



With historically low snowpack levels and an early spring melt, all indicators are pointing to a fourth successive summer of drought. Above average rainfall over the next few months could stabilize our water supply, but precipitation is difficult to predict. Council is therefore exercising prudence by starting the irrigation season at Drought Level 3, which means a 20% reduction in water allocations for agricultural, cemetery, park, playfield and golf course properties. We will reconsider the level once freshet has concluded and our 11 upstream storage dams have stopped spilling, and there is a possibility we could shift to Level 4, depending on spring precipitation and summer temperatures. Irrigators are advised to closely monitor their water consumption since penalties for overuse are determined at the end of the season based on the drought level in place at that time.

Residential water users are billed monthly, which provides greater flexibility to adjust as the summer goes on. Therefore residential water use is starting as we normally do at "Stage 1" (watering permitted three days/week). This will also be reassessed at the conclusion of freshet and homeowners should expect to see tighter restrictions as we move into summer.

Climate change, population growth, the expansion of agricultural lands and better protections for endangered fish populations are all resulting in increasing demands on a decreasing supply of water. While many millions of dollars have been invested in recent years to improve and raise our dams to store more water, when water is scarce and there is less available to refill the reservoirs, there is no choice but to manage demand. While we can hope for the best, we must plan for the worst.

~ Mayor Doug Holmes

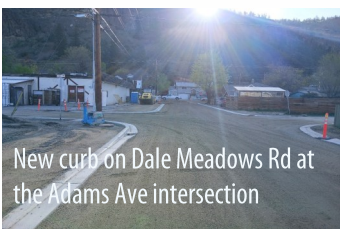
Ongoing Projects

Wastewater Treatment Plant Primary Clarifier

In early April, the new primary clarifier and appurtenant piping was physically connected to the existing wastewater treatment process and is currently operational in the commissioning phase. Key next steps for the project include finalization of commission and paving. The new primary clarifier provides much needed redundancy to the treatment process and will also allow for the detailed assessment of the old clarifier to identify any needed repairs or upgrades.



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



New curb on Dale Meadows Rd at the Adams Ave intersection

Phase 2 of the Victoria Road project is progressing along well. The contractor is installing new watermain for future irrigation water separation, new water services and extending the multi-use path from Dunham Crescent to the ovalabout at Prairie Valley. In addition, a new multi-use path is being installed on Dale Meadows Road from Victoria Road to the Dale Meadows Sports Complex to improve connectivity for cyclists and pedestrians. Continued water improvements and road reconstruction, including partial paving, will occur during May. The District appreciates the patience of neighbouring residents and those that travel through this section of Victoria Road and Dale Meadows Road as we work to complete the project.

Pressure Reducing Valve Station 7

An upgrade of the pressure reducing valve station located at the corner of Solly Road and Latimer Avenue has been underway since early March and is nearing completion. The project consisted of the removal and decommissioning of the old underground station in favour of a new, above-ground kiosk. The new station supplies water to approximately 450 properties in the Lower Town neighbourhood and will allow for safer staff access (as per WorkSafeBC regulation) as well as increased reliability and fire flow.



Water Restrictions Stage 1

Specific to residential usage, water restrictions have been set to Stage 1 which limits watering to three (3) times per week, based on address schedules.

Drought Level 3

As per Council resolution (April 1) and in response to lower than usual snowpack readings, Summerland has moved at Drought Level 3 – Very Dry Conditions under the Drought Response Plan. This results in adjusted water allocations from 800mm to 640mm for agricultural users, cemeteries, parks, playfields and golf courses. Allocations have also been adjusted from 1,727mm to 1,382mm for greenhouses. Water users are encouraged to review their anticipated needs and plan for an upcoming season that may see further increases in Drought Levels.

For further information on both water restrictions and drought levels visit www.summerland.ca.

More Time to Enjoy Downtown!

To better support local businesses and visitors, the designated two (2) hour parking areas in Downtown Summerland have been increased to three (3) hours. This change is designed to give residents and visitors more time to enjoy a meal, browse local shops, and explore all that Downtown Summerland has to offer.

Property Tax Notices

Property tax notices will be mailed out after May 18. You may sign up to receive your property tax notice via email, visit <https://online.summerland.ca/vadimopen/>. For more information visit www.summerland.ca/city-services/property-taxes. Property Taxes are due by 5:00 PM, July 2, 2026.

Reminders: Upcoming 2026 Election

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

Are you eligible to vote in the 2026 General Local Election?

Check Elections BC for details on who can vote and to:

- ~ Register to vote if you are 18 years or older
- ~ Update your voter information such as your residential or mailing address
- ~ Register for the List of Future Voters if you are 16 or 17 years old

For details on voter eligibility, voting opportunities and dates, identification requirements, and voting locations, click [here](#).

Interested in running for office?

Save the date for the candidate information session!

When: Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Where: George Ryga Arts & Cultural Centre (9525 Wharton Street)

To learn more about candidate eligibility, visit Elections BC.



Be Bear Smart

Garbage, bird feeders and tree fruits can attract bears to your yard and neighbourhood. Once a bear becomes used to human food sources it becomes habituated, usually resulting in the bear being destroyed. It is important to keep wildlife wild and communities safe.



Garbage - properly secure your garbage and keep it indoors until pick-up or until you can bring it to the landfill. **Place your carts at the curb no earlier than 5:00 AM on your scheduled collection day.**

Compost - use finished compost, leaves, grass or wood chips to cover up fruit or other food waste in your composter. Properly care for your compost by turning it and layering it appropriately to reduce odours.

Fruit Trees and Grapes - make sure to harvest fruit immediately and remove all windfall fruit. If you own an orchard, electric fencing is encouraged.

Pet food, Birdfeeders and Gardens are all attractants for bears. Keep your pet food securely stored indoors. Bring your birdfeeders in for the summer, supplementing them with natural flowers and birdbaths.

Barbeques - everyone loves the smell of a good barbeque, bears included! To keep your barbeques safe, make sure that they are properly cleaned, covered and don't leave utensils out overnight.

Report all wildlife encounters to the BC Conservation Officer Service RAPP Line at 1-877-952-7277 or visit www.wildsafebc.com to learn more about how to protect the species around you.

Plant Smart, Stay Safe

If you have a power line on or near your property, it doesn't mean you can't plant trees. The safest bet is to plan ahead so trees won't interfere with power lines no matter how tall they grow. Here are a few guidelines that will help you ensure your trees won't grow into hazardous trees.

Trees planted closer than 7.5 metres should be low-growing varieties.

Nothing should be planted closer than 5 metres from the base of a power pole.

If you have a secondary line connecting your home to a power line, avoid planting trees that will grow into the line. If you don't see a secondary line connected to your house, your secondary line is underground.

Call BC 1 Call at 1-800-474-6886 or email bc1c.ca at least five working days before planting. Once the utility lines are marked, remember to carefully dig around lines with hand tools.

Invasive Plant Alert—Hoary Alyssum & Hoary Cress

Hoary cress and hoary alyssum are white-flowering invasive mustards. Hoary cress blooms during April-May, while hoary alyssum blooms May-June. Both species spread fast, crowding out native plants and moving into pastures or fields. Hoary alyssum can be poisonous to horses, whether green or dried in hay. Take action if you have either species on your property. Mowing can reduce seed production but cut plants will re-grow. Repeated mowing, hand-pulling and chemical treatments can help control outbreaks. For more information visit www.oiso.ca



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.

Stop Contamination:

Food Scraps Make Compost, Compost Makes Food

Contamination is one of the biggest concerns for making compost. Only food scraps and yard waste should be placed in your green lidded cart. Please be sure to keep these items out of your green carts:

- glass and plastic packaging
- cardboard including pizza boxes which should go in your recycling cart;
- pet waste which needs to go in the garbage;
- plastic bags including Compostable/Biodegradable bags which are not accepted;
- diapers which can be bagged and placed in garbage;
- construction materials / scrap wood which must come to the landfill directly.

For further information please contact Works & Infrastructure at 250-494-0431 or email works@summerland.ca.

After hours emergency

An after hours emergency is an emergency that occurs between the hours of 3:30 PM - 7:00 AM Monday to Friday, or any time on the weekends or Statutory holidays relating to water, sewer, roads, parks or electrical utility. If you have an after hours emergency, contact our **Answering Service** at 250-493-0005. Please note that overtime charges may apply if the emergency is deemed to be on your property.

Giant's Head Run

Saturday, June 6, 2026

Registration is OPEN!

Register in person or online raceroster.com/events/2026/116603/giants-head-run-2026 (Youth \$20, Adult \$30, Family \$75—early bird closes **May 19**). Registration includes Family Fun Zone, T-shirt for the first 450 registrants, prizes, refreshments, and awards!



Volunteers needed! Please email for more information recreation@summerland.ca or call 250-494-0447.

Giant's Head Mountain Trails Project (Phases 3 & 4) Now Complete

The District of Summerland has completed the final phases of the Giant's Head Mountain Trails Project, celebrating the milestone on April 10 with Indigenous partners, governments, and community organizations. Phases 3 and 4 delivered major upgrades including new and improved trails, summit access via the Grind Trail, enhanced washroom facilities, new signage, and important environmental protection work. Known as *kt̓apus* by the syilx Okanagan people, the site now features Indigenous-led interpretive signage highlighting cultural and environmental values. The \$1.6 million project, six years in the making, was jointly funded by federal, provincial, and municipal partners.



Signage

Please be reminded that the District does not permit permanent or temporary signs to be placed in the roundabouts, on power poles or light standards or anywhere within highway rights-of-way, unless expressly permitted in [Sign Bylaw No. 2022-026](#). The District may **remove and take away** any sign on District road rights-of-way that is in contravention with this Bylaw.



Compost Available at Summerland Landfill

The Summerland Landfill sells two types of Class A compost. Composted materials have been tested and are safe for garden and landscaping purposes. One type of compost is made from food scraps from Summerland homes and yard waste. The other type is made from Summerland wastewater sludge and wood chips. Summerland Landfill also blends a 'top soil' made from a mix of biosolids compost and sandy soil.

Loading times for trucks and trailers are **9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Noon)** on weekdays except statutory holidays. Any time the Landfill is open customers can bring their own shovel and collect compost from our self-loading area. The Landfill and Recycling Depot are open Monday to Saturday **8:30 AM to 4:15 PM** and closed Sundays, statutory holidays and Boxing Day.

Compost will be available by weight on a first come, first served basis. Compost will be available all spring but due to the overwhelming popularity of food scraps compost there may be limited availability. For further information, please contact Works & Infrastructure at 250-494-0431 or e-mail works@summerland.ca.