

# NORTH CEDAR IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

## WINTER NEWSLETTER 2013

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The district will complete the Ground Road water main replacement project in the New Year. We are still in the process of looking for water leaks and a new water source; we have drilled new test wells that show great promise. For 2013 the district will be continuing on with the assessment of the Glynneath Tower, looking at the additional reservoir at Barnes Rd and water main upgrades. The Board of Trustees looks forward to a very active year with many work projects for the district.

The Board wishes you and your family a happy new year.

Peter Johnson, Trustee

### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The year ahead will be a very busy year for the trustees and we will be negotiating a new union contract for the district.

I would like to remind you our office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday - Thursday. Please ensure you call the emergency pager number for emergencies only, as this costs the district.

Don't forget the district AGM Meeting will be held in April this year. We hope you will attend as this is your opportunity to voice your opinion and ask any questions you may have.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year and I hope you and your loved ones had a very Merry Christmas

Henrietta Murdoch, Trustee

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

As part of its mandate to supply residents with potable water, the North Cedar Improvement District (NCID) finds itself in the obligation to raise water tolls and parcel taxes for the fiscal year 2013. Whilst the Finance Committee worked arduously with District staff and found some savings, these were not sufficient to meet the District's ever increasing need for financial resources stemming from aging infrastructure and rising capital and operation costs. A number of factors justify the rate increase, but I will provide only three to keep things short:

For 2012, we had projected to collect \$737,083 in water tolls. Only \$638,861 was materialized, thereby leaving a shortfall of \$98,222. This amount was adjusted for net shortfall arising from water tolls penalties and water tolls levied from Nanaimo First Nations (\$8,553 - \$8,864) to produce a total revenue shortage of \$97,911 [= \$98,222 + \$8,553 - \$8,864]. Although this shortage puts NCID in a vulnerable financial position, we are aware, on a positive note, that it is the fruit of water conservation. As ratepayers become more conscientious about water usage, less water is consumed, and less money flows to the District to finance operations. The dilemma, however, is that we need to find money somewhere to meet the District's needs while keeping up with the promotion of water conservation. Since improvement districts are not eligible for government grants, our only recourse is with the ratepayers. The Finance Committee has determined that it is best to put more emphasis on the base rate, which is pretty much the fixed cost associated to supplying water to each residence, to collect the money needed. Hence, the jump observed in the table showing the new rates in effect starting

January 1, 2013. We have also made sure that every residence bear their fair share of the burden. The same applies to the Fire Department, for which you will likely see a slight increase in your taxes this year. Unanticipated Cedar Road Main break that cost \$165,000 to repair.

Unanticipated Ground Road Main repair that cost \$70,000 to repair.

As the Chair of the Finance Committee, it is my hope that you will find this report satisfactory. If you have any questions/suggestions/recommendations, please feel free to contact the office to get hold of me. I wish you all Happy New Year 2013, good health, and abundant wealth!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dr. Rosmy Jean Louis, Trustee

### MESSAGE FROM TRUSTEE

Last August and again recently I received a call from a resident at Ivor Road informing me about water shortages. This shortage was due to electrical problems with our pumps and the emptying of one of our reservoirs. The way our system works is that water is delivered to your home first by gravity and if during the filling process of the reservoir, then by water being pumped from the well.

As a Trustee having this reported to me the first time is bad enough – but twice in as many months is in my view simply unacceptable. As a result the Board of Trustees has had a lengthy discussion about ensuring that this type of thing does not happen again. My first concern is about the supply of water. My second is keeping ratepayers informed during issues such as this.

On the supply side, water is pumped into the reservoir and is drawn down as ratepayers use this water and as the water is used, it is metered and you receive a bill. One of the concerns is that it appears that we are pumping more water that is being consumed. This leaves us with a question or two about where is the water going? I recently voted to approve the expenditure to install some meters in the system to determine where within the system are we losing this water, and how is the water being lost? Is it through leaks as all water systems have leaks, or is it through unauthorized use?

I am a strong proponent of gathering data so that as a Trustee I can make an educated decision on how to spend your and my money to maintain our water system.

While I am not at all happy with how some of our ratepayers lost their water, I am committed to ensuring that this will not happen again.

Rick Hyne, Trustee

### WATER TOLLS – NEW RATES JAN 1/13

Residential:

Base Rate per unit/3 month period	\$81.34
Up To 100 cubic meter	\$0.85/per cubic meter
101-150 cubic meter	\$1.30/per cubic meter
Over 150 cubic meter	\$1.95/per cubic meter

Commercial:

Base Rate per unit/3 month period	\$88.84
Up To 100 cubic meter	\$1.25/per cubic meter
101-150 cubic meter	\$1.95/per cubic meter
Over 150 cubic meter	\$2.60/per cubic meter

## THE FIRE CHIEF

Happy New Year

I hope all residents had a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Over the past several weeks there has been considerable media coverage regarding incidents involving pedestrians. The increase in pedestrian vs. motor vehicle accidents can be attributed to several factors; longer periods of darkness, rainy weather, poor visibility and of course, inattention on the part of the vehicle driver or pedestrian.

Many members of our community regularly go for walks, runs, bike rides etc. For our area this presents an added challenge because we have many narrow roads with little to no shoulder for walking.

Statistics from Transport Canada show that between 2005 up to and including 2009, there were 1700 pedestrian fatalities in Canada and five times that amount in pedestrian injuries; staggering numbers.

These types of incidents are totally preventable but they do happen. So how can you help to stay safe?

For pedestrians:

- Wear some form of high visibility clothing
- Use a flashlight during times of darkness
- Walk, run or bike on the correct side of the road (walk against the flow of traffic and bike with the flow of traffic)
- Check for traffic before crossing a road
- Use cross walks where available
- Parents can encourage their children to wear reflective clothing

For drivers:

- Slow down during darkness
- Slow down in areas where there is likely to be pedestrians (Schools, residential subdivisions, businesses and sporting facilities)
- Watch for pedestrians

Hopefully taking these simple steps will assist in ensuring you are not a victim of a pedestrian accident.

Be safe.

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

## ASSESSMENT NOTICES

Enclosed with this newsletter are the assessment notices for 2013. This is just a notice and does not require any action on your part unless the classification for your property is incorrect. Should the classification be incorrect please follow the instructions on the notice.

## IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

Improvement districts are autonomous local government bodies responsible for providing one or more local services for the benefit of the residents in a community. They vary considerably in size, from small subdivisions, to urban communities. Improvement districts are usually located in rural areas of the province where there was no alternative form of local governance available, suitable, or desirable for the community. They are similar in structure to a municipality but are more informal and only provide direct services such as waterworks, fire protection or street lighting. There are more than 200 improvement districts operating in the province.

Improvement districts are administered by an elected board of trustees, one of whom has the additional duty of chair. Each trustee is elected for a three-year term by the eligible landowners of the improvement district. To be eligible to vote, or to be a candidate for trustee, a person must be eighteen years of age, a Canadian citizen, an owner of land in the improvement district and a B.C. resident for the previous six months.

Although improvement districts are independent public corporations, they are also subject to supervision by the Ministry. All bylaws passed by the board of trustees must be registered with the Inspector of Municipalities and the bylaws are not effective until that approval is granted. In addition, each year the improvement district's audited financial statements and the minutes of its annual general meeting are reviewed and filed with the Ministry.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Peter Johnson, Chairperson

Helen Edwards

Rick Hyne

Lenie Johnson

Rosmy Jean Louis

Henrietta Murdoch

Grant Vizely

## 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](mailto:info@ncid.bc.ca) Website: [www.ncid.bc.ca](http://www.ncid.bc.ca)

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday

Emergency Pager Water Main Breaks: 250-716-0223

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATES

January 10, 2013

February 14, 2013

March 14, 2013

April 11, 2013

May 9, 2013

June 13, 2013

July 11, 2013

August 8, 2013

September 12, 2013

October 10, 2013

November 14, 2013

December 12, 2013

Board Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month.

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