

WASA LAKE LAND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT Newsletter June 2014



Dear Property-owners: There is a lot of news as trustees prepare for the possibility of high water!

Water Watch

An unusually high snow pack this winter and delayed spring freshet suggest the possibility of high water at Wasa Lake again this year. However, trustees have been monitoring the level of water in Kootenay River and report that it has actually declined dramatically in the past two weeks. On May 24, the water level was 769.85 metres, but declined to 768.96 by June 1st.

Meanwhile, the lake water level rose 124.9 cm (49") between May 14th and June 3, the current rate of increase at about 10 cm/day. Data collected from 2013 tells us that the melt is happening slower this year than last; the lake level on June 3, 2013 was 12 cm higher than on June 3, 2014. In 2013, the lake reached its maximum level on June 28.

The 14-day weather trend at www.weathernetwork.com indicates a mix of sun and cloud and moderate temperatures which will continue to slow down the melt. Although we cannot dismiss the possibility of high water, all in all, we have every reason to remain optimistic.

For more information about the relationship between the Kootenay River and Wasa Lake, and how flooding is determined by both snowpack and weather, see the Baker Report or Hydrology in the Library at www.wasalake.ca

Sandbagging Station

In a proactive move, the Regional District has already set up a self-serve sandbagging station at the Wasa Hall. If it is necessary to protect property from

high water, residents can fill as many sandbags as they need. Please bring your own shovels and ties; bags are provided. For further info contact RDEK's Emergency Services Coordinator Melody Munro at mmonro@rdek.ca Emergency Management BC has extensive flood preparedness information on its website, including everything from packing an emergency kit to proper sandbagging techniques www.embc.gov.bc.ca

Dike is Ready for High Water

High water in June of 2013 flooded the dyke between Cameron Pond and the Wasa Wildlife Sanctuary. This structure, combined with a culvert and flap gate, helps prevent high water from flowing into Cameron Pond and Wasa Lake, thus mitigating the effects of flooding. Receding water revealed that the dyke was badly eroded on the north bank for approximately 100 metres and would likely fail in a future flooding event. The WLLID successfully applied for funding from the provincial Disaster Funding Assistance program and the dike was fully restored in April. As a public safety precaution, a new wire fence was installed on the north side.

Water Quality

Flooding raises concerns about water quality, but in the past there has been no systematic water monitoring to assure the public that the water is safe.

In April, Trustees Alex Jensen and Laurie Kay met with the Interior Health Authority to discuss working together to test water quality at public beaches in the event of flooding. Pending written approval from BC Parks (which has been granted), Interior Health agreed to provide sample containers, shipping and laboratory costs if the WLLID provided the man(and woman)power to gather water samples from public beaches before, during and after high water.

Mosquitoes

Mosquito control, coordinated by the Regional District, is already underway on the ground and in the air and will continue throughout the summer as needed. Residents can reduce mosquitoes on their property by eliminating any areas of standing water in which mosquitoes breed.

Contact Chris Bosman at cbosman@rdek.ba.ca or 250-489-2791 or 1-888-478-7335 if you have questions about the Mosquito Control Program.

Next Regular Board Meeting 7 PM June 16, 2014 at the Wasa Community Hall.

Happy June,

Trustees

Wasa Lake Land Improvement District