



Media Release

For Immediate Release

DATE: April 14, 2026

Wharton Street Revitalization Project Marks Completion with Community Celebration

SUMMERLAND – The community is invited to come out to downtown Summerland on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 11:00 am to celebrate the Grand Opening of Veteran’s Memorial Square and a revitalized Wharton Street.

The event, to be held within the new square, marks the completion of one of Summerland’s most significant downtown infrastructure investments in recent history.

Residents and visitors are invited to join Mayor Doug Holmes and members of Council for live music, cupcakes, and an official commemoration of the transformation of this downtown corridor.

About the Wharton Street Revitalization Project

The \$8.5 million Wharton Street Revitalization Project is a key initiative under the District’s Downtown Neighbourhood Action Plan. Construction began in April 2025 along a two-block stretch of Wharton Street between Prairie Valley Road and Kelly Avenue, with work substantially complete by early 2026.

Key improvements delivered through the project include:

- Upgraded underground utilities including water, sewer, stormwater, and electrical systems
- Wider sidewalks with decorative pavers along Wharton Street
- Relocation of overhead power lines to underground. The remaining overhead lines and poles will be removed once affected business owners have had sufficient time to complete their connections to the new underground system.
- Reconfigured parking and traffic flow for enhanced safety
- A redesigned Memorial Park Plaza now featuring the relocated and upgraded cenotaph with updated plaques and additional names added, along with improved seating, lighting, and flagpoles.
- A new Veteran’s Memorial Square featuring an all-season public washroom, misting fountain, café-style seating, busking stage, overhead lighting, and landscaping
- New soil cells installed to support healthy urban tree canopy
- A raised crosswalk connecting Memorial Park Plaza to Veteran’s Memorial Square

The District of Summerland acknowledges valued partnerships with ICBC, FortisBC, TELUS, and the Royal Canadian Legion that helped bring the project to life. These collaborations demonstrate the power of working together to make downtown Summerland safer, more accessible and vibrant.

The District of Summerland also extends its heartfelt thanks to downtown businesses and their customers who showed patience and resilience during last year’s construction.

Grand Opening Event Details

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2026

Time: 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Veteran’s Memorial Square, Summerland, BC

Activities: Live music, cupcakes, speeches

Admission: Free and open to the public

For more information about the project, visit whartonstreet.ca.

Quotes:

"We're celebrating not just the completion of the Wharton Street project, but the evolution of our downtown into a more vibrant and welcoming space. This project reflects the power of partnership and the pride we share in building the future of Summerland. Council thanks our residents, businesses, and community partners for their patience and support for bringing this vision of Downtown Summerland to life."

~ Mayor Doug Holmes

"Investing in safer infrastructure is an important part of improving road safety for everyone. The changes on Wharton Street will make it easier and safer to travel through downtown Summerland, whether people are driving, walking or cycling. Working with municipalities helps us deliver meaningful safety improvements in communities across British Columbia."

~ Paul de Leur, manager of ICBC's Road Safety Improvement Program

"FortisBC is committed to the communities in which we live and work. By supporting the Wharton Street Revitalization we are contributing to a safer, more accessible, and more enjoyable downtown for everyone who lives in or visits the community of Summerland. Reliable, modern infrastructure is essential to supporting the daily needs of local residents, and we're proud to play a role in helping bring the vision for a more vibrant public space to life."

~ Shelley Martens, manager, community and Indigenous Relations, FortisBC

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Poster of the event attached

The District of Summerland
is inviting you to the

Grand Opening of

Wharton Street

Saturday | 25 April 2026 from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Veteran's Memorial Square

Join us for live music,
cupcakes and a speech from
Mayor Doug Holmes

