BALD RANGE WILDFIRE RECOVERY NEWSLETTER

October 30, 2026

DISTRICT OF SUMMERLAND

You are receiving this Bald Range Wildfire recovery newsletter as part of the District of Summerland's efforts to support residents who were impacted by the wildfire this summer. This newsletter provides resources and information about recovery activities and programs, now and into the future – you can find this and past recovery newsletters on our website.

To request to receive this email newsletter, please email recoverymanager@summerland.ca.

Taking care of your mental health during recovery

As winter approaches here in Summerland, we recognize that recovery from the wildfire continues to be challenging for many in our community. The emotional impacts of a disaster don't always appear right away. In the months following a fire, the initial urgency can give way to the ongoing realities of loss, uncertainty, displacement and rebuilding. As routines change and winter nears, feelings of stress, sadness, anxiety or exhaustion may become more noticeable, even for those who felt they were coping well earlier on.

Free counselling available – OneSky Community Resources Counselling continues to offer free counselling for people affected by the wildfire. If you or someone in your household is struggling, confidential support is available to help you navigate the emotional challenges of recovery – **email counselling@oneskycommunity.com or call 250-487-3359.**

Recovery takes time, and everyone's experience is different. Whether you lost your home, were evacuated or experienced other impacts from the wildfire, it's important to look after your mental health as well as your practical recovery needs.

You can find more mental health resources and supports on our wildfire recovery webpage.

EMAIL: counselling@oneskycommunity.com | PHONE: 250-487-3359

Holiday events for wildfire-impacted families

The holiday season may look and feel different this year for people impacted by the wildfire. Several community events, both taking place on Saturday, November 21, are aiming to bring some comfort and joy during this season.

Be sure to register in advance to help organizers prepare for these holiday events.

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A Gift of Warmth – a holiday gathering

Families who experienced a total loss of their home are invited to **A Gift of Warmth**, a free holiday gathering which will offer free holiday gifts for those who attend, including new toys, preserves, baking, knitting, and a handmade quilt for each family, and an opportunity to connect. There will be a colouring contest for kids, and coffee, tea and treats will be available.

When: Saturday, November 21, 11 am–4 pm

Where: Summerland Waterfront Resort, 13011 Lakeshore Drive South

Please RSVP by November 9 by phone to Adrienne (250-809-6322) or Julie (250-488-9761).

Christmas Restored – a free Christmas market

Four local churches are hosting **Christmas Restored**, a free Christmas market for families who lost their homes. Families are invited to browse and choose decorations, including lights, ornaments, stockings, wreaths and more, all at no cost. Each family will also receive a brand-new artificial Christmas tree. Everyone is welcome to stay and spend time together – warm drinks, treats and live music will be available for all to enjoy.

When: Saturday, November 21, 11 am–4 pm | **Where:** Summerland Baptist Church

Advance registration is required – click here to register by Sunday, November 8.

For questions, contact Melissa Taylor at melissa@summerlandbaptist.ca or 250-494-3881.

CHRISTMAS RESTORED: MORE INFORMATION | REGISTER HERE

Important reminders for all impacted residents

Free one-on-one recovery support now available – a Recovery Specialist is available to provide free, personal recovery support to households who lost their homes. Find out more information here, and email recovery@samaritan.ca or call Kelly Dixon (403-614-8848) or Kandy White (236-622-2000) to access this one-on-one support.

If your property has wildfire debris, we want to hear from you – every property is different, and hearing from property owners will help us understand cleanup needs. Please contact debrismanager@summerland.ca or 236-915-2002.

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Complete an information sharing form – if you have not yet, please fill out and submit this information sharing form, by email to recoverymanager@summerland.ca, or in person to Municipal Hall or the Recovery Centre. Completing a form will enable the District of Summerland to connect you with available recovery resources, funding and support.

Additional measures to support recovery – check out our recovery webpage for up-to-date information on Summerland's temporary measures to support the rebuilding and recovery process, including reduced permit fees and waivers, and temporary changes to bylaws regarding the use of RVs and shipping containers.

RECOVERY WEBPAGE WITH MORE DETAILS HERE

United Way BC Local Love Fund grants now available

United Way BC is now offering Local Love microgrants of up to $1,000 to help Summerland residents bring community-building ideas to life in the aftermath of the Bald Range wildfire.

All local community members are invited to think of a project that could help foster connection in the Summerland area. Some ideas include a neighbourhood gathering, community lunch, holiday celebration, children's event or cleanup project. When community comes together, it creates a safer, more inclusive and more resilient place to live.

Applicants must be 18 or older, or have an adult sponsor. Pass this along to others who may be interested – you do not need to have been directly impacted by the wildfire to apply. Reach out to Magda Kapp at United Way BC (magdak@uwbc.ca) to discuss your idea.

EMAIL: magdak@uwbc.ca | MORE INFORMATION HERE

More community events & opportunities

In this section we will share upcoming and ongoing community events and opportunities for those impacted by the wildfires. *NEW* items were not included on the last newsletter.

- *NEW* **Bald Range Wildfire Story-Sharing Afternoons** on Nov 1 and Nov 8 1–3:30 pm at the Summerland Community Centre – gather to share experiences, reflect on recovery, and connect with others. Participation by donation, includes refreshment. Pre-registration at volunteers.scca@gmail.com or 250-490-6858. More info here.

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- *NEW* **Free community lunches** hosted by NeighbourLink Summerland on the 3rd Thursday of each month, 12–1 pm at Summerland Community Centre, all welcome!
- *NEW* **United Way BC Emergency Resource list** shares up-to-date contacts, resources, programs and supports available for those impacted by the wildfire.
- **Free Mental Health First Aid Essentials course** on November 7 hosted by the YMCA – email ymind@ymcasibc.ca or call 250-317-3279 for more information.
- **Group support for managing stress, struggles, and anxieties for teens** Nov 3–Dec 15 – info sessions on Oct 20 and 27 – email ymind@ymcasibc.ca or call 250-317-3279.
- **Free community dinner for families who lost their homes** on November 28 – RSVP by November 19 (st.stephensummerland@shaw.ca or 250-494-3466). More info here.
- **No-cost YMCA Family Memberships** available to 200 families affected by wildfires. Contact the YMCA for details, or find more info here.

Stay connected & access resources

Visit the Bald Range Wildfire recovery page on www.summerland.ca for recovery guidance, measures implemented by the District, and other community supports available.

Visit the in-person Recovery Centre from Tuesday–Friday 10:00 am–5:00 pm and Saturday from 10:00 am–1:00 pm at Giant's Head Elementary School, 10503 Prairie Valley Road. Days and hours of operation may vary – check the website before visiting or call 250-863-2946. At our recovery centre, be sure to connect with the Canadian Red Cross and Samaritan's Purse.

Questions or need support? Contact recoverymanager@summerland.ca.

If you are not interested in receiving more information from the District of Summerland about this wildfire recovery, you can email us to unsubscribe anytime.

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