Weekly Village News

Friday, May 15, 2015

From the Mayor's Desk

Hi Neighbours,

I often hear from Lions Bayers that we live in a rainforest yet we have water issues. True, our houses are in the rainforest, and for nine months a year, the streams run full to the sea. But in late summer, when infrequent rainfall passes through the catchments within hours, and aquifers are only as good as the water reaching them from above, our water comes not from the rainforest, but from the snowpack above the treeline. And this year, that snowpack is reported by the Ministry of Forests to be about 15% of average. Lions Bay doesn't yet have empirical data on the correlation between snowpack, rainfall, temperature and streamflow, and we're working on that with various levels of government as a future project. But I can state anecdotally that if there was ever going to be a year that Lions Bay will have water supply issues, this might be the year.

We have started publishing our water production on the Village website. The graph shows that current average usage--consumption plus leakage—is about 1000 liters per person per day, before most outdoor irrigation has started. The Metro Vancouver year-round average usage is 500 liters per person per day, sometimes higher in parts with larger houses and gardens, but if we're serious about the potential for water shortages this summer, we're going to need to reduce our water use to less than half of today.

How do we do that?

To regulate coming outdoor water use, Lions Bay is instituting a new bylaw in time for June 1, when the Village will automatically enter "Level 1" conservation. Level 1 is not too onerous, requiring mostly that irrigation only takes place on designated days in the early morning. Level 2 is more serious, activated when the water system's replenishment rate drops below a certain level. Level 3 is serious conservation, with municipal water restricted to indoor use only. Level definitions can be seen in the May 19 Council Agenda package and will be published on the website once the bylaw has been adopted. Further distribution will occur through Weekly Village News blasts and hard copy mail-out. The Outdoor Water Use bylaw will be enforced, and fines are not insignificant, but we don't want fines—we want water. Please take conservation very seriously this summer, and deal with or report wastage fast, so that we all have the best chance of having enough water. I'll say it here for the first time: if it gets bad enough, our gardens are going to die, and if it gets really bad, the water may not flow the whole day. This is nobody's fault—it simply didn't snow much this winter, and we don't know if what there is is enough. Given the realities of our water system, with no large reservoirs and relying on surface flow, the Village will be prepared as it can be.

What else can we do? Consider installing rain barrels under your downspouts. Demonstration rain barrel units are being installed at the Village Hall, and even though it doesn't rain much in summer and the collected water is not potable, it can be used unrestricted for gardens, and in the extreme to top up toilet tanks to keep our houses habitable. If you've been considering low-flow shower heads, instant-hot water or dual-flush toilets, now would be a great time. Finally, with the most recent test indicating 26 percent leakage in the network, Public Works is working hard on finding mains leaks. And if you know or suspect your water supply line from the main is leaking, right now would be a great time to fix it (municipal oversight ends at the shutoff valve).

I'll be going on about water supply quite a bit in the next few months. In addition to providing our drinking water, the other aspect of our water system is firefighting supply. Residents can help reduce fire risk by clearing up deadfall and other fuel loads, and the municipality will be reconfiguring selected drinking water tanks as firefighting reserve storage, but again, water conservation will be paramount this summer, and something we all need to be very conscious off.

After this hopefully sobering message, let me put in a quick word for an uplifting event: the I Love Lions Bay Photo Contest. With $1000 in prizes and everlasting fame, please submit your Lions Bay photos by May 22.

All the best,
Karl

WEEKLY VILLAGE NEWS

The Weekly Village News has been progressing into a Village-wide, informative newsletter sent out each Friday to help keep you involved and informed in your community. With more residents now joining the email list, we have recently had some troubles with our server while sending mass amounts of emails out at once. Village staff has recently implemented a new program in order to send the Weekly Village News without disruption. Please excuse any mishaps while we get to know this program. If you experience any troubles, please send an email to office@lionsbay.ca and we will do our best to assist you. Enjoy the new layout!

UPCOMING COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Regular Council Meeting - May 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
- **CORRECTION:** Bylaw & Policy Review Committee - May **25**, 2015 at 7:00 p.m

All meetings will take place in Council Chambers. The Village office stays open until 6:30 p.m. on Regular Council Meeting days in order to serve you better!

OFFICE HOURS – VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY



The Village Office will be closed Monday, May 18th for the Victoria Day holiday and will reopen at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 19th.

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

May 17-23 is National Public Works week! On behalf of Council, Mayor Buhr has issued a proclamation in recognition and appreciation of the efforts put forward by our Public Works staff every day.

INFRASTRUCTURE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Have a question for the Infrastructure Committee? Please send it to feedback@lionsbay.ca with the subject line "Infrastructure Q&A".

BACKYARD SWIM PROGRAM

The Village is looking for a new volunteer to take over the popular "backyard swim program".



The volunteer is responsible for:

- Sourcing the pools
- Organizing schedules
- Completing timesheets for the instructors
- Advertising the program and coordinating with parents

Anyone who may be interested in volunteering is asked to contact the Village Office for more information. The Village's Volunteer Policy can be viewed on the policy page of the Village website.

RAIN BARRELS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGH CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER

The City of North Vancouver is selling rain barrels to promote water conservation measures and have extended the purchase opportunity to non-residents at a cost of $55 per barrel, a substantial savings off the retail pricing. There are two opportunities to purchase the barrels from the City – Sunday, May 24th and Sunday, June 14th – at Loutet Farm from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, please visit this link.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications for the Brenda Broughton Scholarship will be accepted by the Village Office until end of day, Monday, May 25, 2015.

Last fall, a group of Lions Bay residents established a scholarship to honor the dedication and contribution of Brenda Broughton to the Village of Lions Bay and its residents. Students graduating who demonstrate Leadership, Citizenship and Scholarship, and who have demonstrated a commitment to Lions Bay are invited to apply for this scholarship and to be recognized for their commitment to our community.

The Brenda Broughton Scholarship is independent of all other Lions Bay Scholarships. The successful candidate may receive other Lions Bay Scholarships.

Please see the criteria and application form for the Brenda Broughton Scholarship on the Village website.

TICKS

Recent media reports indicate tick season has arrived early in BC this year. For ways to protect yourself from ticks, please visit this link from the Ministry of Agriculture.

INFRASTRUCTURE MASTER PLAN – RFP NOW RELEASED

The Infrastructure Master Plan Request for Proposals has now been released and can be viewed on the Village website or on BC Bid.

FOLLOW US!

On Twitter: @VillageOfLB
On YouTube: Village of Lions Bay

NATIONAL HEALTH & FITNESS DAY – SATURDAY, JUNE 6

Save the date and join your fellow Villagers for The Great Lions Bay Trail Run on Saturday, June 6th. The route map is available and more details will follow in the coming weeks.

BYLAW REPORTING

Weekdays: Village Office (604) 921-9333 or reception@lionsbay.ca
Weekends: Bylaw Officer (604) 834-3404 or bylaw@lionsbay.ca

If, at any time, residents experience an event which poses an immediate threat to personal safety, please contact the RCMP by dialing 9-1-1.

SCHOOL VISIT TO PUBLIC WORKS YARD

The Public Works staff were pleased to welcome students from Lions Bay Community School for a tour of the works yard on May 12. The children were shown various aspects of a day in the life of our Public Works staff and a great time was had by all!

LIONS BAY'S GOT TALENT



Cash Prizes at Lions Bay's Got Talent!
$100, $50, $25 for the winners.
All Ages.

Performers can still sign up at lionsbaytalent@gmail.com

Not performing? Please come and show your support Thursday May 21st, 6 – 8 p.m. at the Village Hall. Entry is by donation which will be gratefully received to support the work at Erin Moore's Enchanted Garden. Cash snack bar open. View the flyer here.

DAILY WATER PRODUCTION GRAPHS NOW ONLINE

A daily Water Production Graph has now been added to the Village website and will be updated each weekday to reflect daily production (consumption + leakage) rates. Click the link under the Latest Updates section of the home page.

DOGS IN THE VILLAGE

The Village has received a number of complaints of dog-related bylaw contraventions. Please note the following key information:

- Dogs are prohibited at Lions Bay Beach and Brunswick Beach
- Dogs must be on-leash at all times within the Village except in designated areas or when utilizing Village trails; the first 50 feet of all Village trails are designated on-leash areas
- Dogs are permitted at Kelvin Grove beach in designated areas; please observe related "on leash" signage and obey beach park open hours (8 a.m. to 10 p.m. pursuant to Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 448, section 10.1)
- Dogs are not permitted to be running at large anywhere at any time in the Village

For more information on dog-related bylaw regulations, please review Animal Control & Licensing Bylaw No. 461 on the Village website.

THE LIONS BAY 55+ CLUB

The 55+ Club is a weekly gathering, and outings are intended to stimulate and engage residents of Lions Bay who are wanting to connect to the community in an active way.

View the calendar on the Village website each month for upcoming 55+ Club events.

More upcoming events in May:

- Wednesday, May 20th – Mini Golf & Lunch (11am-3pm)
- Thursday, May 21st – Stretch and Strength (1:30-2:30pm)
- Thursday, May 28th – Stretch and Strength (1:30-2:30pm)
- Thursday, May 28th – How to Build a Better Brain (7-8:30pm)

Please register your attendance for weekly events with kjeffery@lionsbay.ca so that we may plan set up and refreshments accordingly. Please also mention if you are able to drive/carpool for Wednesday, May 20th – Mini Golf & Lunch in Squamish.

THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE VILLAGE OF LIONS BAY