

A Message from Mayor Peter Waterman



The first year as Mayor of Summerland has been both challenging and rewarding. With all six councillors elected to their first term, it has been a year of learning and working together. I am pleased with the wisdom, energy and talent this Council possesses and proud of our accomplishments to date.

Council's first order of business was to review the growth strategy. Council withdrew the ALR application and underwent a thorough process to set new urban growth boundaries. The process was completed with an amendment to the Official Community Plan. This provides confidence for the community on the direction of residential development. The community appears poised for enhanced development. Building permits were up in 2015 by 52 percent. Several subdivisions are now in a position to sell and develop, with more in progress.

Council was successful in its application for a Build Canada grant for the Garnet Valley Water Separation project. This \$6.79 million project will proceed in 2016 along with much needed road improvements for this area. Two-thirds of the cost of the project is covered by grant funding.

Summerland's new library is a welcome addition to Main Street. Attendance at the library has surpassed all expectations.

New bylaws have been adopted to enhance the community. Smoking is no longer permitted on District owned and operated properties such as beaches and trails, busking/street performing in the downtown core is encouraged and permitted by license, and the "keeping of chickens" for personal use is allowed in residential areas.

Council recognizes the valuable contribution that volunteers make to the community. The terms of reference for most committees have been updated. A few new committees have been established - the Water Advisory Committee and the Agricultural Advisory Committee are well underway and Economic Development opportunities will be examined with the help of a Mayor's Task Force. A Cultural Task Force has been working together diligently over the past eight months and will be developing a cultural plan for council's consideration by May 30th 2016.

Improving communication to Summerland residents continues to be a main priority for council. The council meeting format now allows 15 minutes of public comment at the beginning and end of each meeting. Discussion and input is encouraged. Council will explore new opportunities to hear from the public on issues facing the District and continue to provide information in a timely manner through agendas, meetings, social media, newsletters, press releases and other available sources of communication.

Council and staff have been strengthening the District's fiscal management practices. We will continue to focus on managing the debt load as well as methods to enhance the status of the district's reserves. A thorough examination of the state of District's infrastructure will also be a council priority for 2016. Roads, facilities, the water system, electrical system, sewer infrastructure and equipment are examples of District assets that must be effectively managed. An accurate, up to date asset management plan will ensure that these assets are replaced, repaired and maintained.

Council has started off the new year with strategic planning sessions to review and determine priorities. I look forward to working with staff, Council and the community to move Summerland forward.

Council Meetings

- Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month (excluding holidays).
- Meetings are open to the public.
- The public has two opportunities to speak - 15 minutes at the beginning prior to any decisions being made and 15 minutes prior to adjournment.
- Agendas for the meetings are available the Friday before the meeting on the website and also at Municipal Hall.
- Once adopted, minutes are posted on the website.
- Shaw TV broadcasts Regular Meetings on Wednesdays and Fridays at 11:00am.
- Live recordings of the meetings can be found on our website.
- Highlights of the meetings are posted in this newsletter.

For more information regarding council meetings, please contact Jeremy Denegar, Director of Corporate Services at 250-404-4046 or email jdenegar@summerland.ca.



Say "Thanks" to your Snow Angel
 Nominate a friend or neighbour who has been a help to you this winter by shovelling your walkway. The Mayor will acknowledge them with a certificate and their name will be entered into a draw for a prize. Nomination forms are available on the website or at Municipal Hall.

Dog and Business Licence Renewals are due January 15th, 2016. If you did not receive your renewal in the mail or no longer require a dog or business licence, please let us know. Call Municipal Hall 250-494-6451 or email lschmidt@summerland.ca.



Trash Talk...2016 Curbside Garbage/Recycling/Yard Waste
 Calendars are available at Municipal Hall or on the website if you did not receive one in the mail.

Important Information for Online Utility Customers Existing and New

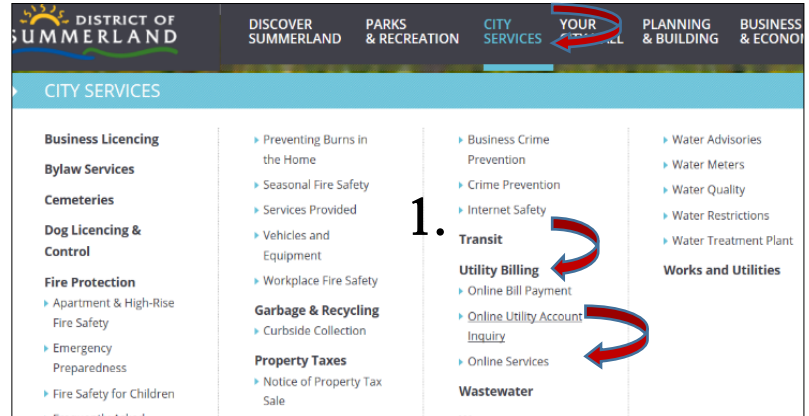
The District of Summerland has enhanced all online services available through our website. **To continue to receive utility bills by email, all existing customers will need to update their account by February 26th, 2016.**

Steps are also listed below for those who want to create a new account. Online services allow customers the ability to receive utility bills by email, receive notifications, or to simply view their accounts online. As a result of using this service you will receive your bill faster, have the convenience of viewing your accounts, leave a positive impact on the environment and save both time and money.

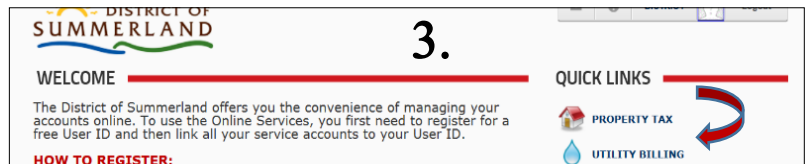
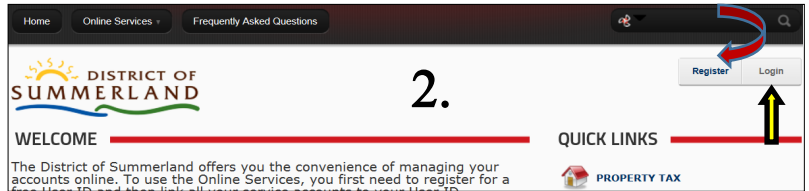
If you have an existing online account, you are not required to create a new one BUT you must access your account by February 26th, 2016 and select what services you require under this new system.

Simply log-in to your existing account (follow the steps below but on Step 2 click **Login** instead of Register). Update your utility billing preferences by selecting the “Edit” button (top left) beside UB-Utility Billing (see Steps 5 and 6 below).

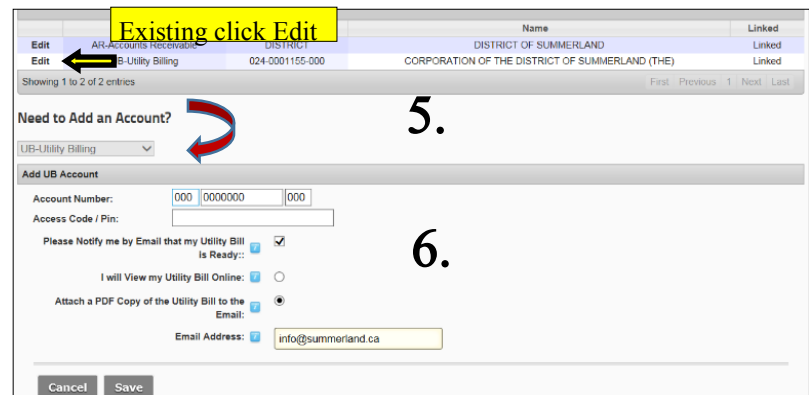
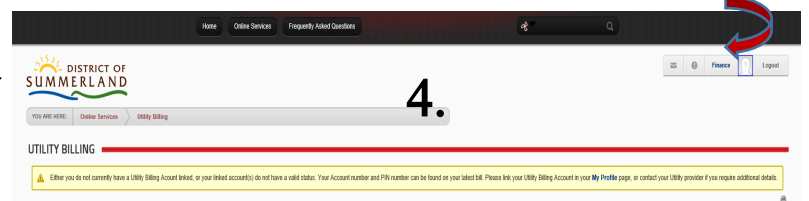
1. Visit the District of Summerland website located at www.summerland.ca. Under **City Services - Utility Billing** - select **Online Services**. You will then be directed to the new registration page.
2. New customers click the **Register** button located in the top right-hand corner to begin the registration process. Follow the prompts. You will be asked to enter a unique **User Name** and **Password**, along with a desired **Display Name** and the **email address** for delivery of your utility bills. Check the “**I am not a Robot**” button then click the **Register** button once this information has been entered to finalize the set-up.
Existing customers just need to click Login.



3. Once this registration process is complete, select **Utility Billing** under the **Quick Links** listing on top right-hand side of the screen.
4. Your **User Name** will display in the right hand corner. Click your User Name to visit your profile.
5. From here you can add an account to your profile. Select “**UB - Utility Billing**” from the drop down box under “**Need to Add an Account?**”. Enter your Account Number and Access Code / Pin, which are both located on your monthly bill (Account Number is on the top left bar, and the Access Code is in the middle bar on the right side).
Existing customers click Edit (top left).



6. Next you will have the option of editing your account set-up by selecting your preferences.



Available options:

PLEASE NOTIFY ME BY EMAIL THAT MY UTILITY BILL IS READY: Select this option to receive an e-mail notification advising the utility bill is ready to view at your convenience.

I WILL VIEW MY UTILITY BILL ONLINE: You can view your bill online and print it if desired. You will still receive it by regular mail.

ATTACH A PDF COPY OF THE UTILITY BILL TO THE EMAIL: By selecting this option, the user will receive a PDF copy of the utility bill by email.

EMAIL ADDRESS: This is the e-mail address that will be used to send any notifications and/or bills.

7. Once you have clicked “**Save**” the process is finalized. You will receive an e-mail confirming this process is complete and what options you have chosen.

A “**View Bill**” link will be available in the Billing Summary area once your first billing on the new system is delivered. Users can access copies of utility billings online from this date forward.

If you have any questions, please call the Utility Department at 250-494-6451 or email utilities@summerland.ca. If you are a new online customer receiving the bill by email, please sign up to also receive the newsletter by email.