



THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE VILLAGE OF LIONS BAY

WEEKLY E-POST

For the week ending: Friday, February 13, 2015

2015 UTILITY RATES SET FOR ADOPTION FEBRUARY 17, 2015

From the Mayor's Desk

As you may know, in early February Council sets water and solid-waste rates, in time for annual utility bills at the end of the month. This year staff have recommended a further increase in water rates to cover the budgeted costs of providing the service. Solid-waste rates are unchanged from 2014. I'd like to give a heads up on the water rate increase, and explain why it's happening.

The total cost of water this year is preliminarily budgeted at \$673,000 before depreciation. That's about \$1220 per property BEFORE the depreciation cost of the drop in value and eventual replacement of the Village's water assets. This big number this year includes 40 percent of the estimated cost of the planned 2015 Infrastructure Master Plan, plus repairs and upgrades to the intakes that aren't covered under Provincial emergency funding, plus additional staff time based on recent experience on what it takes to keep water flowing.

Water utility rates this year are set at \$788 per property, plus a \$485 parcel tax for water coming in June (Brunswick Beach parcels are slightly less). Yes, it's a big number, but that's what it currently takes to supply water in Lions Bay. By way of comparison, the average Metro Vancouver residential water bill was \$154 last year. But Lions Bay lacks economy of scale, the steep terrain makes maintaining normal pressures costly, and we collect water from high up on two slide-prone surface creeks, not from wells and not from reservoirs. If long term climate predictions are right, we may experience increasingly intense weather events, and higher costs to keep clean water flowing. That the water always meets mandated drinking water guidelines is continued testament to our Public Works staff, who truly do perform near-miracles on a regular basis.



Council and the Infrastructure Committee are working hard on our strategic options for water to reduce cost and risk, including the feasibility of relocating one or both intakes to less risk-prone locations, supplying the entire Village from one primary intake so that we don't have to run, inspect and maintain both intakes all the time, fixing a too-high leakage rate, and measurement of snowpack and associated stream flows.

That's water. Solid waste costs on the other hand are unchanged. Staff report that it's still difficult hard to quantify the result of switching to a separate organic waste collection, because the contractor (Smith rite) doesn't have enough experience with our demand yet. In theory, organic waste costs significantly less to dump, because it can be processed into compost and sold. But if an organic load is found to contain





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non-compostable material, the entire load is rejected, and we would pay the regular garbage rate plus a fee for the added handling. For now, the best guess is that solid waste will cost the same as last year, about \$192,000, covered by a \$361 per parcel utility fee for residential properties.

As you may know, February's utility bill covers only part of the cost of providing water--the rest of operating costs and paying for the infrastructure loans are covered by property parcel taxes, billed in June. Council would like to know residents' thoughts on whether utilities ought to be combined into one February bill in the future, or split between operating costs on a bill and financing costs as a parcel tax, or other approaches. As always, reach all members of Council in one fell swoop at council@lionsbay.ca

-Mayor Karl Buhr

INFRASTRUCTURE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

The Infrastructure Committee is pleased to add a Q&A piece to the weekly ePost. Each week, a new topic will be addressed. If you would like to submit a question for consideration by the Infrastructure Committee, please send it to feedback@lionsbay.ca with the subject line "Infrastructure Q&A".



This week's question:

What is the difference between a "Boil Water Advisory" and a "Boil Water Order"?

A: A "Boil Water Advisory" is issued when a concern with water quality may exist.

The most common reason Boil Water Advisories have been issued in the Village is high turbidity in one or both creeks after heavy rains or debris slides. This turbidity causes our water treatment plants to not work as effectively or efficiently as usual, which temporarily prevents the Village from being able to ensure that minimum chlorine residual levels are present in all points of the water system.

During Boil Water Advisory periods, all residents are advised by Vancouver Coastal Health to boil water intended for drinking, washing ready-to-eat foods, making ice for consumption, or brushing teeth. Boil Water Advisories are of increased concern to at-risk members of the general population, such as newborns, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems

A "Boil Water Order" is issued when there is a confirmed health threat within the water system, such as confirmed test results that indicate eColi or fecal coliforms, or a confirmed water-borne illness is linked to the system.



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UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Council Strategy Committee (formerly COTW) Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 3 p.m. The next Regular Council Meeting is Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 7 p.m. Meetings are held in the Council Chambers and [agenda packages](#) are now available for viewing on the Village website. The Village Office is now open until 6:30 p.m. on Council Meeting days in order to be more accessible to our residents.

SAVE THE DATE! OFFICIAL VILLAGE HALL OPENING EVENT

On Saturday, March 28th the Village will hold its official opening event and plaque unveiling. Save the date on your calendars and stay tuned for more information.



ORGANICS RECYCLING (GREEN CAN) PROGRAM

Reminder that garbage is now picked up every two weeks. The next garbage pick-up is on Friday, February 27th. Recycling, green waste and yard waste is picked up every week and there is NO LIMIT on these items. For those who have ordered a Green Can from the Village Office, we will contact you when the shipment arrives later this month; the supplier has notified us of a delay in the receipt of their order. The [Smithrite schedule](#) is on the Village website under the Organics tab. **Please note that the Smithrite truck broke down this morning; it has since been repaired and was back up and running at 2:30 p.m. today and will continue with their pick-up route.**

TSUNAMI PREPAREDNESS WEEK 2015



Emergency Management BC is launching their first annual Tsunami Preparedness Week March 22-28, 2015. In partnership with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, EMBC will be promoting the importance of tsunami preparedness alongside other jurisdictions from across the Pacific, Atlantic and Caribbean. You can learn more here: www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/be-tsunami-smart

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have comments, questions, kudos or concerns, we want to hear them! Suggestions for ePost content? Programs for the hall? General odds'n'sods? Send them to our "virtual suggestion box" by emailing feedback@lionsbay.ca

PROGRAMS IN THE VILLAGE HALL

There are many fun programs available to residents including children's play group, yoga classes, badminton and volleyball. For more information, please contact the Village Office.



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TAKE A SECOND FOR SAFETY

Spring is on its way and nature is undergoing a fresh start. Many homeowners are ready to clean up the debris that has been accumulating in basements, storage sheds and garages over the winter. Here are some tips to ensure your spring cleanup is a safe one:

- Household and pool chemicals, paints and poisons should be properly marked and stored under lock and key, away from children's reach. Dispose of any that are leaking, expired, or that look bad.
- When cleaning up hazardous chemicals, wear rubber gloves and follow the safety directions on the packaging. Never mix chemicals in the same container. If you don't know how to dispose of them, seek outside advice. Never put them in the trash or pour them down the drain.
- Make sure gasoline and cleaning fluids are well-marked and stored in a cool, dry place away from the house and out of reach of children and pets. Use only approved containers for gasoline storage.
- Remove all fire hazards, including stacks of rags, newspapers and magazines. Pay special attention to the spaces around your furnace, hot water tank, fireplace, space heaters and dryer, as well as under your stairs.