

Summerland enhances waterfront safety, accessibility and visitor experience

SUMMERLAND – The District of Summerland has introduced several new improvements at local beaches to enhance safety, accessibility and enjoyment for residents and visitors to Summerland.

With a focus on inclusion and accessibility, new **mobility mats** have been installed at Powell Beach and Peach Orchard Dog Beach to provide improved access to the waterfront for people with mobility challenges. Building on last year's installation of a mobility mat at Rotary Beach, the District is now also offering a **mobility chair** at Rotary Beach. A dedicated [online form](#) provides users with operating instructions, a waiver, and the access code for the chair's secure storage.

Lifejacket loaner stations are also available at Rotary Beach and Powell Beach. Offered on an honour system and available on a first-come, first-served basis, the stations provide an additional safety resource for beach users.

The District has also expanded public access to lifesaving equipment with the installation of an **automated external defibrillator (AED)** on the exterior of the Peach Orchard Beach washroom building. The AED was made possible through a generous \$4,000 donation from Al Klar. Mr. Klar previously donated a premium AED station to Memorial Park in 2022 after surviving a heart attack during which an AED shock successfully resuscitated him. His continued generosity has helped expand public access to this critical emergency equipment throughout Summerland.

To help improve beach conditions, the District has also installed **goose-deterrent lights** at the south end of Rotary Beach near the tennis courts, as well as two additional units at Powell Beach. The lights are intended to discourage geese from congregating in beach areas, helping to keep the beaches cleaner and more enjoyable for everyone.

In addition to these new amenities, the District has installed a **double-gate entry system** at Peach Orchard Dog Beach to improve safety and provide a more secure transition between the pathway/road and the off-leash beach.

The District of Summerland is committed to maintaining safe, welcoming and accessible public spaces and encourages residents and visitors to take advantage of these new amenities while enjoying the community's beautiful waterfront.

Quote:

"We are developing the waterfront to meet the needs of current and future residents and visitors. While big ticket items like the rebuilt pier and new playground rightly get most of the attention, small details like the lifejackets and mobi-mats are also important for ensuring safety and accessibility."

~ Mayor Doug Holmes

Contact

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10 photos attached



Photo 1 – New mobility mat at Powell Beach



*Photo 2 – New mobility mat at Peach Orchard Dog Beach
From left to right: Councillor Richard Barkwill, Deputy Mayor Erin Trainer, and Mayor Doug Holmes.*



Photo 3 – Mobility chair at Rotary Beach



SAFE SWIM STATION

- 1 Check label for correct size
- 2 Fasten all straps and zippers
- 3 Lift at shoulders to test fit
- 4 Use and return lifejacket to the Safe Swim Station

LIFEJACKETS SAVE LIVES

Always swim with a buddy. Never swim alone.
Children should always be within arms reach of a parent or guardian.

The owner/operator of this Safe Swim Station disclaims all responsibility for any injuries or damage that might occur to your person from use of any supplied equipment. The use of the supplied equipment does not replace or eliminate the need for active adult supervision and responsible behavior of the user in and around the water.

FOR EMERGENCIES - CALL 911



DISTRICT OF
SUMMERLAND

For more information, call 250-494-0447
or email recreation@summerland.ca.

Photo 4 – Lifejacket loaner station at Rotary Beach



*Photo 5 – Lifejacket loaner station at Powell Beach
From left to right: Deputy Mayor Erin Trainer, Mayor Doug Holmes and Councillor Richard Barkwill.*



*Photo 6 – New AED on the exterior of the Peach Orchard Beach Washroom Building
From left to right: Al Klar & Harminder Klar (donors), Mayor Doug Holmes, Councillor Richard Barkwill and
Deputy Mayor Erin Trainer.*



Photo 7 – New AED on the exterior of the Peach Orchard Beach Washroom Building



Photo 8 – Goose-deterrent light at Rotary Beach and Powell Beach



Photo 9 – Goose-deterrent light at Rotary Beach and Powell Beach



Photo 10 – Double-gate entry system at Peach Orchard Dog Beach