

NORTH CEDAR IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2011

AGM

The North Cedar Improvement District held its annual general meeting on Wednesday April 6, 2011. Two trustee positions were up for election; both Henrietta Murdoch and Rosmy Jean Louis were re-elected for a three year term. Thank you to everyone that attended the annual general meeting.

WATERING RESTRICTIONS

Stage 2 Watering Restrictions June 1, 2011

Please remember to watch the Restriction indicator at the Cedar Bridge, NCID Offices and online at www.ncid.bc.ca for changes.

WATER CONSERVATION

Tips for:

Vegetable gardens

- Excessive watering leaches nutrients out of the soil, encourages diseases and reduces flavor; consider a drip or trickle irrigation system.
- When planting water loving plants such as tomatoes, line the soil with a thick layer of newspaper to maximize water retention.
- Practice companion planting by placing plants with similar water requirements close together.

SYSTEM SECURITY

The District has embarked upon a pilot program to improve the security of the water supply and reduce the potential for damage to the District's assets. If the pilot program provides an appropriate level of security then it will be extended as finances permit to include all District assets.

BUDGET

Budget preparations will be undertaken during August and September 2011 for both the Waterworks and Fire Protection. A draft budget will be ready for discussion at the NCID Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for September 22, 2011. The public is welcome to attend. NCID electors wishing to make comments on the draft budget should contact the NCID offices at least one week prior to September 22, 2011.

WELL REHABILITATION

Two wells were scheduled for rehabilitation and upgrades this spring. Due to the wet weather the district was not able to start this project until May. Well #1 is now complete; but, due to unforeseen circumstances Well #3 rehab is still ongoing. It should be complete prior to June month end. The District's staff and Board members thank all ratepayers for their understanding during this project and for adhering to the Stage 4 restrictions.

LEAK DETECTION

Loss of water by way of undetected leaks is common to all water distribution systems. As the system ages, the water loss also increases. The water loss situation at NCID has reached unacceptable levels. Various methods are used to try and pinpoint leaks; however, the methods that have been employed to date have not proven to be as effective as one would hope. NCID recently became aware of a method of leak detection developed by a municipality in the Lower Mainland of BC. This method has proven to be very successful in several other jurisdictions. Within the next couple of months, NCID plans to engage technicians to locate all water mains that are leaking. Hopefully, repair of the leaks will reduce the percentage of water loss to an acceptable level. Ratepayers within the water serviced area can assist the District by immediately reporting any suspected water leaks.

Disclaimer: Newsletter submissions from trustees and staff may reflect personal opinion and are not necessarily supported by District policy.

WATER METER ACCESS

It is that time of year again when water meters become overgrown with vegetation. Maintenance staff require your help in maintaining access to be able to read meters, perform maintenance and emergency shut offs. North Cedar reads your water meter every three months. With the rising costs of water, keeping the meter clear to avoid inaccurate meter reading becomes even more important. Often it is only by reading the meter that a leak is detected in the water system. For those of you who already keep the meter clear and accessible we thank you for your cooperation in helping us.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alec McPherson, Chairperson
Helen Edwards Rosmy Jean Louis
Geoffrey Macaulay Henrietta Murdoch
Peter Johnson Chad Willick

DISTRICT CONTACT

2100 Yellow Point Road
PO Box 210
Cedar, BC V9X 1W1
Phone: 250-722-3711 Fax: 250-722-3252
Email: info@ncid.bc.ca Website: www.ncid.bc.ca
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday

EMERGENCY PAGER NUMBER

250-716-0223

Regular Board Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month.

A big thank you to all the volunteers and supporters of our recent Cedar Community Policing Drug Awareness and Emergency Preparedness fair recently held at the Cedar Community Hall. Much valuable information was gained.

THE FIRE CHIEF

Summer is almost upon us and with it comes all the enjoyable activities we like to participate in. Spending time with family and friends is important and I wanted to take the opportunity to remind all residents within our community of the importance to fire safety during the warm dry season.

In the spring newsletter I had mentioned that the Fire Department would be taking a zero tolerance approach with non compliance of District burning regulations. At the District AGM in April, I was asked by a ratepayer what was meant by zero tolerance? Simply put, the Fire Department would be proactive in ensuring that open fires containing non-class A materials, or fires without the required permit would be extinguished and possibly fines may be levied. I realize that perhaps the language is a little strong but given the wild fire risk our community faces during the summer, such a position is warranted. District fire permits clearly outline the requirements for open burning and are available at the Improvement District office Monday to Friday between the hours of 08:30 – 16:00. I would like to thank all those that have stopped by and taken out a permit and please remember to check the two fire danger rating signs within our area. Signs are located along Cedar Rd at the Nanaimo River bridge and at the fire hall on Yellow Point Rd. Fire danger ratings can also be found on the District website at www.ncid.bc.ca

A great tool for property owners to use to ensure a reduced risk of damage due to wild fire is the Firesmart manual. Firesmart manuals are available at the fire hall or online at

www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/firecom/pdf/homeowner-firesmart.pdf

The Fire Department has noted that there are quite a few residences within our community that have restricted access and property owners are reminded that should the need arise to call upon our services it is important that we be able to reach you. Restricted access would include narrow driveways, overgrown brush, trees or obstacles, and narrow gates.

In closing I would like to wish all of you a safe and enjoyable summer.

Thank you,
Percy Tipping
Fire Chief, North Cedar Fire Department