



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

District of Summerland – October 1, 2025

Delegation – Municipal Protected Areas Project – Representatives from BC Nature presented information to council on the Municipal Protected Areas Project (MPAP), as part of the Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database, aiming to support Canada's commitment to conserve 30% of its lands and waters by 2030. It emphasized the role of municipalities in protecting local ecosystems, registering existing protected lands, and identifying new areas for conservation. The presentation highlighted the benefits for local governments, including validation of conservation policies, increased visibility, and collaboration with nature organizations. Examples of successful registrations in 2024 include protected areas in Lions Bay, Metro Vancouver, Delta, and Bowen Island. Council directed staff to work with BC Nature to assess eligible District of Summerland Parks and report back to Council for final consideration at a future Council meeting.

Delegation – S.O.S. Wheelchair Trail Society - Council received a presentation from a representative of the South Okanagan Similkameen (S.O.S.) Wheelchair Trail Society, who highlighted the organization's efforts to promote and develop wheelchair-accessible trails throughout the Okanagan region. The Society was established to advocate for individuals who use wheelchairs and to improve accessibility in natural spaces. The representative requested Council's support in making the final section of the trail to the summit of Giant's Head Mountain Park wheelchair accessible. Additionally, the Society expressed interest in enhancing accessibility to docks, enabling individuals in wheelchairs to participate in recreational activities such as fishing.

2025 Capital Projects Update – Council received a Capital Projects Update, which outlined progress on three major infrastructure initiatives: the Wharton Street Revitalization, Prairie Valley Road and Watermain Upgrades, and the Primary Clarifier project. All projects are progressing well, with Prairie Valley nearing completion and Wharton Street and the Primary Clarifier on track despite minor delays. Staff are actively managing budgets, timelines, and public communication, with efforts to mitigate impacts on residents and businesses. The Capital Project Update ensures continued transparency and oversight as these strategic priority projects enhance core infrastructure and community vibrancy.

Non-Profit Organizations – Permissive Tax Exemptions - Council approved permissive tax exemptions for 14 non-profit organizations for the 2026–2029 fiscal years. A total of 16 applications were reviewed, with exemptions categorized into three tiers based on public accessibility, financial stability, and alignment with Council priorities. Adjustments were made for organizations conducting commercial activities, and the total estimated exemption amount is approximately \$290,295, representing 2.32% of general property taxes. This decision continues Council's commitment to supporting community organizations

while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Staff will prepare the required bylaws for Council's consideration and submit them to the BC Assessment Authority before the October 31, 2025 deadline.

Verbal Update – BC Ambulance - Council received information from a senior regional representative from BC ambulance who indicated that currently Summerland is well-served by an ambulance hub in the community that is currently only utilizing approximately 10%-15% of assigned capacity. Council heard that other communities such as those in the lower mainland are utilizing approximately 70% of their capacity.

Delegation – Janice & Mike Pim – A delegation presented to Council advocating for the Summerland Fire Department to be mandated as First Responders under BC Emergency Medical Assistants (EMA) licensing. The presentation highlighted perceived gaps in medical emergency coverage, especially during ambulance delays, and emphasized that many comparable communities already dispatch their fire departments for medical response. It outlined the department's existing training, staffing, and equipment, and proposed a plan for implementing First Responder services.

Delegation – Summerland Junior Hockey Team – A member from the Summerland Junior Hockey Team Committee presented to a proposal to council about a community-owned Junior B hockey team in Summerland. The presentation emphasized local player development, economic benefits, and community engagement and highlighted how revenues from tickets, sponsorships, and merchandise would stay in town, boosting local businesses and public facility use. The team would offer social and cultural value through affordable entertainment, volunteer opportunities, and charitable events. The Summerland Junior Hockey Team Committee requested Council's endorsement, reduced rates for ice and dressing room rentals, and a collaborative partnership for facility scheduling. Subsequently, Council endorsed the proposal to support a new community-owned Junior B hockey team in Summerland as an expansion team with the Kootenay International Junior Hockey League. The District will prioritize ice allocation for the team at the Summerland Arena and provide access to the arena trailer starting in the 2026–2027 season. Staff will continue working with the Summerland Junior Hockey Committee and return to Council with further updates on financial implications and facility planning.

Note: These highlights are intended to provide a brief summary of recent Council proceedings. The summary is not inclusive of all, agenda items. For a detailed account of the full agenda, including staff reports, other supporting documents and official meeting minutes, please consult the District of Summerland website at <https://www.summerland.ca> or contact Corporate Services at 250-404-4037



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