



Summerland Council has approved a 6.36% property tax rate increase for 2026 that will see a typical single-family home assessed at just over \$860,000 pay about \$135 more in property taxes than they did last year. Of that \$135 increase, \$16.57 is for new debt payments for the Wharton Street and Victoria Road upgrades. The increase takes into account increased labour costs driven by union collective bargaining agreements and increased contractual costs such as the RCMP agreement. To address a contractual increase for curbside waste collection, Council has increased the monthly base cart fee by \$1.34.

All local governments are facing increased costs. Despite this, Summerland Council continues to follow its philosophy of ensuring we have amongst the lowest residential property taxes in the region. That typical \$860,000 home in Summerland still pays less in property taxes than a property of the same value in Kelowna, Peachland, Vernon or Penticton.

While many local governments have been adding staff to deal with increased responsibilities, the number of Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) at the District of Summerland remains the same today as it did four years ago. We're also keeping taxes down by reducing service levels such as road line painting and snow clearing. We will, however, continue to invest in critical infrastructure including road paving. This year we have budgeted \$8.5 million on 57 capital projects, which will be funded from reserves or grants and will not require any new borrowing.

~ Mayor Doug Holmes

Ongoing Projects

Wharton Street Revitalization Project

With the new year-round washroom facility now open, the Wharton Street Critical Infrastructure Project is nearly complete. Once the final landscape planting is finished, the District will welcome the community to a Grand Opening. Stay tuned for details!



Wastewater Treatment Plant Clarifier

Since the last update, much progress has been made on the project – bringing it back into the estimated completion timeline. All process mechanical pumps have been installed, much of the inside stainless steel piping and most of the metal of the railings/guardrails are in place. The civil piping installation has been nominally completed and the FRP (fibreglass reinforced plastic) cover over the clarifier has been installed. Electrical installation and termination are the next major hurdle before planned commissioning later this spring.

Victoria Road Watermain Upgrade and Multi-use Pathway – Dunham Crescent to Prairie Valley Road

The Victoria Road Watermain Upgrade and Multi-use Pathway Project includes significant watermain upgrades, pedestrian safety improvements, extension of the multi-use pathway and road restoration along Victoria Road and Dale Meadows Road. Starting in March, this project is scheduled to be completed by early summer. Please be patient with traffic control personnel who will be onsite to safely navigate pedestrians and vehicular traffic through the construction site.

Snowpack Readings and Notice to Summerland Irrigators

Snowpack readings are taken monthly from January until the snow is melted. Average water equivalent (amount of water contained in the snow) are recorded and compared to the historical average, measured over 63 years.

Snowpack readings from March 1 measured 76% of the historical average for the Summerland Reservoir (Headwaters) and 63% for Isintok Lake. For further details, please visit the Summerland Snow Survey webpage www.summerland.ca/city-services/utilities/water/snow-course-survey.

Summerland is currently in Drought Level 4 – Extremely Dry Conditions, which includes adjustments to agricultural and large-user water allocations under the Summerland Drought Response Plan. At this level, agricultural, cemetery, park, playfield, and golf course allocations are adjusted from 800mm to 560mm, and greenhouse allocations from 1,727mm to 1,209mm. THIS WILL IMPACT THE COST OF WATER for some users. Water users are encouraged to review their anticipated needs and plan for the upcoming season as the District works to protect long-term water supply and environmental flows. Please review the following documents and presentations to Council in November 2025.

[Link to Council report](#)

[Snow Course Survey Isintok Lake Video](#)

[Link to presentation](#)

The Works Division will begin turning irrigation services on the week of April 13.

Be Safe—Call or Click Before You Dig

Whether your project is big or small . . . call or click before you dig! You may be planning to install fence posts, placing a foundation for a deck, planting bushes or trees or even building a house, if you are disturbing the ground, you may run the risk of cutting into an underground service that may cause potential for loss of life, personal injury, damage to property, or disruption of service(s). Please call 1-800-474-6886 or visit bc1c.ca at least three working days in advance of your project to request underground locates, the service is free.



One-Day Recycling Depot – Saturday, April 18

The District of Summerland will be holding a One-Day Recycling Depot at the Summerland Arena Recycling Compound, 8820 Jubilee Road from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM Saturday, April 18. The next One-Day Recycling Depot will take place near the end of September.



One-Day Recycling Depots accepts glass jars, foam packaging, plastic bags, other flexible plastic packaging, residential batteries, lightbulbs, electronics, TVs, and small appliances. Staff will be on hand to answer questions. These recyclable materials can also be dropped off for free at the Recycling Depot located at the Summerland Landfill year-round when the Landfill is open.

Please note that hazardous materials like paint, used oil, residential pesticides, residential flammable materials and scrap metal items are not accepted at the One-Day Recycling Depot. Bring these bulky or hazardous items directly to the Landfill for free recycling.

Spring Sweeping

The Works crews will be heading out soon to sweep Summerland's 330 lane kilometres of roads, the equivalent of driving to Greenwood and back! Crews start in the lower town area and work their way up to the higher elevations. Sweeping takes approximately two months to complete and is a two-step process as follows:



Step 1 - Sand laden areas are cleaned with a front broom articulating sweeper, loader and dump truck.

Step 2 - Remaining sand particles are cleaned with a vacuum sweeper. This is a slower process as it takes several passes to cover the same amount of road area.

If you see or hear the sweeper in your neighbourhood, please give us a helping hand by moving your vehicle if it is parked on the street.

Sani-station reopening in March

Weather dependent, the Sani-Station located at the Trout Creek pullout will reopen the week of March 9.

Spring/Summer Recreation Guide is Live!

The sun is shining and spring programs are getting ready to start. Check out the new Spring/Summer recreation guide to find all our available programs. Pre-school, youth, adults and senior, we have programs suited for everyone's needs. Registration opened **March 3** at 6:00AM.

Register online at summerland.perfectmind.com, in person at the Aquatic Centre or over the phone at 250-494-0447.



50th Anniversary of the Aquatic & Fitness Centre and Arena and Curling Club

Join Summerland Recreation in celebrating our 50th anniversary of the Summerland Arena and Summerland Aquatic and Fitness Centre. On Friday, March 27 enjoy **FREE Admission** to our 1:30 – 3:00 PM Public Skate and our 1:00 – 2:55 PM Public Swim. Cupcakes will be available on a first come first serve basis. Come down and share your stories of the buildings, visit with friends, and enjoy 50 years of our two amazing facilities. More information at facebook.com/SummerlandRec.

Know What You Grow!

March is a good time of year to remind gardeners about being PlantWise. Unfortunately, there is currently no provincial regulation that bans the sale of invasive plants in BC. Invasive plants (potted plants and seeds) are still being sold, in stores and online. Examples include: Russian olive, myrtle spurge, bachelor's buttons, teasel, English ivy, yellow flag iris and periwinkle. It is also important to use wildflower mixes with caution. One of the main problems is the assumption that a packet of wildflower seeds contains seeds of flowers that are native to the local area. This is usually not the case. Avoid purchasing wildflower mixes unless you are buying from a reputable plant nursery that has collected seed locally. Learn which plants are invasive, and what alternatives to grow instead. In the Okanagan we have produced our own guidebook, available online at www.oasiss.ca/homeowners.



By undertaking responsible gardening practices, gardeners can help decrease the impact of invasive plants while still achieving vibrant and dynamic gardens.

Giant's Head Elementary School Playgrounds

Council has endorsed an agreement with School District 67 to ensure the Giant's Head Elementary School playgrounds remain open for public use.



School District 67 has issued a one-year Use Agreement allowing the District of Summerland to occupy and maintain the playgrounds, beginning **February 1, 2026**.

The District appreciates the cooperation of School District 67 and is pleased to keep this important play space available for residents.

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.

Vending Opportunities

Dale Meadows Sports Complex – Seeking a seasonal concession operator

The District of Summerland invites applications from individuals or business entities that are interested in operating a food and beverage concession business in an existing concession building at Dale Meadows Sports Complex.

The Licensee will be solely responsible for all operations of the concession and will be operating it as their own business. The Licensee will pay a fee to the District for a Licence of Occupation, in consideration of the opportunity to use the concession building and equipment for their business of selling food and beverages at the park.

Application deadline is **March 15, 2026**.

For more information, and to download the application and agreement, visit

www.summerland.ca/parks-recreation/parks-recreation-vending-opportunities/parks---concession-opportunities

Food Truck Beach Vending –

Applications now open

The District of Summerland is accepting applications for food truck or food cart vendors to provide seasonal food and beverage services at our local beaches (Peach Orchard Beach, Rotary Beach, and Powell Beach).



Deadline for the first application review is **April 1, 2026**. Applications received after that date may be considered if space permits.

For more information, and to download the application and agreement, visit

www.summerland.ca/parks-recreation/parks-recreation-vending-opportunities/beach-vending-opportunities

Playground Resurfacing

Mild weather has allowed the crew to install fresh surfacing on playgrounds for safety and fun at Memorial, Dale Meadows, Powell Beach, Julia Street Kinsmen, and Kinsmen Parks and Peach Orchard Campground.



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/.

Carbon Monoxide Safety

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless toxic gas produced by incomplete fuel burning. CO alarms can alert you to danger.

Prevent It

- Don't use outdoor equipment indoors
- Move vehicles/tools out of garages right after starting
- Keep fireplace dampers open; close only when fire and ashes are fully out
- Use certified equipment properly

Symptoms

- Headache, nausea, drowsiness
- Poor judgment, coordination loss
- Symptoms improve after leaving the building

If You Suspect CO

- Get everyone (and pets) outside and ventilate
- Seek medical help if symptomatic
- Call **911** or FortisBC: **1-800-663-9911**
- Don't re-enter until cleared safe; have appliances inspected