

We Want Your “Chicken Feed Back”

We want your feedback on a proposed bylaw that will allow chickens to be kept in residential zones. Currently, residents are permitted to keep chickens only on properties that are zoned agricultural or country residential (acreage). A Backyard Chicken Bylaw, which would allow single family dwellings and duplexes to house chicken hens, was presented to Council on August 24th. Council would like to receive input from Summerland residents before final consideration of the bylaw is given.

Popularity of raising backyard chickens in an urban environment has increased and a number of BC municipalities have adopted similar bylaws. Residents like to be able to produce fresh eggs, reduce waste to the landfill (kitchen scraps are fed to chickens), enhance their compost for gardens and to educate their children about food origin and sustainability.

In developing the bylaw, the District attempted to address many of the concerns residents may have. Here are a few key regulations that are in the bylaw:

- Up to 5 chickens permitted per property
- Roosters are not allowed
- Chickens cannot run at large
- Chickens are for personal use only - the sale of eggs or meat is prohibited
- Chickens cannot be slaughtered on the property
- Deceased chickens cannot be buried on the property
- A single coop must be built and maintained and adhere to certain size and location specifications
- Food must be stored securely to prevent attracting vermin

We want to hear from you. A copy of the draft bylaw is available on our website at www.summerland.ca/chickens or at Municipal Hall. Do you have any concerns or modifications you would like to see to the proposed bylaw?

Please mail or drop off letters to Municipal Hall, email your comments to kkarn@summerland.ca or fax them to 250-494-1415 by September 25th, 2015.



Watering Wisely

Everyone needs to make an effort to reduce water use and preserve our precious resource. Small changes can make a big difference. Here are some simple measures residents can take to conserve water and save money:

Inside the House

- Don't leave water running while washing vegetables, brushing your teeth, shaving or washing dishes
- Take shorter showers
- When doing laundry or using a dishwasher, always have full loads (energy efficient appliances are best)
- Fix any leaky faucets

Outside the House

- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting to help shade grass roots and help hold in moisture
- Avoid frequent watering as that promotes shallow roots
- Make sure sprinklers are not watering the sidewalk or driveway
- Check for leaks
- To estimate how much water you use on your lawn, place an empty tuna can out as you water. A full can means you have applied about 1" of water which is all your lawn needs per week.

The District of Summerland has reduced watering of municipally owned property.

Stage 2 Watering Schedule

With the Province declaring the Okanagan Valley in drought Level 4 (the highest rating possible), Summerland has moved to Stage 2 Watering Restrictions and is encouraging residents to conserve water.

Watering can be done before 9am or after 6pm on your designated days.

Even numbered addresses - Sunday and Thursday

Odd numbered addresses - Saturday and Tuesday

You may use micro-irrigation, drip irrigation or a hose with a shut-off nozzle to water trees, shrubs or vegetables on any day at any time.



Agricultural Water Meter Information Statements

Statements were recently sent out to inform agricultural users of their water consumption.

Consumption information will be updated periodically and subsequent statements will be mailed. The District is providing this information as a tool for agricultural users as optimum water management benefits everyone.

Agricultural metered water rates are a priority of Council with intentions of having the rates in place for the 2016 watering season. The District wants your input so please watch for advance notices advising of upcoming community consultations.

A Few Council Highlights...

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.

- Council agreed to establish a **Community Heritage Register** that identifies real property that is considered by the local government to be heritage property. The Lakeside Presbyterian Church on Butler Street will be the first property to be included in this register.
- The **Summerland RCMP** provided a summary of the first two quarters of 2015. Sgt. Lacroix reported that property crimes have increased from Osoyoos to Westbank and there has been an increase in theft from vehicles for the first half of 2015.
- Council received a report on a debriefing meeting held with staff and FortisBC regarding the **July 8, 2015 power outage**. The meeting helped the District to better understand the situation and to discuss ways to handle outages in the future. Council will meet with FortisBC senior management at UBCM to explore means to ensure a reliable supply of electricity is provided to the residents of Summerland.
- A **Park and Trail Naming** policy that provides guidelines for choosing names was approved.
- A Development Variance Permit to allow a swimming pool to be located in the front yard of **17016 Logie Road** was approved due to its irregular lot shape.
- Staff were directed by Council to work on establishing a **skateboard park** committee and to bring back a proposed format and terms of reference to an upcoming Council meeting.



Summerland has 24 dedicated firefighters in total - here are a few of them.

HARD WORKING FIREFIGHTERS

It has been a hot, dry summer and the Summerland Fire Department has seen an increase in reports over last year. In 2014 from January to August, there were 177 incidents compared to 200 incidents responded to in 2015.



Dale Meadows Bike Path Funding Granted

The BC government will be providing Summerland with \$68,000 towards a BikeBC project - the Dale Meadows Bike Path. The bike path will be 140 metres in length from the south end of Sinclair Road to the Dale Meadows Sports Complex. A priority for Council is to provide safe walking and biking trails for our residents and visitors.

ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX SALE

10:00am Monday, September 28th, 2015
Council Chambers
13211 Henry Avenue



Each year, on the last Monday of September, municipalities are required to have a tax sale of all properties with three years of outstanding taxes. The addresses and upset prices (minimum amount required) will be listed on our website and in the local paper by the middle of September. Please visit our website or call the Tax Department at 250-494-6451 for further information on what is required if you are interested in bidding on a property.



The Terry Fox Run will take place on Sunday, September 20th, 2015. Registration begins at 10:15am and the race will start at 11:00am at the Summerland Aquatic & Fitness Center on Kelly Avenue. Run or walk a 5k, 3k or 1k route. Pledge forms are available at the Aquatic & Fitness Center. For more information contact the organizers Heather or Mike 250-488-3415 or email: terryfoxrunsummerland@gmail.com.



Electrical Utility Rate Changes

As you are aware, electrical utility rates increased effective July 1, 2015. The increase was based on information forecasts received from Fortis BC. Additional information was recently received with the actual increase falling slightly below projections. As a result, your August electrical utility billing rates have been reduced with lower electrical utility rates in place for the remainder of 2015. Please contact the Utilities Department if you have any further questions.

What are your Thoughts on Culture in Summerland?

The Cultural Plan Task Force is working on a cultural plan for our community and would like to have input from our residents. Please take a moment and complete the survey on the front page of our website at www.summerland.ca. Copies are also available at Municipal Hall.