

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.



Summer Newsletter

July 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 Calvin Slade, Chairperson

The 2023 Annual General Meeting was held on May 3 and your Trustees are: Chairperson Calvin Slade, Trustee Judi Baker, Trustee Julia Balabanowicz, Trustee Pete Edgar and Trustee Wendy Gregg. The AGM Minutes and the 2022 Annual Report are available on the website under the Trustee Info tab – www.cowichanbaywater.com.

I would like to thank Lew Penny for his years of service as a Trustee on the Board of the CBWD, and as Chair for most of his time with us.

We have now started into what appears to be another long hot summer, continuing the drought, and it doesn't look like it is going to change much in the next few years. I urge everyone to try and use water responsibly, and make sure that fixtures and appliances are not leaking, and meet current standards.

The Water District Staff and Board are looking to protect our existing water sources, and put in a new well to provide some back up to our main source of water, well #1 at Valley View. Of the 4 wells the District owns, only 2 are currently on line, and well #1 is providing most of the water to sustain the water system. While the water quality of the Pavenham and Kidd wells is not nearly as good as the wells at Valleyview, we want to be able to sustain the system in the case of something catastrophic happening to those wells. To that end, our Chief Water Operator is looking at treatment options to bring the water from the Kidd and Pavenham wells into compliance with current Health Canada guidelines so that they can be used in case of emergency. If you are a long time resident of Cowichan Bay, you probably remember what the water tasted like before the wells at Valleyview came on line, and even with the best treatment available, the water quality from the old wells would not compare favourably to the water we are now used to drinking.

District Administrator's Message by Cheryl Wirsz

You may have noticed or heard about the new water toll model which is based upon *the Three C's*:

Conservation

Water is a limited resource and using water wisely is key.

Climate Change

The impacts of climate change are unpredictable, changing rapidly, and we are currently in the midst of yet another summer drought. Adaptation is required.

Cost Recovery

Operational cost recovery is now based upon an \$85 base rate for all users. Costs go up equally as consumption increases [previously residential users were subsidizing commercial users]. All consumers now pay more per m³ as their water consumption rises.

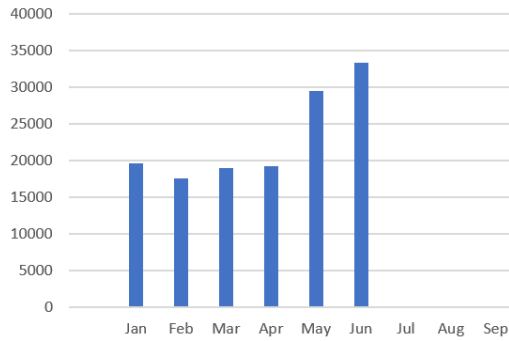
Hydrant use – please call or email the office if you notice anyone other than our water operators or the fire department [during an actual fire] using a hydrant.

Alerts! Contest – Win a chance to waive your \$85 base rate for the 3rd Quarter. Sign up for **Alerts!** for your chance to win. The draw date will be October 3, 2023 at the end of the 3rd Q. Any subscribers who are landowners will be eligible as long as both water and 2022 tax accounts are paid in full.

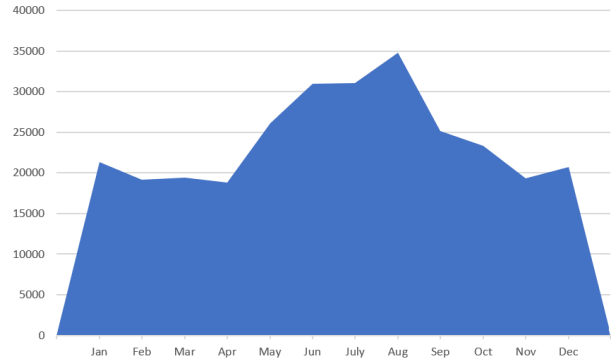
Do we have your contact information? A recent leak brought to light the need to have contact information on file [telephone or email]. The parcel in question was part of a larger parcel that was subdivided four times over the years. The meters were a mish-mash of water lines amongst the panhandles making it difficult to determine who had the leak. Messages were left at two owners place of work [thank you Google]. One owner was home and the phone number of the other was found on Google. Time is crucial in the event of a large leak; Please provide your email address or cell number to 250 748 1687 or info@cowichanbaywater.com.

Conservation Tips:

2023 Water Production by m³



m³ of Water Produced at Valleyview Wells - 2022



2023 Key Dates

July	Court of Revision	September	October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch for your water invoice in 2nd week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> August [time and date to be set] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch for your annual parcel tax invoice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch for your water invoice in the 2nd week
\$85 + tier use	Watch for your assessment notice	\$225 residential \$225 commercial	\$85 + tier use

Metered Water Toll Rates:

Tier	Usage	Price
	Quarterly Rate [includes the first 25m ³]	\$85 / 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

Sprinklering your lawn is forbidden in Stage 3 and Stage 4. Report violators to the Office.

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. Watch carefully for irrigation system leaks. Let your car get dusty. Sweep your driveway. And maintain your interior plumbing [toilet leaks and dripping taps are costly].

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 to ensure the message gets out.

History and Expansion of the Water Distribution System.

Cowichan Bay Waterworks was established August 12, 1946. At that time the District originally provided both water and fire protection. The Fire Improvement District was subsequently created in 1967 in order to provide fire fighting services for areas beyond the smaller Cowichan Bay Waterworks District boundary.

As the area has grown, the system has expanded to accommodate this population growth, mainly by developer contributions. In the last 15 years, the following infrastructure has been added to the system:

- **2008** - the first well at Valleyview Centre was purchased from the mall Owners for \$1. CBWD drilled the second well in 2012.
- **2014** - a Pressure Reducing Valve Station was installed by Cowichan Bay Investments, between the lower and upper pressure zones along Cowichan Bay Road, to accommodate the Botwood Lane townhouses.
- **2015** - a second Pressure Reducing Valve Station was installed by the Developer along Wilmot Road to accommodate the Cannery condominiums.
- **2015** - the new big blue Reservoir was constructed at Ordano Station by contributions from Developers to accommodate the lower Vee Rd subdivision and the Cannery condos.
- **And in 2022** - a Fire Pump and two Booster Pumps were installed at Ordano Station by Cowichan Bay Estates to accommodate the upper Vee Road lots. A Latecomer Agreement is in place for the next fifteen years in order for CBE to recover some of the costs of constructing this project [see the Latecomer Area Map on the website].

Source Water Protection – Valleyview Wells

Cowichan Bay Waterworks District produces its domestic drinking water supply at the two Valleyview Wells, adjacent to Valleyview Centre. Source water protection is a high priority for the District.

Cowichan Bay Waterworks District wishes to inform residents that the two wells are adjacent to an ongoing review by the Ministry of Environment for a new sewage disposal system permit application by the Owners of Valleyview Centre in order to increase sewage output from the shopping centre, as shown on the map below. [see the Trustee Info & News tab [Current Projects subtab] at www.cowichanbaywaterworks.com.

Cowichan Bay Waterworks District had its hydrogeological engineer review the preliminary hydrogeological report that was prepared by the Owners as part of the application process. That review is available on the website under the Documents and Reports tab. CBWD's hydrogeological engineer is now reviewing the sewage permit application in light of the Source Water Protection Plan and to ensure that the findings are clearly communicated to residents and the statutory decision maker in charge of the application at the Ministry of Environment.

Map of the Valleyview Wells



Update - Valleyview Well Flow Rate

The two wells at Valleyview produce all of the domestic drinking water and water for fire protection for Cowichan Bay Waterworks District. The wells produce high quality water that requires minimal treatment, mainly minor amounts of sodium hypochlorite [aka chlorine]. The District is currently working on plans to develop the Pavenham well as a back up water source in the event of an issue at one of the Valleyview wells. A new treatment system will be installed later this year to treat that water prior to distribution.

The Water Operators have recently increased the flow rate at Well No. 1 to accommodate increased use and the growth that is occurring in our community. The two Valleyview wells produce an adequate water supply for all of the Districts domestic drinking water and fire fighting needs; however this water supply in the aquifer is finite and conservation remains key. The District has a back up pump and motor available in the event of an emergency as supply chain issues can impact quick delivery.

Valleyview Wells		
<u>Well #1</u>		<u>Well #2</u>
Flow Rate [Prior to June 2023]	Flow Rate [June 2023]	Flow Rate
12 litres/second	18 litres/second	6 litres/second

Water Conservation Signage

**The District is currently developing signage to celebrate water conservation.
Call or email the office to obtain your sign to display on your brown lawn!!!**

Cowichan Bay Waterworks

2023 OUTDOOR WATER USE RESTRICTIONS

[as amended from the Regional Roundtable Water Restrictions for water systems across the Cowichan Valley]

2023 Water Use Restrictions				
Outdoor watering is permitted only between 7 pm in the evening and 9 am the next morning.				
<i>Watering in the evening, nighttime or early morning reduces water wasted due to evaporation and reduces the peak water consumption by spreading out the use over a longer period of time.</i>				
	STAGE 1 May 1 – Oct. 31	STAGE 2 Provincial Drought Code 3 ¹ Effective Date As Required	STAGE 3 Provincial Drought Code 4 ¹ Effective Date As Required	STAGE 4 Effective Date As Required
Conventional Irrigation Systems and Sprinklers				
Lawns, Vegetable Gardens, Fruit Trees, Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Flower Gardens	2 hours / day Even Addresses – Wed & Sat Odd Addresses – Thu & Sun	2 hours / day Even Addresses – Wed Odd Addresses – Sun	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
New Lawns ²	Not Permitted [see footnote 2]			Not Permitted
Hand Watering, Micro/Drip Irrigation³				
Vegetable Gardens, Fruit Trees	4 hours / day	4 hours / day	2 hours / day	2 hours / day
Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Flower Gardens	2 hours / day	2 hours / day	1 hour / day	1 hour / day
Lawns	2 hours / day	1 hour / day	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
New Lawns ²	2 hours / day	1 hour / day	Not Permitted	Not Permitted

² Conventional irrigation systems, sprinklers and hand watering can be used to water new lawns in the same manner as existing lawns in Cowichan Bay Waterworks District during Stages 1 to 4.

Other Outdoor Water Use				
Filling Pools & Hot Tubs	Not Permitted⁴		Not Permitted ⁴	Not Permitted ⁴
Washing Vehicles or Boats	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	Permitted Under Certain Circumstances ⁵	Not Permitted
Washing Driveways, Houses, Sidewalks	No Restrictions	Permitted Under Certain Circumstances ⁵	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
Sport Fields ⁶	Reduced Watering	Reduced Watering, Conservation Measures	Reduced or Eliminated Watering	Reduced or Eliminated Watering
Private Wells, Agriculture ⁷	Regulated by Provincial Government (Not Supplied from Community Potable Water Systems)			

Notes:

- 1 The various restriction Stages will be imposed in conjunction with the corresponding Provincial Drought Code. Jurisdictions may move to a given Stage ahead of the corresponding Provincial Drought Code based on state of the water system.
- 2 Irrigation of new lawns must follow the restrictions for established lawns. ~~Additional watering for new lawns requires a permit must be obtained at which point the restrictions for new lawns must be followed.~~
- 3 Micro/drip irrigation delivers water to the root zone of the plants and uses less than 90 L/hr (20 imperial gallons per hour) at less than 25 psi. Weeper hoses are considered micro/drip irrigation, and are permitted; soaker hoses are not permitted. A weeper hose emits water through very small pores in the rubber; there is no water spray stream emitted from the hose, resulting in less evaporation than a soaker hose. A soaker hose has holes that are large enough to emit water as a spray stream, resulting in more evaporation than a micro/drip irrigation system or a weeper hose.
- 4 ~~Only filled pools in Stage 2 water restrictions being implemented may be topped up, provided the pool is not used for swimming, hot tubs, etc. Municipal recreation facilities exempt.~~
- 5 For residential properties, washing driveways, houses or sidewalks is only permitted during Stages 2 ~~and 3~~ in preparation for applying paints, preservatives or for pouring concrete. Residential washing (i.e. not at a car wash facility which reuses water) of vehicles and boats is only permitted in Stage 3 in preparation of applying paints or preservatives. Commercial enterprises which require water use to facilitate normal business activities are exempt from some Stage 2 and 3 water restrictions. These include nurseries, turf farms or tree farms, car wash / detailers, power washing companies, window washing companies, etc.
- 6 School and Municipal playing fields are often sand-based and require regular watering. For that reason they are exempt from sprinkling regulations. Regardless, efforts are made to reduce water use and the irrigation timings are adjusted to reduce evaporation and avoid times of higher water consumption.
- 7 If necessary the Provincial Government can require the curtailment of water use for private wells and for agricultural purposes.

⁴ The filling of swimming pools is not permitted in Cowichan Bay Waterworks District [Bylaw #230].

And the Winner of the E-Bill Sign Up contest is.....Brian and Constance Surerus on Pritchard Road.

Be sure to enter the **Alert!** Sign Up contest to win your chance to waive the \$85 base rate for the third quarter.