



A Newsletter from
the Village of Keremeos

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Keremeos awarded age-friendly recognition

The Village of Keremeos is honoured to have received Age-Friendly BC 2017 Recognition from the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, and Jodi Mucha, Executive Director of BC Healthy Communities Society. As part of the award, the Village received a plaque and \$1000, which will be used to create an age-friendly resource on the website.

The official recognition as an Age-Friendly Community acknowledges years of community work to make the Village more accessible, inclusive and age-friendly.

A 2015 age-friendly community assessment and strategic plan brought about numerous community initiatives, including:

- benches and solar lights on Keremeos trails
- age-friendly exercise area in Memorial Park
- installation of a speed-reader to slow vehicles and improve pedestrian safety
- regular meetings between the Mayor and the Seniors Society
- accessibility improvements and rest benches at the playground in Memorial Park
- Village office reception area widening to allow easier access for scooters and other mobility aids
- establishment of an Age-Friendly Advisory Committee to Council
- 24 units of affordable housing will be built in Keremeos, 2017/18
- pedestrian curb flares will be added along Highway 3 in 2018

The Village is proud to be the first community in the region to gain Age-Friendly Community status, and is committed to continuing age-friendly and accessibility efforts.

How are bylaws enforced in the Village...?

The Village Office frequently receives the question “Why aren’t you enforcing the bylaws?” The Village, like many rural communities, has a complaint-driven bylaw enforcement system in order to keep taxpayer costs for enforcement affordable.

If staff notices a health or safety-related issue requiring bylaw enforcement we will initiate action, but we otherwise depend on residents to let us know that a bylaw-related issue has become a problem. Complainants are asked to complete a short form detailing their concern. The names of both the complainant and the alleged bylaw violator are kept confidential throughout the enforcement process.

On receipt of a complaint, the alleged bylaw violator is contacted by phone or through a visit from the Bylaw Enforcement Officer. A formal notification letter usually follows, with a deadline to remedy the issue. The Bylaw Enforcement Officer and Village staff monitor progress in correcting the situation, and in rare cases write non-compliance tickets. The Village’s approach is to educate regarding the bylaw first, then take further action where necessary. Unpaid tickets are sent to a Collections Agency.



If you observe a bylaw infraction that requires attention, please call the Village Office at 250-499-2711 or email town@keremeos.ca

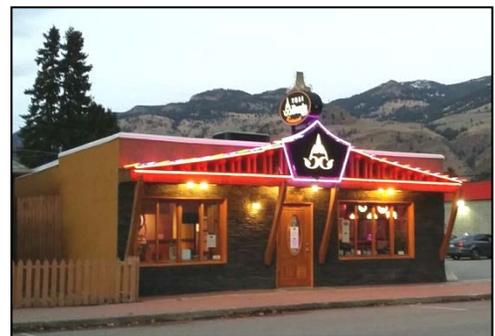
Façade Improvements in 2017

Three local businesses took advantage of the Village's façade improvement program in 2017 and the results are striking. The next intake for the façade program is **March 1 to June 15, 2018**. Thank you to the following businesses for helping make Keremeos even more beautiful!

K Mountain Diner:



Benja Thai restaurant:



Century 21 real estate



Though not part of the façade program, the owner of the Three Winds Gallery undertook a stunning façade upgrade this fall.



Keremeos continues to go green!

The Village of Keremeos is proud to have once again been recognized by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Union of BC Municipalities for achieving corporate Carbon Neutrality in 2016. Keremeos is a signatory to the Climate Action Charter to take action on climate change and to reduce green house gas emission in the community and corporate operations.



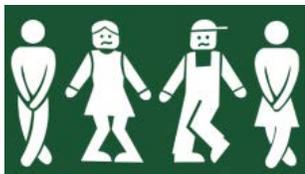
One of our green initiatives is the Electric Vehicle charging station where 262 vehicles have charged since its installation in November, 2015. It is estimated that these electric charges have saved 1196 litres of gasoline and 2804 kgs of CO₂.

Another green project undertaken by the Village in 2017 was the insulation of the Public Works building, to reduce the consumption of energy used to heat the shop.

Council has received presentations regarding solar and wind energy technology in 2017, and the Village will be trialing a wind-powered street light near the sani-dump in 2018.



Where do you go when ... you gotta go?



When irrigation water shuts down for the winter, so do Keremeos park washrooms. The Mayor and Councillors have heard from residents, particularly those who enjoy walking the trails and dikes, that winter public amenities are needed in the Pine Park area. Council has agreed to place a Porta-Potty in Pine Park on a trial basis for the 2017/2018 winter season.

The public is also welcome to use the washrooms in the Information Centre or the Municipal Office year-round!

Keremeos has highest growth rate in the region!

The 2016 Census showed that Keremeos' growth rate rose by **12.9%** since the 2011 Census! That growth rate exceeded all other local municipalities and cities, compare:

Princeton	+3.8%
Osoyoos	+5.0%
Oliver	+2.2%
OK Falls	+3.4%
Penticton	+2.7%
Kelowna	+8.6%

Thanks to the talented artists of the South Similkameen Arts Society for the fun window display at the Keremeos Variety, and thanks to the property owner for their cooperation!

The art project is part of the grant-funded Downtown Enhancement initiatives.

Keremeos Window Art



Museum receives donation from FortisBC



In July, 2017, the Village of Keremeos nominated the Keremeos Museum for FortisBC's \$15,000 Community Giving grant. Unfortunately, FortisBC was unable to provide the Museum with the \$15,000 grant, but was very interested in their application.

FortisBC has generously provided the Museum with a \$5,000 donation of support!

Mayor Bauer presented the cheque to Museum President Rob Showell on behalf of FortisBC.

Council Congratulates Swim Team

To congratulate the SESS girls swim team's success in becoming the provincial Single A champs, the whole swim team was invited to join the Mayor on the Village's float for the Light Up parade.

The school created two celebratory banners which adorned both sides of the float, and team members held their official championship banner during the parade.

Way to go, team!!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS, KEREMEOS!



FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL, AND ALL MUNICIPAL STAFF!

**Not signed up for the Resident Notification System yet?
Join the 468 households who have!**

Our goal is to have every Keremeos household on the resident notification system, so that we can reach everyone quickly in the event of an emergency. You can sign up online at keremeos.ca, call the Village Office at 250-499-2711.