

## Summerland Fire Department Est. 1949

Our Fire Department consists of 32 members - 28 are auxiliary/paid on call firefighters and 4 are career firefighters. They provide fire protection to 67 square km (26 miles). In 2011 they responded to 210 incidents including house fires, brush fires, car accidents, hazardous material incidents, natural gas leaks, and fire alarms. When they are not fighting fires, they are busy doing inspections on businesses, fire incident pre-planning, fire drills and public education events.

The crew puts in many hours of training during the week as well as various training events on weekends. In 2011, there were 308 training sessions conducted by our Fire Department.

Each year the Firefighter's Association raises funds for many organizations and charities such as the Toys and Toonies for Tots & Teens Campaign. They recently helped raise \$1715 for the Summerland Dry Grads with the Christmas Tree Pickup Fundraiser. We appreciate the hard work and dedication that all our firefighters show!



**TOWNHALL MEETING  
Economic Development Forum  
Wednesday, February 15th  
6:00pm to 8:00pm  
I.O.O.F. Hall, Main Street**

Council is forming an Economic Strategic Action Committee and wants to hear your feedback on future economic development and ideas on how to attract businesses to Summerland.



## TROPICAL PARADISE SWIM

**Saturday, Feb. 25th  
6:30pm—8:30pm**

Family fun swim, games and activities of a tropical nature.

\$5.00 advance tickets are available at the Recreation Centre.

Volunteers are always welcome!



## PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS

BC Assessment Authority (not the District) sent out assessments on properties in January. Although Trout Creek and Lower Town properties showed some increase, the **overall, residential property values have decreased an average of 1.71%**. These numbers are preliminary until appeals are heard. The Assessment Authority will finalize numbers and report to the District by the end of March. Their information will then be used to determine our property tax rates for 2012 so we can prepare tax notices to be sent out in late May. If you did not receive an Assessment Notice, or if you have any inquiries about your property values, please call BC Assessment at 1-800-990-1192.



### **Energy Saving Tips From Our Electrical Utility Division**

- Set heat/thermostats at 20°C when at home and 18°C or lower overnight.
- Close the flue damper on your fireplace when not in use.
- Use area rugs on cold floors - if feet are warm the rest of you is warm!
- Use insulated drapes or energy-saving blinds to help keep the heat inside your home.

## A Few Council Hi-Lites...

*Check our website for full Council Minutes, Agendas and Live Broadcasts of meetings. Municipal Hall also has paper copies available. Shaw TV broadcasts on Wednesdays and Fridays at 11:00am.*

- « Residents will notice **an increase in their utility bills this month** due to the colder weather in January and the implementation of the increased electrical, water and sewer rates.
- « A new policy was adopted which allows the District to **sell advertising space in the bus shelters** in front of the high school on Rosedale Ave. In 2011, bus shelters were installed with the cost being covered by a provincial grant. The District continues to lobby the Province and BC Transit for expanded service.
- « **Best wishes to Don DeGagne** who has left the position of Chief Administrative Officer for the District of Summerland. Ken Ostraat, Director of Finance, is the Acting CAO.
- « **Congratulations to Maureen Fugeta** (formerly the Deputy Corporate Officer) who has accepted the title of Corporate Officer, a position that has remained vacant since June 2011.
- « There was a full house at the Public Hearing for **5011 Towgood Place**. After much discussion, Council gave 3rd reading to the amendment of a bylaw which allows the **campground to become a townhouse development**. There are a number of conditions that will have to be met before it can be adopted. The developer originally proposed a 24 unit development, but due to density concerns by the residents, the proposal was reduced to 20 units.

## OPEN HOUSE

### PRAIRIE VALLEY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

(from Wharton Street roundabout to Cartwright Avenue)

Thursday, February 23rd  
Arena Banquet Room  
5:30pm– 7:30pm  
Presentation at 6:30pm

Please plan on attending to learn more about the proposed upgrades and to provide feedback!

## Prairie Valley Road Improvement Plans

The District of Summerland is looking for feedback from residents regarding the upgrading of Prairie Valley Rd. from the Wharton St. roundabout, west to Cartwright Ave. Proposed upgrades include bike lanes, sidewalks, transit and school bus bays, landscaping, and an elongated roundabout at the Victoria Rd. S. intersection.

A short presentation will take place at 6:30pm followed by an opportunity for residents to ask questions and provide input. A survey will be available for additional comments or concerns.

For additional information, please call the Engineering and Public Works Department at (250) 494-0431 or send your emails to [engineering@summerland.ca](mailto:engineering@summerland.ca).

We hope to see you at the Open House on February 23rd!



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There are openings for members on two of Council's Committees. If you have an interest in arts and culture or in heritage, please submit a letter or email with your name, contact information, and any background information or interests that may be of value to the committee. You can drop a letter off at Municipal Hall or email [kjones@summerland.ca](mailto:kjones@summerland.ca).



Residents on low or fixed incomes may be eligible to receive a free Energy Saving Kit (\$120 value) from FORTISBC. Applications are available at Municipal Hall or you can contact FORTISBC at 1-866-436-7847 or visit their website at [www.fortisbc.com](http://www.fortisbc.com).

Please participate in the Community Cultural Development Committee online survey located on the front page of our website [www.summerland.ca](http://www.summerland.ca). Share your comments and ideas about Summerland's arts and culture!



## Water Meter Update

Mandatory domestic water meters have been installed in most homes in Summerland but are not yet being used to bill for water consumption. In an effort to develop a fair water rate structure, Summerland has hired a consultant to gather information from these meters and to investigate rate structures of other communities. In the next few months, the water rate structure and preliminary user fee will be established. Mock notices will then be sent out to residents so they will be able to see how much water they are using and what their cost would be based on the new proposed water rates. The mock notices will be monitored over the summer and adjustments may have to be made as needed. The results will be brought to Council for review, and ultimately adoption, in the fall of 2012.



Dog Licence and Business Licence renewals for 2012 were due in January. If you no longer require your licence, please call Municipal Hall at (250) 494-6451 and let us know!