

District of Summerland Newsletter

February 2026

Every year the provincial government provides \$13 million in dedicated funding to help 14 small resort municipalities pay for infrastructure and amenities crucial to the tourism sector. It is acknowledged that without this support, these towns would not have the means to provide key infrastructure needed to advance the industry that drives their local economies. The challenges facing small resort towns, where high visitor demand places a strain on infrastructure beyond what their local tax bases can support, is similar to the challenges facing small agricultural towns like Summerland. Our tax bases are simply too small to support widely dispersed infrastructure, including many miles of roads, irrigation water systems, and flood control infrastructure.

For several years, Council has been pointing out to the Province that the sustainability of agriculture cannot be separated from the sustainability of the infrastructure needed to service agricultural lands. Following constructive meetings at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention in September, Council has submitted a proposal to the government to create an Agricultural Municipality Initiative (AMI) modelled on the successful Resort Municipality Initiative (RMI). Just as the RMI is designed to support small, tourism-based municipalities to build their tourism infrastructure, the idea of an AMI program would be to help small, agriculture-based municipalities build infrastructure in support of agriculture and food security.

All of us in Summerland are proud of our agricultural roots and the District sees itself as a partner in protecting farmland. However, it needs to be recognized that the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) exists to provide food for all British Columbians and it is therefore reasonable to expect the provincial government to assist with the infrastructure needed to ensure the sustainability of agriculture.

~ Mayor Doug Holmes

Ongoing projects

Wharton Street revitalization project

A new public washroom has been installed in Veterans Memorial Square as part of the Wharton Street Critical Infrastructure Project (pictured top right). Built in Canada, the prefabricated facility will be open year-round. It is fully accessible and includes infant change stations, as well as a water fountain with a bottle-filling station. The washroom is expected to open before the spring—stay tuned!



Victoria Road Phase 2—Dunham Crescent to Prairie Valley Road

Construction on Victoria Road to extend the road upgrades and multi-use pathway from Dunham Crescent to the oval-about at Prairie Valley Road will begin this spring. This project also includes pedestrian safety improvements along Dale Meadows Road to the sports fields and watermain upgrades to help support water system separation. The District received grant funding for portions of the watermain work and the multi-use pathway (pictured left). Stay tuned as we get closer to spring for construction notices.



Wastewater treatment plant primary clarifier

Backfilling around the primary clarifier is approximately 75% complete (pictured middle right) and much of the yard piping between the new structures and the existing infrastructure has been installed. HVAC and sludge pumps have been installed into the pump gallery and await electrical connection. The mechanism installation on the clarifier and connections to piping within the existing treatment plant are underway.



Trout Creek low flow supplementation line

In collaboration with the provincial Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen and the Okanagan Nation Alliance, the District of Summerland installed a supplemental water line (pictured bottom right) to Trout Creek from the Emergency Wells located at the Summerland Rodeo Grounds. This new infrastructure will provide emergency Environmental Flows for Trout Creek in the event of water scarcity.



Contamination in curbside collection

Most residents are careful about what they place out for curbside collection. Unfortunately, contamination with inappropriate or dangerous materials is a major issue. It raises the cost of recycling and composting, degrades end products, can damage equipment and even leads to injury. Scrap metal, construction and renovation materials, food packaging in your green Food/Yard Waste cart, and stuffing recycling into other recycling are some of the major contaminants.

- **Metal items that can be placed in your blue recycling cart** - aluminum containers such as cleaned-out food cans and lids, clean aluminum foil, foil pie plates, baking trays, and take-out containers, and empty aluminum spray containers. Steel containers are also accepted in your blue recycling cart such as cleaned-out food and pet food cans and lids, metal spray containers and thin-gauge metal tins (e.g. cookie tins). Other metal items can be recycled at the Landfill & Recycling Depot for free.
- **Construction and Renovation Materials.** Home renovation projects produce waste which cannot be collected from homes. Wood, tile, drywall or other building materials need to be taken to the landfill for disposal. Tiles, flooring and drywall from older homes can contain asbestos which can harm you, your family and workers. Check with the Landfill on how these materials can be disposed of safely.
- **Food Packaging and Glass in Food/Yard Waste cart is unacceptable.** Food packaging is a major issue for composting as plastics and glass get broken up and become impossible to separate. This contaminates compost used to grow food in Summerland. Glass jars, plastic bags and foam packaging should never be placed in your green cart even if contaminated with food. These materials can be cleaned out and dropped off at the recycling area at the landfill or placed in the garbage if unclean.
- **Stuffing Recycling into Other Recycling.** Please do not place recycling inside other recycling. It makes paper, boxboard, metal or tin cans, and hard plastics too difficult to sort. Please place all acceptable recycling in your cart loosely and free of each other.

The Summerland Landfill and Recycling Depot accepts materials that can't be collected in your carts. Visit www.summerland.ca for details or call Works & Infrastructure at 250-494-0431 for more information.

For further details on what can be placed in your curbside recycling visit www.recyclebc.ca or contact the Recycling Council of BC at 1-800-667-4321.

Christmas tree pick up fundraiser

Thank you to all Summerland residents who participated in the Christmas tree pick up campaign. The Summerland Fire Department and 2026 grad class raised \$2,522.00! All trees that were picked up were chipped for compost.



Invasive trees in Summerland—Black Locust

In this final article in our invasive tree series, we highlight Black Locust. This species can reach 25 metres tall. Spines can be found on young trees and new shoots. Mature trees have thick, deeply grooved, grey-brown bark. In spring, they produce clusters of fragrant, white flowers. Red-brown seedpods form in the fall and remain through winter.



Black Locust spreads aggressively through lateral roots, forming dense stands. This species increases the nitrogen, phosphorus and calcium in the soil, creating favourable conditions for other invasive plants. The sharp spines can cause injury, and the tree contains toxins harmful to humans and horses.

Effective control options include cut-stump herbicide treatment or cutting followed by stump grinding. Bulldozing, mowing and brush cutting can help but require repeat treatment. Anyone managing invasive trees should seek professional advice. Learn more at www.oiso.ca/species/black-locust/

Reminders: upcoming 2026 election

The next general local election is on October 17, 2026. If you are interested in running, check the District's website for key dates and details

www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/elections. Register to vote on the Provincial voters list elections.bc.ca/resources/voters-list/the-provincial-voters-list/.

Planning & Development



Building Permit
HUB



Beginning on February 3, the District has joined municipalities from across BC using Building Permit Hub, a new provincial platform that makes it faster and easier to apply for building permits.

Designed for residents, builders, and designers, Building Permit Hub streamlines the entire permitting process through a user-friendly digital interface. It helps ensure submissions are complete, code-compliant, and ready for review, right from the start.

Protecting workers from asbestos

Asbestos exposure is the leading cause of work-related deaths in BC. To reduce risk, the Summerland Landfill requires a Declaration form for any load that may contain asbestos. Anyone bringing in drywall must show the date stamp or provide a WorkSafeBC approved clearance letter. Homeowners doing small renovations in pre-1990 homes without a clearance letter may use 6-mil bags (available at the landfill) to dispose of potential asbestos-containing materials. Small amounts can be accepted by appointment and must follow the landfill's acceptance policy. Materials requiring a declaration include:

- Drywall, tape, & mud
- Plaster & plasterboard
- Vinyl flooring & leveling compound
- Concrete pipe, stucco and concrete siding
- Attic insulation
- Ceiling tiles

The Declaration form is available online or at the landfill. For more information, contact works@summerland.ca or 250-494-0431 before starting renovation or demolition work.

Business and dog licence renewals

Business and dog licences expired on December 31, 2025. All renewal payments were due by January 31, 2026.

Payment methods include:

- In person at Municipal Hall (13211 Henry Ave, Summerland) from Tuesday to Friday, 8:15 AM to 5:00 PM (payment methods include interac, cheque, cash, Visa, or Mastercard (third party fees apply for all credit card payments));
- Online via your online banking;
- Credit card online for dog licence www.summerland.ca/city-services/dog-licensing-control;
- Credit card online for business licence www.summerland.ca/business-economy/business-licensing.

A penalty of \$10 will be added to all dog licences renewed after the due date.

A 10% penalty will be added to all business licences outstanding accounts on March 2. A further 10% penalty will be added to all outstanding accounts on April 1.

For dog complaints, please contact Summerland Dog Control Services

Email: dogs@penticton.ca

Phone: 250-492-3801

February 14 & 15 2026

Celebrate together with exciting activities, FREE swimming, FREE skating and unforgettable moments.

2:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Saturday, 14 February

5:15 PM - 7:00 PM
Sunday, 15 February



FREE SWIM & SKATE
ADMISSIONS
SPONSORED BY:



www.summerland.ca

250-494-0447

recreation@summerland.ca

Snow course survey

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 are compared to the historical average. Snowpack readings from January 1 measured 105% of the historical average for the Summerland Reservoir and 116% for Isintok Lake. For further information, please visit the District's website at www.summerland.ca/city-services/water/snow-course-survey.

Be a "Snow Angel" this winter

Nominate your Snow Angel online at www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/snow-angel for a chance to win a prize and receive a certificate of recognition.

Pothole reporting

Current weather conditions—heavy moisture, snowmelt, and frequent freeze/thaw cycles—are causing potholes. Water seeps into cracks, freezes, expands, and breaks apart the asphalt.

The best repair method is to cut out damaged asphalt, replace the base gravel, and apply hot mix asphalt. However, hot mix isn't available in winter, so crews use cold mix, which is less durable but helps seal the surface and protect the road base until proper repairs can be made.

To report potholes or submit road requests, email works@summerland.ca or call 250-494-0431.

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

Instagram: www.instagram.com/districtofsummerland/

Sign up for the monthly newsletter online:

www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/newsletter

Check out the Mayor's column available on the District's website:

www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/mayor-council/mayor's-minute

Municipal Hall hours of operation: Tuesday - Friday from 8:15 AM to 5:00 PM. Closed Mondays and Statutory Holidays.