



District of Summerland Newsletter

July 2026

Each year, communities throughout the Okanagan face off in a friendly competition to see who per capita can make the most pledges to conserve water. In the 12 years since the launch of the “Make Water Work” champion community award, only four towns have taken home the prize – Armstrong on six occasions, Peachland three times, Oliver twice, and Osoyoos won it for the first time last year.

Smaller communities have a bit of an advantage given it’s easier for them to spread the word but with the drought situation facing Summerland this year, surely this should be our year.

Make Water Work is a valley-wide conservation campaign led by the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) in partnership with Okanagan local governments. It encourages residents to adopt water-smart habits, reduce outdoor water waste, and take the online pledge to count towards the champion community.

By taking the pledge, you can not only help to conserve water and bring recognition to Summerland, you also stand a chance to win a \$500 gift card to a local Make Water Work partner of your choice and a \$500 Visa gift card to WaterWise your landscape.

Let’s go Summerland! Take the pledge at: [makewaterwork.ca/pledge/](https://makewaterwork.ca/pledge/)

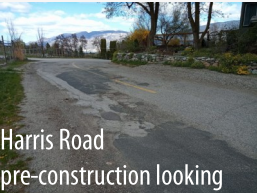


~ Mayor Doug Holmes

Ongoing Projects

Paving Projects

Residents of Summerland will see additional paving in three areas of the District over the next two months. Parts of Harris Road and Switchback Road will be resurfaced with asphalt, and Prairie Valley Road will have road surfacing and base work completed between Morrow Avenue and Doherty Avenue (Landfill Hill).



Harris Road pre-construction looking west

These projects will be shorter in duration than other large capital projects but will have a large impact to drivers.



Switchback Road pre-construction looking east



Prairie Valley Road pre-construction looking west

Ongoing Projects

Victoria Road Watermain Upgrade and Multi-Use Pathway

Construction on Victoria Road and Dale Meadows Road has wrapped up. Crews upgraded existing water mains and services and installed new water infrastructure for water system separation. Continuation of the multi-use path extended north on Victoria Road and a new multi-use path was built on Dale Meadows Road to provide better access to the Dale Meadows Sports Complex. Victoria Road was rebuilt with two lifts of asphalt to accommodate the large volume of passenger and truck traffic. Incorporating a new pedestrian crossing at the Dale Meadows Road and Victoria Road intersection will provide a safer crossing point for pedestrians and cyclists crossing Victoria Road. The District appreciates the patience from residents as well as the community that travelled this area of Summerland during construction.



Victoria Road & Dale Meadows Road Intersection

These projects will be shorter in duration than other large capital projects but will have a large impact to drivers.

Looking for committee members

The Advisory Planning Commission (APC) currently has one (2) positions available for a three (3) year term, ending March 31, 2029.

If you have an interest in being involved in the community, an ability to work with others, and a willingness to contribute your viewpoint, then this opportunity is for you! Application forms can be found on our website [www.summerland.ca/committees](https://www.summerland.ca/committees). Send completed applications to [corporateofficer@summerland.ca](mailto:corporateofficer@summerland.ca) by July 15, 2026.

Freshet Ends for Summerland

Thirsk Reservoir has stopped spilling and the Summerland Water Utility has moved from Freshet Operations into Storage Operations.

**Drought Level 3** (very dry conditions) will remain in effect with a 20% reduced water depth allotment as follows:

- Agricultural, Cemetery, Park, Playfield and Golf Course properties - 640 mm
- Greenhouses - 1,381 mm

**Residential Watering Restrictions** remain at Stage 1.

Community participation to help promote responsible water use is important. Residents who observe what they believe to be irresponsible water use are encouraged to submit a report through the bylaw complaint form [www.summerland.ca/city-services/bylaw-services/](https://www.summerland.ca/city-services/bylaw-services/)

Make Water Work

One inch a week will do.

Most lawns need just 2.5cm (one inch) of water per week—about the depth of a tuna can.

Watering deeply and less often promotes deep, healthy root growth. If you’re watering deeply but not seeing results, the problem may be inadequate topsoil. Try top dressing with half an inch of compost, then over-seeding for a thick and vigorous lawn.



Upcoming 2026 General Local Election

The next general local election is on **October 17, 2026**.

Interested in running for office?

For information on running for office, the nomination process, campaign financing, and candidate resources and forms, visit [www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/elections/2026-general-local-elections](https://www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/elections/2026-general-local-elections).

Did you miss the Candidate Information Session?

You can view the presentation slides online [here](https://www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/elections/2026-general-local-elections).

To view the list of key dates, visit [summerland.ca/your-city-hall/elections/2026-general-local-elections](https://www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/elections/2026-general-local-elections).

Register online to vote before the election!

Visit [eregister.electionsbc.gov.bc.ca/ovr/welcome.aspx#](https://eregister.electionsbc.gov.bc.ca/ovr/welcome.aspx#)

Questions? Contact the Election Office:

Chief Election Officer phone **250-404-4037** or email [elections@summerland.ca](mailto:elections@summerland.ca).

Agricultural user meter readings

Agricultural users are reminded that monthly meter read updates are available on the municipal website. As the District is currently in Drought Level 3, users should review their consumption closely as water allocations have decreased by 20%. To access these reports, please go to the District’s website at [www.summerland.ca](https://www.summerland.ca). Under the “City Services” tab at the top of the page, click “Water” to be taken to the main water utility page. On the left side of the page, click “Agricultural Water”. Additional information pertaining to agricultural water, such as 2026 rates, can also be found on this webpage.

Irrigators are encouraged to view the data to track their usage. The annual irrigation invoice will be mailed out by the end of July.

Please call the Finance Department at 250-494-6451 or email [finance@summerland.ca](mailto:finance@summerland.ca) if you have any questions.



## Landfill Recycling Depot

Did you know that you do not have to cross the scale to access the Recycling Depot?

When arriving at the landfill during operating hours, keep to the right to access recycling only. The following residential items are accepted free of charge year-round:

- Smoke detectors and alarms
- Residential cardboard and paper
- Flexible plastic packaging including plastic bags, overwrap, plastic pouches, wrappers, onion nets and other soft packaging made of plastic
- Lighting—fixtures and bulbs
- Foam Packaging (white and coloured polystyrene) including containers for meat and produce, foam egg cartons, foam clamshells, cups and bowls for take-out food, firm foam cushion packaging to protect electronics, small appliances, etc.
- Clear or coloured glass food containers, jars, non-refundable bottles
- Batteries including household batteries, small rechargeable and lead-acid batteries
- Electronic waste—computers, TVs, stereos, DVD players, phones, small electrical appliances

Crossing the scale gives access to many other free residential recycling opportunities:

- Household hazardous waste—paint, pesticides, flammables, anti-freeze, gas, fuels, mixed fuels, paint thinner, solvents
- Used motor oil, antifreeze, oil filters and oil containers
- Propane tanks, refillable or non-refillable—up to 46kg
- Metal/Scrap Metal—siding, roofing, rebar, pipes, window frames, doors, furnaces, duct work, wire cable, fencing, autobody parts, metal furniture, tire rims
- White Goods—washers, dryers, dishwashers, fridges, stoves, freezers, hot water tanks, air conditioners

The Summerland Landfill and Recycling Depot is open Monday to Saturday from 8:30 AM to 4:15 PM, except for Statutory Holidays and Boxing Day.



## Stormwater Mitigation

The District will be installing new drainage infrastructure on Alder Street between Cedar Avenue and James Avenue. During high intensity rainfall events, the current drainage system cannot keep up, resulting in ponding on Alder Street. The District has conducted exploratory test holes to verify the location and depth of the Fortis high pressure gas crossing and will be completing this project in the summer once all permits are in place.

## Summerland Pier Enhancements Officially Complete!

The District of Summerland and the Summerland Rotary Club are proud to celebrate the completion of exciting new enhancements at our iconic Summerland Pier!

Originally rebuilt in 2024 thanks to funding from the Provincial Government's Growing Communities Fund, the pier has now been elevated even further through strong community support.

A successful fundraising effort led by the Rotary Club raised \$200,000 to add new features focused on safety, accessibility, and enjoyment for all.

New additions include:

- Waterslide
- Deep-water access staircase
- Lighting along both sides of the pier
- Life safety ring
- Protective buoy markers around the pier to separate from motorized watercraft
- Five benches for relaxing and enjoying the view



These enhancements are ready to be enjoyed by residents and visitors for generations to come.

And there's more ahead: entrance upgrades, including shade trees and a seating area, will be completed later this year.

Come rediscover the Summerland Pier this summer and enjoy one of the community's most cherished waterfront spaces!

## Sewer Main and Hydrant Flushing

The District of Summerland is performing annual sewer main and hydrant flushing throughout Summerland until the end of October. Annual maintenance ensures that sewer mains and hydrants are working properly. Please use caution when driving by Crews working on the road.

## Invasive Plant Alert – Be FireSmart

Invasive plants have characteristics that enable them to rapidly take over areas that have been disturbed and they are difficult to control once established. Some species provide highly flammable and fast-burning fuel which can increase the amount and intensity of wildfires. If invasive plants are dense and widespread, a fire can be carried much farther. One way to mitigate potential wildfire damage is to REMOVE invasive plants and REPLACE with FireSmart native plants for your garden. This growing season, be plant-wise and choose native plants that:

- have a high moisture content
- low volatile oil content
- are easy to maintain through pruning, and
- have growth habits that prevent the build-up of dead (and highly flammable) plant material.

Some suitable native trees and shrubs include smooth sumac, saskatoon, mock orange, blue elderberry, red-osier dogwood, mountain alder or black hawthorn. For smaller flowering plants, good options include yarrow, silky lupine, goldenrod and asters.

For more information on suitable native plants, view the PlantWise Guide for the South Okanagan at [oasiss.ca/resources](https://oasiss.ca/resources).



Mock Orange

## Community FireSmart™ & Summerland Fire Department Open House

**When:** Saturday, July 11, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

**Where:** Summerland Fire Hall, 10115 Jubilee Road West

Bring the whole family and enjoy free hot dogs, burgers, drinks, and freebies prepared by members of the Summerland Firefighters Auxiliary Charity. There will be a fire truck bouncy castle, fire truck tours, activities for kids, FireSmart information, and plenty of fun for all ages.

Meet representatives from local emergency services, explore the fire hall, and learn how to better protect your home, property, and community from wildfire with FireSmart tips, resources, and local expertise. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Property tax notices

The 2026 property tax due date was **July 2, 2026 at 5:00 PM**. Effective July 3, 2026 unpaid 2026 property taxes (including unclaimed Home Owner Grants) are now subject to a 10% penalty.

You may still claim the HOG online at [www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](https://www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant) or phone the Province of BC **1-888-355-2700**. Retroactive home owner grant applications are accepted up to December 31 each year.

The District of Summerland offers a Pre-Authorized Payment Program for property taxes - eleven (11) equal payments will be withdrawn from your bank account, starting August 15 each year. The final twelfth (12th) payment will be the difference between the actual amount of the current tax bill and pre-payments collected, plus interest earned up to the tax due date.

To participate in this program contact the property tax department at [propertytaxes@summerland.ca](mailto:propertytaxes@summerland.ca) for an application form or visit our website [www.summerland.ca/city-services/property-taxes](https://www.summerland.ca/city-services/property-taxes) to download a pdf copy.

Applications are due **August 11, 2026**.

## 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](https://www.youtube.com/c/DistrictofSummerland)

**Sign up for the monthly newsletter online:**

[www.summerland.ca/your-city-hall/newsletter](https://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](https://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.