

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.



Spring Newsletter

April 2023

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

Trustee's Message By Pete Edgar

Springtime brings to mind a sense of renewal and possibility. The winter chill melts away, replaced by warmer days and the promise of life blooming again. As the days grow longer and brighter, I look forward to the energy of spring with eagerness. The birds return, chirping happily, and the trees come alive with new leaves. Flowers bloom and color the world with their beauty. The sun's rays bring a warmth that was missing before. Along with the changing of the season comes a feeling of hope and joy. The return of spring is something to look forward to and celebrate!



Spring is a good time to plan for water conservation. It is an important practice that can help protect natural resources and ensure sustainable water use. Planning for water conservation requires an understanding of the dynamics of water use and the ability to identify potential water-saving measures.

The first step in planning for water conservation is to assess current water usage, possibly by analyzing water bills. This assessment can help to identify areas where water is being overused or wasted.

Once water usage has been determined, the next step is to develop a plan for water conservation. This plan should identify potential water-saving measures, such as installing low-flow fixtures, repairing leaks, and using water-efficient appliances.

Other options for water conservation might include capturing rainwater for gardens and strategies for monitoring and evaluating water-saving measures. This includes tracking changes in water usage, and assessing the effectiveness of your conservation measures.

Overall, planning for water conservation is an important step in protecting natural resources and ensuring sustainable water use. By assessing current water usage and developing a plan that includes water-saving measures and monitoring strategies, water conservation is easy to achieve and saves you money.

District Administrator's Message by Cheryl Wirsz

Boundary Extension Notice: As per s.780 of the *Local Government Act*, Cowichan Bay Waterworks District advises the boundary was amended on January 12, 2023 to include 2180 Cowichan Bay Road and a portion of 1821 Wilmot Rd. Ministerial Order M11 is available for review at the District Office, online on the BC Laws Website or www.cowichanbaywater.com [Key Info tab].

Your water toll invoice is included with this newsletter. You may notice a slight increase in the base rate to cover inflation. The tier rate has also changed, please be sure to review and adjust your water use accordingly. Anyone with use over 125 m³ may have received a visit from our Water Operations Technician, Pascal Gagne, to double check the reading and make sure you do not have a leak.

Be sure to have your irrigation system maintained prior to use this summer. Irrigation leaks are the most common, and most expensive, type of leak.

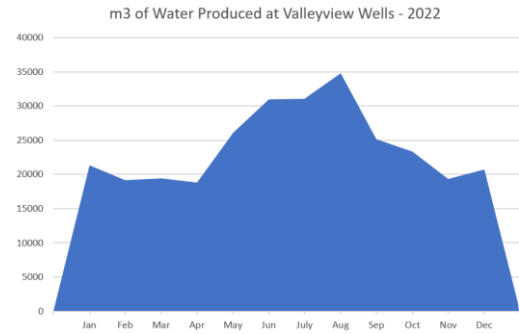
We strongly recommend buying and installing drip irrigation for the most efficient way to water your gardens and reduce water use [and your bill].

The *Annual General Meeting* is set for Wednesday, May 3, in the Gym at Bench School, 1501 Cowichan Bay Road. Be sure to bring photo id and wear clean shoes to protect the gym floor. The annual financial statements will be presented, along with election of a new Trustee, as Chairperson Lew Penney is retiring. There will also be an Open House at the latter part of the meeting to present the findings from the Master Plan, the 2022-2025 Action Plan, and the Source Water Protection Plan.

Election of a new Trustee will occur at the AGM.

Conservation Tips:

2022 was a less than ideal conservation year as water use increased. As a collective community an important goal is to strive to reduce water use, otherwise the District will have no choice but to drill another well. Bottom line – wells are expensive. The District has adequate water with current infrastructure, even with the new subdivisions. Maintaining average water use will ensure sustainability with our current water supply wells.



- TIPS**
- Maintain your irrigation system [water loss from irrigation systems is the biggest mis-use of water and very expensive for homeowners]
 - Re-design water dependent gardens and plant drought resistant plants
 - Let the lawn go brown [it comes back lush and green each Fall]
 - Install a drip irrigation system to water your veggie garden [it makes a substantial difference and pays for itself]. Be sure to maintain the system as even minor leaks add up.
 - Install low flow faucets and toilets. Toilets are a major water use and a slow drip adds up
 - Shorten your showers, even a few minutes a day will lead to huge savings over the year.

2023 Key Dates

January	April	July	September	October
• Watch for your water invoice within the 2 nd or 3 rd week	• Watch for your water invoice in the 3 rd week	• Watch for your water invoice in 2 nd week	Watch for your annual parcel tax invoice.	• Watch for you water invoice in the 2 nd week
\$85 + tier use	\$85 + tier use	\$85 + tier use	\$225 residential \$280 commercial	\$85 + tier use

Metered Water Toll Rates:

Tier	Usage	Price
	Quarterly Rate [includes the first 25m ³]	\$85 per connection and/or unit
1	25.0001 m ³ to 49.99 m ³	\$0.50 / m ³
2	50 m ³ to 74.99 m ³	\$0.75 / m ³
3	75 m ³ to 99.99 m ³	\$1.00 / m ³
4	100 m ³ to 124.99 m ³	\$3.00 / m ³
5	Over 125 m ³	\$5.00 / m ³

Drought Planning: 2023 is heading towards what appears to be another spring and summer of drought. It is important to keep water use and water waste top of mind. Plan your garden accordingly. Let your car get dusty. Sweep your driveway.

Reminder

Be sure to sign up for **ALERTS!** in order to receive the most up to date information as it happens. And be sure to share any **ALERTS!** with your friends and neighbours know to ensure the word gets out.

Volunteer Opportunities

CBWD is a community owned facility and community volunteers help reduce costs and help alert the community to very important health matters. As such, there are two sets of volunteer opportunities. Email info@cowichanbaywater.com.

(1) Teams to put up emergency event signage in local neighbourhoods.

(2) Teams to hand deliver emergency event notices door to door in local neighborhoods.

If you are interested in volunteering for one or both of these opportunities, please call the office or email your name, address, phone number, preferred neighbourhood/block/area and which team, or both, you would like to volunteer for.

E Bill Contest

Win a chance to waive your \$85 base rate for the 2nd Quarter. Sign up for E-billing for your chance to win. The draw date will be July 4, 2023, at the end of 2nd Q. Any existing and new E-billing customer will be eligible as long as both your water and tax accounts are paid in full.