

Gillies Bay Improvement District Newsletter

January 2016
Volume 3, Issue 1

GILLIES BAY
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

GBID:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Kathleen Boeriu | Chair |
| Jim Mason | Vice Chair |
| Mave Leclair | Trustee |
| Linda Holmes | Trustee |
| Warren Kiland | Trustee |
| | |
| Bridget Andrews | Administrator |
| | |
| Ken Taylor | Water Operator |
| | |
| Doug Paton | Fire Chief |

Available on our website:

- ◆ **WEB SURVEY:**
Community Engagement Survey
- ◆ Water Quality Information
- ◆ Water Conservation
- ◆ Fire Department Information and Links

We're on the Web!
www.gillies-bay.ca

GRANTS

There has been much talk on Texada of grants and eligibility over the past year or two.

Improvement Districts are not eligible to apply directly for most grants; however, for some (like the Federal Gas Tax Fund), we are able to make application for eligible projects *through* the Powell River Regional District.

The criteria for Gas Tax projects is quite broad and encompasses a range of projects:

- public transit
- wastewater infrastructure
- drinking water
- solid waste management
- community energy systems
- local roads and bridges
- capacity building
- highways
- local and regional airports
- short-line rail
- short-sea shipping
- disaster mitigation
- broadband and connectivity
- brownfield redevelopment
- culture
- tourism
- sport
- recreation

The possibilities for this kind of funding

WATER MASTER PLAN

The GBID has hired Kerr Wood Leidal to build our Water Master Plan.

The purpose of a WMP is to provide a road map for community growth, planning, improvements and major projects like water quality and replacement of aging infrastructure.

Aside from the obvious benefits of having a plan, our discussions with

are endless, but these grants are highly competitive.

The GBID has made application through the PRRD for these funds on water-related projects. These requests were not supported by PRRD, as favour was given to their projects instead.

Not long ago, we contacted other communities in BC with questions about their successful applications and received very helpful and generous feedback. One theme stood out: we need the support of our Regional District.

If we want to win PRRD's support, Gillies Bay residents need to keep us on PRRD's radar. Residents need to remind the Regional District that grants available to Improvement Districts are very rare and that this is a unique opportunity for our small community to access external funding. PRRD will always have access to grants, and can put their projects forward at any time. This might be the only opportunity Improvement Districts have for *many* years.

Clean drinking water should be the first priority for funding. Why is drinking water on Texada at the bottom of our region's priority list?

other BC communities also made it clear that a WMP is something grant committees look for when determining the projects they will support.

We're excited to have this component in place and look forward to sharing it with you later this year!

SLOW SAND FILTER PILOT PROJECT UPDATE



2016 MEETINGS
7PM @ GB Firehall

Tues, February 9th

Tues, June 14th

Tue, October 11th

Tues, December 13th

We are approaching the final phase of our slow sand filter pilot project. The GBID received a summary review from our lead engineer which has given us guidance on the final chapter of the project.

KWL – Kerr Wood Leidal will be taking over the final phase and designing the scale model, should this filtration process prove successful in fully addressing our water quality problems.

So far, the data looks encouraging, but we still have a little ways to go in customizing the treatment process to address the problems that our pilot project has identified.

Gillies Bay Volunteer Fire Department

The GBVFD welcomed our new triple combination pumper truck last spring and E-73 has already attended a structure fire in the community. Its performance was superb, as expected.

MEMBERSHIP

The GBVFD continues to struggle with maintaining adequate manpower. Our fire department must always have a minimum of 15 members and a fire chief in order to operate (according to Fire Underwriter’s Survey regulations).

If manpower drops below that minimum, it compromises our ability to provide fire protection, posing a great risk to our community and our insurance rates.

Volunteering for the VFD is a rewarding opportunity that makes a tremendous impact, for the time involved.

If you would like to know more, please contact Doug Paton, Fire Chief at 604-414-5121 or info@gilliesbayvfd.ca.

You can also drop by the Gillies Bay Fire Hall on Monday nights at 6:30 to see what practice is all about.

How to Contact the GBID:

Phone

604-223-7757

Email

info@gillies-bay.ca

Mail

5073 Gillies Bay Road
PO Box 102, Gillies Bay, BC, V0N 1W0

Trustee Election & Annual General Meeting

The GBID’s trustee election will be held on April 23rd at our Annual General Meeting. The meeting will begin at 2 PM at the Texada Island Community Hall in Gillies Bay.

If you’re willing to contribute your time and skills to the stewardship of critical community services like water provision and fire protection, contact us for details!

We’re looking for people who want to make a positive impact in our community. Are you someone who values diversity and works well in a constructive team dynamic?

NOMINATIONS

Please contact admin@gillies-bay.ca or call 604-223-7757 to put your name forward, or to nominate someone who you believe would be an asset to our team.

The Board of Trustees provides leadership, governance and strategic guidance for the improvement district.

