

Cowichan Bay Waterworks District

Cowichan Bay Waterworks District is committed to providing our community with high quality drinking water that is safe, cost effective and sustainable, including provisions for fire protection, now and in the future.



Newsletter April 2025

Office Hours

OPEN: 9 am to 4 pm, Tuesday - Thursday
After Hours Emergency Number: (250) 710-8207
Website: www.cowichanbaywater.com

Contact Us:

Office Location: 1760 Pavenham Road
Office Telephone: (250) 748-1687
Office Email: info@cowichanbaywater.com

CBWD Board of Trustees' Message

By Jonas Shandel

Greetings, I became a board member of Cowichan Bay Waterworks in 2024, I was encouraged by family and neighbours to get involved. I didn't really know what I was getting into, but I am so glad now to be a part of this improvement district. It's exciting to feel a part of something that we all utilize as a community. I have come to deeply appreciate how vital our water system is to the well-being of our community in a new way. The biggest challenge we face is still being able to provide water to meet the demands and needs of the community while remaining in compliance with The Xwulqw'selu (Koksilah) Watershed Planning Agreement which builds on three years of government-to-government work by Cowichan Tribes and the Province of BC.

Given that CBWD is running at capacity and no water license extensions are being granted because our watershed is now protected, we are unable to accommodate any further water hookups to new and existing buildings. Which in my opinion is unacceptable given that we are also in the midst of a housing crisis. A hurdle we face is that we haven't been consulted by the BC Government or the Cowichan Tribes during this process and not enough research has been done to understand the Underground aquifer which supplies three of our four wells. Even in their own Water Sustainability Act, Section 2f. they admit that "Long-term trends in groundwater levels in aquifers and their hydraulic connection to streams throughout the watershed are not well understood". We are in the process now of actively seeking innovative solutions to balance water conservation and community use and to begin a dialogue with the Cowichan Tribes, thus far unsuccessfully. We will continue to advocate for water rights for all while remaining in compliance.

I encourage everyone to spend a little time becoming familiar with the work of the Cowichan Tribes and the current research and initiative at: www.koksilahwater.ca It is important to stress that I personally support the words of Chief Lydia Hwitsum : *"The Xwulqw'selu watershed is under pressure and we know the current path is not sustainable – for fish, for the ecosystem, or for people. We need to come together to develop a plan that protects the watershed's health and sustains Cowichan Tribes and the Cowichan Valley communities for generations to come,"*

We all must do our part in these critical times, to unravel the threads of what is the real impact to our ecosystems and what is also just speculation and overreach. First and foremost, as an Improvement district providing water to this community, we need to be involved in this conversation. We also need more voices and community engagement and thoughtful, innovative ideas. It is a challenging situation, but one that I believe can be worked through if we all find ways to contribute to win-win solutions. Nobody wants higher taxes, higher bills, more control and government overreach, but in order to counteract that, we genuinely need more people to get involved and demand a dialogue about how we can bridge sustainability and service. I implore members of our community to come forward and volunteer to join us in maintaining and improving our system. I look at CBWD as a co-op because no one person owns our assets. I would love to see more personal curiosity and investment in that idea so that we can remain Sovereign over our water future for decades to come.

2025 WATER TOLL RATES

The Water Toll Bylaw is in place for 2025. The base rate has been increased to \$90 per quarter and the lower tiers have been increased to reflect the higher day to day costs of operations.

Metered Water Toll Rates:

Tier	Usage	Price
	Quarterly Rate [includes the first 15 m ³]	\$90 per Connection and/or unit.
1	15.0001 m ³ to 49.99 m ³	\$0.75 / m ³
2	50 m ³ to 74.99 m ³	\$1.00 / m ³
3	75 m ³ to 99.99 m ³	\$2.00 / m ³
4	100 m ³ to 149.99 m ³	\$3.00 / m ³
5	150 m ³ and over	\$4.00/ m ³

Water Meters:

Residents are encouraged to keep an eye on their water usage as printed on the invoice to ensure there are no leaks. If a leak is suspected, remove the lid from the green water meter box and note the number. Replace the meter lid. A few days later, check the meter again. The number should not have increased substantially. Average daily use should be +/- 1/3 m³

Your Parcel Tax Assessment Notice, advising of the **Court of Revision** were mailed in March 2025. If you have not received it, please contact the office.

The purpose of the Court of Revision is to provide an opportunity for ratepayers to request a review of their category on the Assessment roll.

CONSERVE! CONSERVE! CONSERVE!

A reminder to continue conserving even
if Water Use Restrictions are not in force!

Water conservation is crucial for a sustainable future. As costs rise to produce water and climate change impacts supply, preserving this vital resource helps protect ecosystems, support agriculture, and ensure access for future generations. Reducing waste and using water efficiently is essential for both people and the planet. *Alerts will be issued to update on Water Restrictions.*

Sign up for **Alerts** on
www.cowichanbaywater.com
to stay up to date on current
events.

AGM

Mark your calendars! The Annual General Meeting will be:
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 27, 2025
Bench School, 1501 Cowichan Bay Rd
**We urge you to attend as we will discuss critical issues that
concern all residents in the District.**

If you would like to receive
your **Water Bill by email**,
please send us a note with
your full name, phone number,
and address to:
info@cowichanbaywater.com

Tips and Tricks

We consistently hear that some folks have inadvertently made an online payment to the incorrect organization, such as the CVRD or Province of BC. Be sure to choose Cowichan Bay Waterworks District as your payee. You can also nickname your payee to assist in paying the correct organization.

For budget planning / cash management purposes, water tolls are billed in January, April, July, and October of each year.

2025 Key Dates

April 17 th	May 27 th	July	July	October
Court of Revision 5:00 p.m. 1760 Pavenham Rd	AGM 7:00 p.m. 1501 Cowichan Bay Rd	Watch for your PARCEL TAX invoice this month	Watch for your water invoice within the 2 nd or 3 rd week	Watch for your water invoice within the 2 nd or 3 rd week