. Supporting and fostering a **vibrant and liveable community**.
2. **Engaging and empowering** the community.
3. Recognizing that being **well managed and demonstrating good governance** is critical to a robust community.
4. **Investing in District infrastructure**.
5. Creating stability through **pursuit of economic initiatives** and exploring opportunities to increase the **resilience and sustainability** of the community.

Council is committed to fostering a **vibrant and liveable community**. The Parks and Recreation Masterplan and the Giant's Head Trail Masterplan are underway and nearing completion. These masterplans will guide the future development of Parks and Recreation in Summerland. In 2017, Council established a Cultural Development Committee as recommended by the Cultural Plan and work is progressing on renovations for the Arts and Cultural Centre located within the former library building. The Summerland Arts Council, through support from the Community Development Coordinator, has recently been awarded a \$250,000 BC Gaming capital grant to be used in conjunction with the \$250,000 contribution from the District of Summerland for infrastructure improvements.

Availability of Affordable Housing remains a concern in relation to the **livability of the community**. A report on Affordable Housing Framework was completed in 2017; staff are working closely on a number of projects in the community which will assist with affordable housing options. Council is seeking proposals from interested purchasers of the Wharton Street properties for development of housing in the downtown core.

Significant efforts were made during the PRV10 Water Shut Down to **improve communications** with residents. Work continues on improving the website and the use of social media to better **inform and engage residents and business owners**.

Council remains committed to **investment in District infrastructure**. The Garnet Valley Water Separation and Road


Improvement Project was completed in 2017. This \$6.3m project came in on budget. 66.7% of the total cost was provided through a Federal/Provincial grant. The very successful PRV10 project was a significant move forward in addressing some of the longstanding issues faced with old and failing water infrastructure. Currently, a Grit Removal and Effluent Filtration Project is underway at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The District received 83% of the cost of this \$3.2m project in grant funding.

Council continued to explore opportunities to improve **resilience and sustainability**. Throughout 2017, much work was done on the Integrated Solar Project. A \$6m application to the Federal Gas Tax grant program was submitted in hopes of receiving funding to complete the large solar array to interconnect into Summerland's electrical system. The first Community Conversation held in 2017 was well attended. Staff and First Responders were trained on the safety aspects of solar systems (a BC first!) and engaged with experts to find answers to how rooftop solar installations will affect our infrastructure, and where an ideal location for a large solar array may be. Plans for 2018 include more community events, a re-launch of the Net Metering Program which will be more affordable and easier to access, the creation of a solar demonstration site in downtown, and breaking ground on the large-scale solar array!

Council's sustainability priorities moved forward in 2017 with the launch of the Community Climate Action Advisory Committee and the Corporate Climate Action Team. The District has started the process of establishing a Green Revolving Fund that will be used to move energy-saving projects forward and then 'revolve' the cost savings back into other green projects. Summerland also joined the Partners for Climate Protection Program, was selected to participate in the Climate Asset Management Network, and received Level 3 recognition by the Green Communities Committee Climate Action Recognition Program for undertaking significant climate action to reduce local GHG emissions. Finally, Summerland is moving forward with a project to retrofit all streetlights to LEDs, which is expected to save almost \$10,000 a month in energy costs alone!

Mayor and Council have made it a priority to build a strong foundation to facilitate sustainable and increased **economic growth**. Development Services issued 194 Building Permits in 2017 with a value of \$32.1 million. Sixty of these building permits were for new single family dwellings. This is a 39.5% increase over 2016. The District also issued over 100 new Business Licences in 2017. People increasingly recognize that Summerland is an appealing community to live, work and invest in — council's initiatives over the past three years contribute to the overall attractiveness to new residents of the community.

Council is moving into year four of their term and will continue to focus on these priorities to pursue opportunities which support the District and its businesses and residents. On behalf of all of council, I would like to wish everybody a happy and prosperous New Year.



Mayor Peter Waterman



Need Help with your New Year's Resolution?

Summerland Recreation can help with your fitness resolutions. Consider a Health Club membership for access to the fitness room and pool. Free fitness room introduction to equipment with purchase of a first time pass. Check out our fitness classes including Aquafit, Pilates, Zumba, Yoga, Tai Ji and more. Visit us at the Summerland Aquatic & Fitness Centre at 13205 Kelly Ave. Phone: 250-494-0447. Check out the new Recreation Guide, schedules and register online at: www.summerland.ca/parks-recreation



Happy New Year Everyone!

Ammonia Inspection Initiative

WorkSafeBC Prevention Officers are undertaking an inspection initiative across BC focused on ensuring employers are effectively managing ammonia at their worksites. WorkSafe BC completed an audit of the Summerland Arena on November 24. Staff are currently working with WorkSafeBC on completing a risk assessment, creating an exposure control plan, updating work procedures, identifying any recommended alarm/equipment upgrades and fine tuning procedures for emergency response and rescue plans. District staff will be circulating educational information about ammonia to residents and businesses in proximity of the Summerland Arena in early 2018.

Woodbridge Nature Preserve

A recent sign dedication took place at Woodbridge Nature Preserve situated at the south end of Nixon Road in Trout Creek.

In 2015 the District of Summerland, in cooperation with the land owner, established the preserve found at the south end of Nixon Road in Trout Creek. It protects a small stand of remaining Cottonwood forest which is important to species at risk including the Western Screech Owl and Lewis's Woodpecker.

Pictured are Alison Peat, District shared Environmental Planner; Mayor Peter Waterman; Bryn White, SOSCP; Councillor Erin Trainer and Councillor Doug Holmes



Curbside Collection Carts Rolling Out Soon

A six month curbside calendar (a continuation of 2017) was sent out last month with the utility bill and is available on the District website and at Municipal Hall.

Beginning in Summer 2018, all Summerland households will receive curbside collection services via carts rather than bags. Curbside carts are a safer, cleaner and more efficient way to deal with garbage, recycling, and yard waste. An extensive education program will begin early in the New Year including open houses, displays, visits to local events, website updates, and a dedicated phone line for questions. Questions about the cart sizes, how much material can fit inside, how to properly place them at the curb, what to do with your existing bins etc. will be answered in upcoming publications and open houses.

Dog and Business Licence Renewals are due January 31st, 2018.

If you no longer require a dog or business licence, please let us know by emailing info@summerland.ca

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.



Snow Angels

Snow Angels is a snow removal awareness and recognition program to encourage residents to help out their neighbours during the winter months.

Residents are encouraged to complete the nomination form found on the District's website or at Municipal Hall 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.

Purging After the Holidays? Pass It On!

Now that the holidays are over, have you noticed that you have extra clothes, toys, or books laying around? Did you get a new TV, phone, or laptop? Maybe a new appliance or piece of furniture?

If you think it's time to clean out a drawer or closet, or if you've upgraded your stuff, don't throw those items away – donate or recycle them instead!

You can sell or give away items online using castanet, kijiji, or other such sites. There are also several organizations in the Okanagan that accept used items in good condition, and some will even pick them up! Critteraid and the Summerland Health Care Auxiliary Thrift Shop are two local organizations that accept donations at their locations. Big Brothers & Big Sisters of the Okanagan pick up bags and boxes, and Habitat for Humanity Okanagan and Kiwanis Club may take large items such as appliances and furniture. Search online for more options for your items.

Electronics and small household appliances can be recycled at the Summerland landfill at no charge. Same with batteries, lightbulbs, and strings of Christmas lights. Before you throw something away, remember to reuse, donate, or recycle wherever possible!

Christmas Tree Pick Up

With a donation to the 2018 Dry Grad class you can have your Christmas Tree picked up from your house by the Summerland Fire Department and 2018 Grads. Carry on the Christmas Spirit and do a good deed for Dry Grad 2018 and the environment. Trees will be chipped and composted.

Pick ups will take place on Sunday, January 7th and Sunday, January 14th, 2018.

Please call the Fire Dept. 250-404-4087 or email sfd@summerland.ca to book a pick up.

