

NORTH CEDAR IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

FALL NEWSLETTER 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHAIR

Hello again friends and neighbors. Our Chairperson Peter Johnson is away again! As acting Chair it is my privilege to do the newsletter insert, again. The District has been a busy place with revitalizations of wells to keep the volume of water flowing for our community. Those wells are good to go until the next time they need servicing. As with all our infrastructure that is old, or used extensively, things wear out or fail. That being said, at this time the wells are good but two of our pumps are acting up and require replacing or servicing to extend life if that is at all possible. The District addresses these issues when they come up unexpectedly and adds to our operating costs dramatically. Reserve funds are low or nonexistent for these unplanned failures and that takes its toll. Hopefully this board can create emergency fund reserves a little every year to better prepare for the unexpected. It is important to be prepared and factor these costs into the budget planning process. As you know, it wasn't that long ago that we had a main break on the overpass line near the Cranberry Hotel and that cut deep and hard into reserves as that line was so new and should have never been an issue for some time to come. Totally unexpected and cutoff the water flows to the Wilkinson Road area of our district. We are a small community, small water system, but always having to meet or exceed the directives of VIHA and Drinking water requirements as they arise. With development in the District and water being required for consumption and fire fighting usage requires increased flows and pressures. All that this entails adds to the stresses of the system, storage and distribution required to bring that to fruition. Larger communities that are villages, cities, or incorporations have access to monies from governments to assist in these processes, we don't have that luxury. We only have those on the system to address these costs and small developmental charges to those wishing to access same. Some say that water will be the new gold; we are not that far off in that direction in this district. Sure we conserve and use less in anyways we can but that reduces the cash flows to maintain the system as well. A "catch 22" so to speak. Damned if we do and a damned if we don't scenario. Like it or not, costs to provide our community with fire flows, potable drinking water, storage, distribution,

maintenance of the system, demands for new connections and exploration for new sources of water come at a higher and higher price each day. Our Staff and Trustees are working hard to control these costs and it is a hard battle to win but we are trying.

Hope everyone had a safe and wonderful summer and our weather is holding and extending us to some more fine days of sunshine and warmth before the fall and rain come into play. Be well, be safe one and all.

Bob Loos, Trustee

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Over the past few months we have been bringing the new Trustees up to date on past and current labour issues, past meetings we have had with respect to these issues and discussions regarding a new Union Contract.

Water bills will be out shortly and I would remind you our **office hours** are **8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday - Thursday**.

I would like to thank our staff for working so hard for the district.

I hope all of you had a wonderful summer and have enjoyed the great weather.

Henrietta Murdoch, Trustee

December Office Closure

Please watch the district website in November for the dates of the December office closure.

THE FIRE CHIEF

Greetings from the Fire Department

I hope all residents had an enjoyable summer. For the fire department, we were fortunate that there were no major incidents related to the long stretch of dry conditions and I thank all of you for helping to keep the associated fire risks to a minimum. One area of concern relates to beach or water front areas of our community. There have been several instances where individuals have gathered to have a party and light a beach fire. All too often these fires get left unattended after the party and this increases the risk of the fire spreading to neighboring properties. I have spoken with several residents in these areas and hopefully a plan can be formed to address the issue.

As we move into the fall and residents begin the usual yard clean up, please be aware that open burning is only permitted by having a valid burning permit and meeting all the conditions contained within it. Permits are valid through October 31st.

The fall is also a great time to check that your smoke detectors are in working order and new batteries are installed. Having at least one working smoke detector in your residence is essential to assisting in early detection and warning should a fire occur in a home. Having a fire escape plan for your home and family is also a great idea and if you stop by the fire hall, we would be more than happy to provide you with brochures and information on home fire safety, fire extinguishers and emergency preparedness. As the fall approaches, many residents will start to use wood burning appliances to heat their homes and having your chimney cleaned and inspected will not only promote better heating efficiency, but will also reduce the risk of a chimney fire. The fire department does not perform chimney inspections but several local chimney cleaning companies are WETT certified to do so.

I had mentioned in the last news letter that access to properties with secured gates can be an issue for the fire department. There have been several property owners contact the department for information on fire department access in an emergency and I would encourage other residents with secured gates to do the same.

Over the summer our members were very busy participating in various community events and it is rewarding to see how entrenched the members are in the community. The fall will no doubt be the same with fire prevention sessions for school aged children. The department has a busy training schedule planned for the fall and we are welcoming four new recruits to

the department. I know these new members will face a steep learning curve but I am confident they will do well and they are a welcome addition to the department.

Percy Tipping
Fire Chief
North Cedar Fire Department

EMERGENCIES

If there is a water main break outside of office hours please call the emergency pager at:
250-716-0223 After Hours Pager

*please note the pager is only for water emergencies all other inquiries can be directed to the office during business hours.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Peter Johnson, Chairperson
Helen Edwards Rosmy Jean Louis
Henrietta Murdoch Margaret Mulholland
Bob Loos Patricia Merkel

DISTRICT CONTACT

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Phone: 250-722-3711 Fax: 250-722-3252
Email: info@ncid.bc.ca Website: www.ncid.bc.ca
Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday

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

PAYMENT OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Water bills and Parcel Tax bills can be paid at home through online banking or telephone banking. At the district office by cash, cheque or debit. Or you can sign up for direct debit of your bank account, forms available at the office for this service.