

Gillies Bay Improvement District Newsletter

March 2013
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Gillies Bay Improvement District
www.gillies-bay.ca



A Note from the Board

Our Administrator recently attended the BCWWA “Window on Victoria” Conference in Vancouver where she learned a great deal about changes coming about in the Province. A few of the highlights:

1. The Provincial Government is making amendments to the Water Act that will include protection of watersheds and ground water, as well as changing the requirements for potable water distribution.

2. After questioning a director of the Ministry of Community, Sports and Cultural Development at the conference, we have learned some valuable information:

- Our infrastructure renewals/repairs are considered ‘maintenance’, for which we would not qualify for government funding even if we were eligible to apply.

- Local Governments (Municipal/Regional) who are eligible for grants can only hope for a maximum contribution of 7% of their real costs, on eligible expenses (like a slow sand filter).

Whether we are an Improvement District or otherwise, the BC Government will not finance ‘maintenance’, therefore, the tax/rate-payer is on the hook for funding all infrastructure renewals/repairs in the future.

If we were eligible for government funding, we could possibly receive 7% of the costs of our filtration system. The tax/rate-payer would be on the hook for the rest of the expense – no matter how great.

We are part of a nation-wide community of water systems who are in the same predicament. Municipal and Regional Districts are facing the same costly repairs and replacements. All of these local governments are looking for grants and financing.

The GBID will continue to look for opportunities and solutions, but for now it’s safe to say that we had better get used to going it alone.

GBID:

Kathleen Boeriu Chair

Jim Mason Trustee

John Garvin Trustee

Mave Leclair Trustee

Linda Holmes Trustee

Bridget Andrews Administrator

Ken Taylor Water Operator

Ken Taylor Fire Chief

NEWS

Water Quality

We have installed new sample stations throughout Gillies Bay, which will allow for more accurate sampling and reduce the occurrence of false-positive readings.

survey, and either mail it in or drop it off at the June meeting! We want to hear from you!

Metering in Gillies Bay

The GBID is on a fact-finding mission to learn more about the possibility of metering residential water connections. At this time we are only looking to gather information and feedback from residents.

If you would like to weigh-in, please attend the June 11, 2013 Regular Meeting, where the Board of Trustees will be discussing and taking questions from rate-payers.

We have a short rate-payer survey that will be available on our website, and by request (call: 604-486-7757). Please request a copy of the

Conserving Water

Conserving water saves money by reducing chlorination and wear and tear on our water system. It also reduces wear and tear on home plumbing, appliances and hot water tanks!

Steps that you can take in your home:

- Use soaker hoses instead of sprinklers to water gardens (these reduce water loss due to evaporation and aeration)
- Water lawns during cooler periods and not during the heat of the day
- Don’t water on windy days
- Run washing machines and dishwashers only when full
- Check outdoor hoses/fittings for leaks

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Annual General Meeting- April 20th 2013 @ 2pm at the Texada Island Community Hall
- ◆ Next Meeting: Tues, June 11/2013 @ GB Firehall - 7pm



2013 MEETINGS
7PM @ GB Firehall

Tues, March 12th

Tues, June 11th

Tue, September 10th

Tues, December 10th

How to Contact the District:

Phone

604-486-7757

Email

info@gillies-bay.ca

Mail

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

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

Conservation tips (continued...)

- Use a displacement device in toilets to reduce the amount of water flushed each time.
- Wash dark clothes in cold water (this even helps to keep them dark)
- When rinsing fruit and veg, save the water and use it to water houseplants.
- Turn the water off in the shower while you wash your hair. Turn faucets off when you brush your teeth or shave.
- Wash pets outside, over parts of your yard that need watering!
- Use bath towels more than once.

- Throw discarded or leftover ice on a plant, not down the sink.
- Instead of letting cool water run down the drain while you wait for it to warm up – catch it and use it for watering plants or pets, or even to flush toilets.
- Use automatic timers to reduce over-watering and check them regularly to avoid leaks/over-watering.

Water conservation is everybody's responsibility! Share these tips with family, friends and neighbours...the environment will thank you!

Summer Lawn & Garden Watering

2013 Sprinkling/Watering Regulations

One hour per week is all you really need for a healthy lawn. Each summer water consumption in Gillies Bay increases exponentially. We get numerous reports of people leaving their sprinklers on all night – yes, your neighbours are watching! This is unnecessary waste, and a huge draw on our water system. Excessive watering cycles huge amounts of chlorine in to the environment, as well.

It has been suggested that the GBID consider a fine for 'water negligence'. This would be used in scenarios of non-compliance for requests to rate-payers to repair leaks, and/or cease excessive watering. At this time, the GBID feels that this route is not necessary. Education and encouragement is our preferred method of enforcement. Please help us to spread a positive conservation message to your friends and neighbours!

WATERING REGULATIONS

Watering regulations are in effect from June 1 until September 30.

Sprinklers may be used for watering:
from 6:00 am - 10:00 am daily
AND/OR
from 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm daily

Remember, a healthy lawn only needs approximately one hour of watering per week!

Hand watering is permitted at all times, using a spring-loaded shut-off nozzle.

Watering with sprinklers must be limited due to peak demand during the times when people are home from school/work and begin preparing meals, taking showers, etc. By limiting sprinkling we can reduce our peak demand, and thereby defer costly improvements and upgrades due to unnecessarily high demands on system, infrastructure and disinfection.

Administrative News

Thanks to all who have requested our newsletter by email! To reduce costs on paper and postage, the GBID will only provide paper copies of newsletters by request.

If you wish to continue receiving our newsletter, please send your email address to info@gillies-bay.ca and we will add you to our list.

Email addresses are confidential and will only be used for sending our newsletter (quarterly or semi-annually), as well as emergency/boil water notifications – in other words, once in a blue moon!

Happy spring, everyone!!
- Bridget