

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.

Fall Newsletter 2022

Office Hours

OPEN: 9 am to 4 pm, Tuesday - Thursday
After Hours Emergency Number: 250 252 4937
Website: www.cowichanbaywater.com

Contact Us:

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Trustee's Message By Peter Edgar

Welcome to autumn in Cowichan Bay. We hope you have enjoyed your summer and are looking forward to an entertaining and productive fall. The Cowichan Bay Water District has a busy season lined up to keep your trustees occupied. We recently received an updated master plan from our engineering contractor and your trustees spent many hours prioritizing their 26 recommendations. Many of the recommendations (cowichanbaywater.com/documents/342/DraftwEditsMay_10_2022.pdf) are reactions to updated government regulations, and some of the others are just the test of time with some of our facilities being beyond their "best before date"

Other things your Trustees wish to accomplish is the updating and expansion of the automated monitoring of the system. More and faster information will increase water and employee safety. The bad news is that these will all cost money.

The question of when to do some of these recommendations is an interesting problem. For example, some distribution pipes are more than 50 years old, long past their expected life but functioning well. Should they be replaced as soon as possible, or should your Trustees defer the replacement cost until the pipes break? The water distribution pipe in the village needs replacement. Should your Trustees do that quickly or wait until the CVRD Joint Utility Board decides on the land route for the sewer extension to be finalized and piggyback on that job to reduce water board costs and the inconvenience to the village merchants.

Do any of you have a crystal ball that the Trustees might borrow?

District Administrator's Message by Cheryl Wirsz

Are you a Water User or a Water Abuser?



It is with regret that I report water conservation measures this summer were less than successful. It is key that users recognize water is a limited resource and that wells have limited capacity, all of which is impacted by the unavoidable effects of climate change. The ability to add a new well [and obtain a license] is expensive and time consuming. Compliance with watering restrictions, when temperatures are hot, and water consumption is high, encourages a culture of conservation that stands to extend the life of wells, infrastructure, reduce water production costs, and keep toll and tax rates lower.

Master Plan Implementation

The Trustees held a strategic planning session on Sept. 7th and 8th to plan implementation of the draft Master Plan. An Action Plan is in the process of being developed and a summary of the **Action Plan Priorities** are on the website. Staff are in the process of completing the 2022 Actions and developing plans for 2023. Other implementation steps to date have been adoption of a Capital Expenditure Charge Bylaw. (cowichanbaywater.com/documents/342/summary_table_11x17.pdf).

Boundary Extension Approval:

Notice is hereby given that Ministerial Order No. M209 was approved and ordered on July 12, 2022 authorizing an amendment to Letters Patent for Cowichan Bay Waterworks District date. The authorizing legislative provision is section 734 of the *Local Government Act*. The purpose of the amendment is to extend the boundary for Cowichan Bay Waterworks District to include a parcel of land described as 1520 Longwood Road [Lot 12, Plan 8436].

cowichanbaywater.com/documents/342/notice.pdf

Draft Master Plan

Be sure to read the draft [Master Plan](#) in order to gain an understanding of the scope of infrastructure upgrades required over the next 20 years. cowichanbaywater.com/documents/342/DraftwEditsMay_10_2022.pdf

[New Mission Statement](#)
A new *Mission Statement* was adopted by the Trustees at the September 7th and 8th Strategic Planning Session:

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Third Quarter Water Use Summary

Cowichan Bay Waterworks District implemented tiered water tolls in 2022, the purpose being to encourage water conservation given water use increases two to threefold each summer [as compared to the other three quarters, with the highest users concentrated on Pritchard Rd [7] and Simon Place [5]. You may notice a higher than normal invoice for this reason. We encourage residents to think about water conservation next summer – let your lawn go brown, plant native/drought resistant plants, buy a rain barrel or install micro drip irrigation for your veggie garden. This will serve three purposes: conservation, lower water bills, and reduce infrastructure wear and tear.

Highlights are summarized below:

History

We borrowed this photo from the [2021 Annual Report](#) for the Fire Improvement District. The current Water District Office was built in 1963, originally as a fire hall, and subsequently was renovated to become the Office.

3rd Q - Average household water use - 104 m³
[July, August and September]

1st, 2nd, 4th Q - Average household water use – 54 m³
[October to June]



Reminder

Be sure to sign up for **ALERTS!** in order to receive the most up to date information as it happens [e water leaks and leak resolution, water quality, changes in watering restrictions, low water, or a fire].

And be sure to share any **ALERTS!** with your friends and neighbours to make sure the word gets out.

Call for Volunteers – Boil Water Advisory De-Brief

As part of the Trustee debrief regarding the July 2022 Boil Water Advisory, it was recommended that a Call for Volunteers occur. CBWD heard loud and clear that people want better notice in the unfortunate event a future emergency occurs. Cowichan Bay Waterworks has three part time staff and one part time water operator. These folks have very specific roles during an emergency, making it a challenge to hand deliver notices or install emergency signage in a timely manner. CBWD is a community owned facility and community volunteers help reduce the cost and help alert the community to very important health matters. As such, there are **two** volunteer opportunities:

1. Teams to install 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 info@cowichanbaywater.com with your name, address, phone number, which Team you would like to volunteer on, and your preferred neighbourhood. Your preferred neighbourhood could be your strata, your block, your portion of Cow Bay Rd or Wilmot Rd, your cul-de-sac, your street, parks, businesses *etc.*