

**Annual General Meeting of the Gillies Bay Improvement District
Sunday May 4, 2025 at the Gillies Bay Fire Hall**

Trustee Report

Two years ago, this AGM voted to have the Trustees study:

- (1) The extension of water services along Gillies Bay Road to Shelter Point, and
- (2) Filtration or purification processes for our raw water.

This past year we sent a written proposal, including cost estimates, to property owners along Gillies Bay Road from the existing water line to Shelter Point. Many owners did not reply, and some asked for more time; those replying were about fifty percent in support. The trustees decided to not proceed at this time.

Concerning water treatment; we proceeded to the preliminary design and costing for a slow sand filtration system just below Cranby Lake Dam. The next step is pilot testing and we are at this stage today. We are particularly concerned with local supply and the possibility of using local labour, including all lifetime costs of this project. We will need purification data and flow data for, at a minimum, a full year, obviously including seasonal performance. Any decision to proceed to the building phase will depend on the results of the pilot testing; and, later, ratepayer approval.

Trustees have been dealing with an aging waterworks for some years now; this past year, for the first time, we allocated funds for a capital replacement process, (thirty thousand dollars from tax and water toll revenue, and twenty thousand dollars from reserves). We will replace or repair up to a dozen valves and a similar number of saddles, (connections from the main line to households).

We know, from leaks over the past few years, that this is the weakest part of the aging system. The main line pipes are old but appear to be in a condition to last longer. We will be in a good position after the experience of this coming year to plan additional replacement.

We have also built a shelter, mandated by safety concerns, for hazardous material at the chlorinator.

Also, planning for relatively minor repair at the Dogwood Pumphouse is underway.

There has been some safety-oriented repair to the spillway at the Cranby Lake Dam; we need to plan for a longer-term replacement.

Our waterworks system is slowly growing with new connections. Next year we are expecting a larger connection for the TINHS subdivision at the bottom of Airport Road.

Our volunteer fire department has a new Fire Chief, Mike Corcoran (Corc). First let us thank Rob McWilliam for years of exemplary service. Thank you, Rob.

We look forward to Corc's plans to make even more improvements, with an emphasis on volunteer training.

We can state, in general terms, our priorities for the next year, and for future years, as follows:

1. Continued safe and secure supply of water with superior attention to customer service and particular attention to leaks.
2. Beginning a capital replacement plan and planning for the longer-term future with respect to safety, sustainability and thrift.
3. Continued planning for water treatment to comply with health standards; including local material, labour, and maintenance issues in the most cost-effective way possible.
4. Maintain a modest, thrifty approach to taxes and fees, appropriate for a system with relatively few ratepayers.
5. Monitor the health of the watershed, and waterworks, including the effects of changing climate patterns.