

OCTOBER 2026

PEACHLAND News

Photo contest winners announced

Congratulations to the winners in this year's **Capture Peachland Photo Contest.** Over 160 qualified entries were submitted showcasing the beauty, wildlife and community of Peachland. Congratulations to the winners:



Photo by Craig Henry

- **Kayla Scott;** Vibrant Views
- **Martin Weilmeier;** Peachland Close Up
- **Craig Henry;** People & Pets in Parks

Winners received $200 gift certificates from Peachland businesses of their choice. The winning photos and other contest submissions will be featured in District publications and online communications. Find more information and contest photos at **peachland.ca/photo-contest**.



Photo by Kayla Scott



Photo by Martin Weilmeier



Peachlanders, please meet Nigel Thomas

Nigel is Peachland Fire & Rescue Service's new Deputy Fire Chief of Community Safety. He joined the department in July and brings to the role over 17 years of experience with the Summerland Fire Department, along with a background in electrical services and design.

Deputy Chief Thomas's Community Safety responsibilities include oversight of the District's FireSmart program, which he describes as one of the best in the province.

"I'm passionate about FireSmartBC and helping Peachland become more resilient to wildfire risks. I'm equally passionate about fire prevention, life safety, and public education. I enjoy working with residents, local businesses, and community partners to build a safer community through awareness, preparedness, and collaboration."

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Peachland
CANADA'S KINDEST COMMUNITY

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Expanding Peachland's FireSmart Program

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Deputy Chief Thomas joins Fire Chief Ian Cummings and Deputy Chief Wes Aigro in overseeing Peachland's fire service and its 30+ paid-on-call firefighters. Nigel is interested in expanding Peachland's FireSmart program, including pursuing additional funding from the provincial government and other partners. His goal is to support practical actions that help protect homes, neighbourhoods, and the broader community before an emergency occurs.

"FireSmart is about working together to reduce wildfire risk before an emergency happens. Through education, prevention, and mitigation, we can help build a safer, more prepared, and more resilient Peachland."

Outside of work, Deputy Chief Thomas enjoys spending time outdoors. He is excited to bring his wife and two young daughters into the community and looks forward to becoming active members of Peachland while enjoying everything the area has to offer.



Peachland firefighters plan and prepare all year to prevent wildfire.

BRITISH COLUMBIA FireSmart™

Firesmart Program 2026 Highlights

peachland.ca/peachland-fire-rescue

Home Assessments
596 hours assessing Peachlanders' properties

Rebate Program
$48,900 to residents through rebates

Public Education
Promoting simple actions homeowners can take

Outreach
Multiple events to increase public awareness

Wildfire Preparedness Open House
FireSmart supported wildfire preparedness event in May

Yard Waste Vouchers
225 yard waste vouchers distributed to residents

Neighbourhood Recognition
Supporting activities of neighbourhoods seeking FireSmart recognition

65+ Mitigation Support
152 hours of mitigation work on properties with owners who are 65+

Greenspace Mitigation
Projects include fuel mitigation in W.A.Lang Wilderness Park and McKinnon Park

2026 Water Supply Assessment

At its September 22 meeting, Peachland Council received a report on Peachland's water supply that considered unprecedented multi-year drought conditions we are currently facing. Long term modelling indicates Peachland Lake can meet current demand, existing climate conditions forecasts, and a 3.6% residential growth rate over the next 25 years. However, given the risk of the current drought continuing, Council will consider advancing plans to improve our water supply resiliency.

Peachland Lake is the primary potable water source, and the District has been closely monitoring reduced water levels while proactively implementing water restrictions in response. The report provided an overview of options being assessed with a preferred approach expected to be proposed later this year after further analysis of each option's long-term viability and lifecycle costing. External funding will be sought to help offset the cost of the project, and the matter has been raised with Provincial ministers and staff, most recently at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention in September.

LEVEL 3 WATER RESTRICTIONS REMAIN

A friendly reminder to Peachlanders: Level 3 Water Restrictions are still in effect. Level 3 restrictions are anticipated to remain in effect until such time there is seasonal improvement to the water levels in our Peachland Lake Reservoir.

Every drop counts! Please continue to follow the current water-use restrictions and help conserve our community's water supply. Do your part. Use water wisely. Thank you for helping Peachland conserve water and protect our water supply.

peachland.ca/water/conserving-water



Please keep fats, oils and grease out of the drain

When disposing of fats, oils and grease, residents should:

- Use a strainer to catch food scraps before they enter the pipes.
- Pour fully cooled cooking grease into a large can with a lid.
- When grease is cooled and solidified, place the sealed can in the garbage.
- Bring up to two 20-litre pails of used cooking oil for recycling to the Glenmore Landfill. Commercial quantities are not accepted.

For more information about what not to flush and protecting our source water, visit

rdco.com/donotflush



Fall is an important time to be bear aware. As they prepare for winter, bears are actively looking for high-calorie food sources—and an unsecured garbage bin, compost or fallen fruit can quickly become an attractant.

Help reduce human-bear conflicts:

🍎 Pick ripe fruit from trees and clean up fallen fruit promptly.

🗑️ Keep garbage and recycling secured and put bins out only on collection day.

🐦 Remove bird feeders or bring them indoors when bears are active.

🐾 Keep pets under control and be aware of your surroundings when walking outdoors.

🚶 If you encounter a bear, give it plenty of space and never approach or feed it.

Small actions around our homes can make a big difference in keeping bears wild and our community safe.

wildsafebc.com

Peachland BGCO Childcare Centre nearing completion

The new Peachland BGCO Childcare Centre next to Peachland Elementary School is on track to be completed on time and on budget, providing Peachland families with affordable childcare spaces for decades to come. Finishing touches are currently underway and the facility is undergoing Provincial licencing review and approval. The new facility will be opened as soon as it is licenced by the Province. The design and construction of the modern 104 space centre was funded through the Province's ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund and will feature licensed, high-quality programs for infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children. The District of Peachland is responsible for applying and lobbying for the $12.3 million grant and overseeing the facility's design, engineering and construction through to completion.



Interested in registering?

If you want to stay informed about registration, fees, general Q&A, or the official opening, you can join the Peachland **BGCO Childcare Interest List** by emailing **peachlandclub@bgco.ca** - subject line: Interest List – Peachland List



FIREHALL PROJECT DEMOLITION STARTS

Heavy equipment is on the site at 4223 San Clemente Avenue; the site of Peachland's new firehall. Demolition is starting soon and construction will follow in Spring 2027. Find out more about the this and other projects at **peachland.ca/capitalprojects**



EVENTS



Friday, October 30, 5 to 7 pm
Come join us at the Peachland Community Centre for a spooktacular evening! Enjoy roller skating, palm readings, our haunted house, and more! We'll have a concession hosted by the Peachland Ambassadors, including $2 hot dogs, $1 bags of chips, and $2 root beer floats. We can't wait to see your Halloween costumes! Roller skates and safety gear provided.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Wednesday, November 11
10:30 - 11:30 am
Peachland Cenotaph Park, Beach Avenue and 2nd Street. Help remember those who served. Reception to follow at Peachland Legion.





Friday, December 4, 6 pm
Join us for our annual Winter Light Up Celebration! The fun begins at 5 pm at the BGCO and Art Gallery, followed by the Glow Parade at 6 pm from 6th Street to Heritage Park. Enjoy an evening of festive fun with a bonfire, hot cocoa and hot dog sale by the Lions, family activities, Santa, singing, markets, and more! Light Up countdown during our ceremony around 6:30 PM, followed by a spectacular fireworks display. Festivities at the park wrap up at 7:30 PM.

Thank You

Thanks to all who voted during the October 17 election for Peachland Mayor and Council.

Find full election results at peachland.ca/election







Lambly pickleball courts officially opened

Members of Council and Peachland pickleball enthusiasts celebrated the opening of the two new pickleball courts in Lambly Park on September 4.

2027 Permissive Property Tax Exemptions



Council adopted the 2027 Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw, identifying the following properties as eligible for full or partial exemption due to community benefit:

- Peachland United Church
- St. Margaret's Anglican Church
- Peachland Baptist Church
- Peachland Wellness Centre & the Peachland Food Bank
- Peachland Riding Club
- Okanagan Boys & Girls Club & Our School for Peachland, Arts, Culture & Ecology
- Peachland District Retirement Society & Peachland Community Police
- Maple Springs Bible Camp
- The Nature Trust of BC
- Peachland Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion
- Okanagan Regional Library
- Peachland Chamber of Commerce
- Peachland Little Schoolhouse Society

The estimated financial impact of the 2027 tax exemptions is $78,561, which represents .92% of the 2026 budgeted general municipal tax revenue, or approximately $24.44 for the average residential property.

Council Highlights

August 25, 2026 - Regular Council Meeting

Minor OCP Review

Council adopted the Official Community Plan (OCP) Bylaw No. 2466, the culmination of a year-long minor review of the bylaw. Ongoing provincial planning requirements mean the District will need to undertake another update of its OCP by December 31, 2030, coinciding with the District's next Housing Needs Report. While the minor review has addressed the District's immediate objectives and recent Provincial requirements, the 2030 review will provide an opportunity to reassess the OCP comprehensively and ensure that growth planning continues to align with Provincial direction and the community's evolving needs.

Funding for Development Servicing Guidance Study

On July 6, the Province of BC announced Peachland was one of 56 local governments to receive funding under the 2026 Local Government Development Approvals Program. The District received the maximum funding of $200,000, which was added to the 2026 Budget. The funding will be used for its Development Servicing Guidance Study which aims to modernize and streamline the District's development approvals processes.

September 22, 2026 - Regular Council Meeting

Council Remuneration Review Committee

Council approved the recommendations from the Council Remuneration Review Committee, established to review Peachland Mayor and Councillors' pay and benefits and make recommendations for the 2026–2030 Council term. The committee considered practices in comparable municipalities, Council workload and responsibilities, the District's population and budget, feedback from current Council members, and the District's existing Council expense provisions. The recommendations will be incorporated into proposed policy amendments and brought forward for Council's consideration at a future meeting.

Small-Scall Multi-Unit Housing Next Steps

Council adopted amendments to the Subdivision and Development Servicing Bylaw to allow two driveways on all properties within the communities that permit duplex buildings.

Playing field partnership with School District

Council directed staff to work with School District No.23 and Peachland Elementary School to explore upgrades to the school playing field to better accommodate field sports and to explore opportunities for after-hours community access to the school gymnasium for indoor soccer, with the goal of having enhanced recreational opportunities available in conjunction with the opening of the nearby rental development and childcare centre.

Councillor Appreciation

Mayor Patrick Van Minsel and fellow Councillors showed their appreciation to Councillor Terry Condon for his 21 years of service during six terms on Peachland Council. Councillor Condon has announced it's time to retire from public service and enjoy time with his family. Mayor and Councillors also thanked Councillor David Collins for his service on the 2022-2026 Peachland Council.

UPCOMING REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS

(*Election October 17*)
November 3
(inaugural meeting)
November 24
December 8

Regular Council meetings begin at 3 pm in Council Chambers, Peachland Community Centre, 4450 6th Street. The public is welcome to attend or view live and archived meetings via webcast.

CONTACT COUNCIL

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peachland.ca/council