

Cowichan Bay Waterworks District

Cowichan Bay Waterworks District is committed to providing our community with high quality drinking water that is safe, cost effective and sustainable, including provisions for fire protection, now and in the future.



Newsletter January 2024

Office Hours

OPEN: 9 am to 4 pm, Tuesday - Thursday
After Hours Emergency Number: 250 710 8207
Website: www.cowichanbaywater.com

Contact Us:

Office Location: 1760 Pavenham Road
Office Telephone: 250 748 1687
Office Email: info@cowichanbaywater.com

Trustee's Message By Julia Balabanowicz

Happy New Year to everyone in Cowichan Bay. Please accept my well wishes for a 2024 filled with whatever it is you need most this year.

This is my first Trustee message since joining the Board of Trustees at the 2023 AGM. The last several months have been a very interesting learning curve— from learning about the water system along with understanding how the Water System Master Plan and the Five-Year Capital Expenditure Plan were designed to renew the system and ensure its longevity, to Water Tolls and Parcel Taxes. Fortunately, I have been well supported by the hard-working staff and knowledgeable fellow Trustees.

I got my seat on the Board through acclimation because there were no other community members interested in the position. On one hand, I completely understand why. It is a volunteer position and it's hard to carve out time in the day for yet another responsibility. However, I wish that I had to compete for the seat. Water is precious to any community and in Cowichan Bay our water is under increasing stress as the community grows, the system ages and climate change impacts availability. From my perspective, it is of the utmost importance that more community members become involved in planning and managing our water supply and system. Over the coming years we will have to take in new information and make important decisions that will have lasting impacts. I want every landowner in Cowichan Bay to consider what they can contribute and to know that they can come forward to take a seat at the table. The Board of Trustees is responsible for the governance of Cowichan Bay Waterworks, so you don't have to be a water systems expert— I'm not. We need people with a variety of backgrounds and skill sets.

I wanted to take the opportunity to shine a spotlight on this because there will be another opportunity for new Board of Trustees to join at the 2024 AGM and I hope that more people will come forward. Please reach out to learn more if this interests you. And, if joining the Board isn't for you, you can still become more involved simply by attending community meetings.

Thank you, Julia Balabanowicz

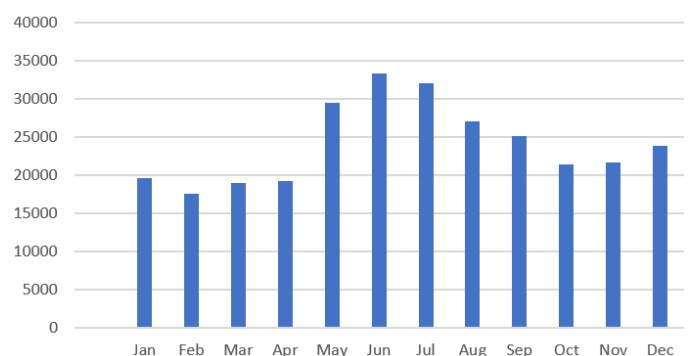
District Administrator's Message by Cheryl Wirsz

A new water toll bylaw is in place for 2024. The base rate has been reduced to \$80 per quarter and the upper tiers have been adjusted lower to reflect cost recovery and to address user concerns. The District continues to encourage input on the water toll framework in its efforts to ensure water production, water treatment and water distribution cost recovery is fair to all.

The annual parcel tax bylaw process is underway. Rates have increased in order to cover the cost of the capital upgrades recommended in the Master Plan and Source Water Protection Plan. Watch for the Court of Revision Notice, expected in early February, with the Court of Revision planned to occur in late February or early March. The purpose of the Court is to hear appeals on tax classifications, as opposed to the tax rate.

The District has heard concerns from residents regarding how difficult it can be to pay the annual parcel tax. If you wish, you may submit post dated cheques or set up an online payment schedule through your bank, or come into the office once per month/every payday *etc.* to make a payment. If you are not sure, please feel free to contact the office to discuss further. It should be noted that many residents also do this for their water tolls in order to avoid late payments. Payment plans are always a viable option.

2023 Water Production by m³



2024 Key Dates

January	February and March	April	May	July	October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch for your water invoice by the 3rd week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch for your Parcel Tax Assessment Notice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch for your water invoice by the 3rd week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch for your annual parcel tax invoice in late May 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch for your water invoice in 2nd week Parcel tax due July 15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch for your water invoice in the 2nd week
\$80/quarter + tier use	Court of Revision	\$80/q + tier use		\$80/q + tier use	\$80/q + tier use

2024 Water Toll Tiers

Base Rate - \$80 [includes the first 15m3]	Tier 1 50¢ / 15 – 49 m3	Tier 2 75¢ / 50-74 m3	Tier 3 \$1 / 75-99 m3	Tier 4 \$3 / 100-149 m3	Tier 5 \$5 / 150+ m3
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Board Meeting Dates – 2024

Jan 23 / Feb 27 / March 26 / Apr 23 / May 21

Annual General Meeting – May 2024

Trustee elections, financial statements, annual reports

Court of Revision – 2024

Late February or early March

Outdoor Watering Restrictions

May 1 to October 31, 2024

2024 Tax Rates

[see your tax notice or tax invoice if you are not sure of your tax class]

A tax of \$ 350 on all parcels of land classified Group A.
A tax of \$ 350 on all parcels of land classified Group A1.
A tax of \$ 350 on all parcels of land classified Group B.
A tax of \$ 350 on all parcels of land classified Group C.
A tax of \$ 700 on all parcels of land classified Group D.
A tax of \$ 350 on all parcels of land classified Group E.
A tax of \$ 700 on all parcels of land classified Group F.
A tax of \$ 8 500 on all parcels of land classified into Group G.
A tax of \$ 10 150 on all parcels of land classified Group H.
A tax of \$ 350 on all parcels of land classified Group I.
A tax of \$3 900 on all parcels of land classified Group J.
A tax of \$0 on all parcels of land classified as tax exempt.

What to do in the event of a power outage?

Reduce your water use as much as possible until the power comes back on.

Meter Box Maintenance

Keep the area around your meter box cleared and clean in order to allow the meter reader to do his work.

Monitoring Water Use

If you want to monitor water use between meter reads you can lift the lid off the green box, write down the numbers and check again in a few days.

On average, it should take about three or four days to use 1m³.

Reminder: Be sure to sign up for **ALERTS!** in order to receive the most up to date information as it happens.

Volunteer Opportunities - CBWD is a community owned facility and community volunteers help reduce costs and help alert the community to very important health matters. Current volunteer opportunities include:

- (1) Teams to install emergency event signage in local neighbourhoods.
- (2) Teams to hand deliver emergency event notices door to door in local neighborhoods.
- (3) Court of Revision – if you are interested in participating on the Court of Revision in late February or early March, call or email

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these opportunities, please call the office or email info@cowichanbaywater.com with your name, address, phone number, which Team you would like to volunteer on, and your preferred neighbourhood/block.

How Does My Water Use Compare ?

2023 Water Use	Q2	Cost	Q3	Cost
Median [middle value]	56.8 m ³	\$102.60	53.9 m ³	\$100.58
Mode [# that occurs the most]	29 m ³	\$87	33 m ³	\$90
Mean [average]	76.7 m ³	\$104.30	69.8 m ³	\$112.35

