

NORTH CEDAR IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2013

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Pursuant to the Letters Patent of the North Cedar Improvement District and the *Local Government Act*, the Board of Trustees has called for the:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the LANDOWNERS of the NORTH CEDAR IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT to be held at **7:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at the Fire Hall, 2100 Yellow Point Road, Cedar, BC** for the following purposes:

- a) to receive from the trustees reports on the condition of the works and a statement of the financial condition of the District;
- b) to fix trustee remuneration for the ensuing year;
- c) to elect **four (4)** trustees to succeed those whose terms of office expire and to elect a trustee or trustees to fill any other vacancy;
- d) to discuss with the trustees any matter relating to the business of the District.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

We have hired a Level III employee. He will be very busy learning our system over the next few months. Ground Road watermain project is now completed. Our water quality is excellent due to the source and monitoring of our wells.

The districts engineer will be reviewing and assessing the Wilkinson Road well site to determine whether this site would be a good potential source and if it is cost effective.

If you have any questions please ask a trustee. Have a good and happy Easter.

Peter Johnson, Trustee

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The last few months the Trustees have been working very hard on labour issues. By the time you receive this newsletter the Trustees hope to be negotiating a fair union contract for both the district and staff.

I understand from rate payers that there are a lot of rumors out in the district. I would point out that staff and Trustees are required to sign a confidentiality agreement. Before you listen to any rumors consider the source and if in doubt contact a Trustee or the office. There are two sides to every story.

The AGM meeting will be May 1 and we are looking forward to a large turnout. There are four positions to be filled and I would ask that you vote for a person because of what they have brought or will bring to the district and not according to rumors you have heard. The Trustees work very hard for the district. We are having a lot of meetings during the days and evenings as well as the two meetings we regularly have each

month. You have probably seen our vehicles at the board office 10:00 or 11:00 pm at night.

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

My family would like to wish you and yours a happy and safe Easter.

Henrietta Murdoch, Trustee

MESSAGE FROM TRUSTEE

In 2012 I ran for a position as a Trustee, but due to a lack of challengers, I found myself acclaimed and took on a one year position to represent ratepayers. My single year is now up and this may be my last entry into the District's newsletter.

I feel it important to encourage ratepayers to seek a position on the District's Board. There are four positions up for grabs this time around and those of you who have business or human resource experience should seriously consider putting your name forward. The role of the Board of Trustees for the North Cedar Improvement District is first to ensure ratepayers receive a continuous supply of safe drinking water at an affordable price. The second is the oversight of the North Cedar Fire Department, which during the past year has hired a full time fire chief.

While the number of ratepayers is the greatest when it comes to financing the fire department, the number of ratepayers responsible for the cost of supplying water, including all waterworks, administrative and staffing costs, and all other operational costs with the exception of the fire department is less, about 1,200.

This past year the District has had a number of challenges with staff shortages and other human resource issues, infrastructure concerns as well as regulatory influences that have caused the District to evaluate how it does business.

Over the last year the only communications with ratepayers seems to be when someone uses a little too much water and wants an adjustment due to some unforeseen circumstance.

Your involvement in selecting the right candidates for the position of Trustee can have an impact as the potential for the District to incorporate, or just become an extension of our neighbours seriously exists.

Then there is the issue of development. Is Cedar to grow?

My neighbour told me once that they used to go to the regular meetings, but gave up because no one listened.

It used to be at the Annual General Meetings (AGM) that coffee and cookies were served. This is not the case anymore due to the lack of people attending and the length of the meeting.

In closing I do suggest that as a ratepayer that you become involved and ask questions. It's part of the democratic process. Even if I don't find myself amongst the new Board come this April, I still plan on protecting my rights as a ratepayer.

Rick Hyne, Trustee

EMERGENCIES

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

Its almost gardening season and the Regional District of Nanaimo's Team WaterSmart has a series of free workshops to help residents save on outdoor water this coming summer. Please see www.teamwatersmart.ca for the full list of workshops offered across the region.

WATER RESTRICTIONS

Water restrictions begin April 1st and will remain the same as last year. Should you require a copy please contact the office or visit the website for a copy at <http://ncid.bc.ca/water/watering-restrictions>.

THE FIRE CHIEF

Greetings from the fire department

Now that the time has changed and the days are getting longer and drier, many residents are busy with property spring cleaning. No doubt you have noticed an increase in smoke from burn piles as people go about getting rid of branches, leaves and other wood waste from around their property.

District Bylaw 359 – Fire Regulations Bylaw, provides the regulation for open air fires within our District. The Bylaw contains language that clearly defines what materials are allowed and are not allowed to be burned, when an open air fire is allowed, fire size, fire safety and the requirement to obtain a burning permit.

In 2012 the fire department attended 47 burning complaints. Most of these complaints were reported between April and October. When a burning complaint is reported, a fire department member will attend and determine what course of action is necessary as related to the fire. This can range from having the fire extinguished to taking no action.

While attending a burning complaint and speaking with property owners, the department generally finds that most residents are in compliance with the burning regulations including the possession of a valid permit. We do however find that some property owners disregard the regulations and burn garbage or other prohibited materials, are burning during a burning ban or are not in possession of a permit. Sometimes it is a simple case of not knowing the regulations but common sense should prevail; is it a good idea to burn garbage, start a fire when it is hot and dry in August or when the wind is blowing the smoke directly towards a neighbour's house?

Common sense should provide the answer.

The department encourages compliance with the burning regulations and we are more than happy to answer questions about open burning. We can be reached at 250-722-3122 and burning permits are free and can be obtained from the District office Monday to Thursday between 08:30am and 4:00pm. If residents need to make a burning complaint after hours, please call the non emergency number for fire dispatch at 250-753-7311 and a fire department member will be notified. Residents are also encouraged to regularly check the sign boards located at the Nanaimo River bridge and fire hall to see what the current fire danger rating is. This information can also be found on our web site at ncid.bc.ca.

Until next time, stay safe.

Percy Tipping
Fire Chief, North Cedar Fire Department