

WATERnews



Your Water Supply

On Thursday February 18 the Regional District of Nanaimo will be presenting information on a number of water related topics for the Nanoose Bay Peninsula Water Service Area. From the planned future water supply to updated watering restrictions and more, regional staff will be on hand to provide presentations and to answer your questions. This newsletter provides the key topics that will be covered. **Please plan to attend this event to be held at the Nanoose Place beginning at 7 pm.**

ENGLISHMAN RIVER WATER SERVICE

In 1996 residents in the regional district voted in favour of proceeding with a new water source plan that would, in part, provide drinking water to the Nanoose Bay Peninsula Water Service Area. This Plan supports the development of a surface water supply to augment existing groundwater supply and address increased demand due to growth. The resulting Englishman River Water Service, a partnership between the Regional District of Nanaimo and the City of Parksville, is now nearing the final phases of establishing this as a year-round supply. The new water intake on the Englishman River will be constructed in 2016/17 along with a water filtration treatment plant due to be completed in 2018.

AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY

While summers are predicted to be longer and hotter in the coming years it is also anticipated that winters will continue to be wet. Taking advantage of the wet months to supply water for the dry months will help add an additional level of water security to our supply, balancing the community's water needs with water availability. The Aquifer Storage and Recovery process uses natural storage systems (aquifers) to hold treated water in the winter for use in the summer. Water in the Englishman River would be extracted during high winter flows, treated, and injected into a suitable aquifer for use later in the

summer when demand is high. While some preliminary assessment work has been completed further study and development of the concept will proceed once the new intake and treatment system is operational in 2018.

WATERING RESTRICTIONS FOR 2016

The drought we experienced in 2015 resulted in unprecedented restrictions on watering. A comprehensive watering ban was brought into effect in July after earlier than normal high usage and increasing drought levels on Vancouver Island.

While typical high water use spans July and August, last summer saw the higher use begin in early May due to an abnormally dry spring. An early start to what became **a very hot and dry summer prompted water department staff to consider implementing restrictions sooner in an effort to protect groundwater resources.** Residents responded positively resulting in reduced demand on the groundwater supply.

TYPICAL SUMMER HIGH DEMAND PERIOD



2015 SUMMER HIGH DEMAND PERIOD



Watering restrictions are under review for 2016 in an effort to standardize the restriction structure and definitions for water utility customers in the region including municipalities, improvement districts and all eight RDN systems. *More information on these changes will be made available later this year.*

www.rdn.bc.ca



englishman river
WATER SERVICE

Managing
Tap into It!
your water



Public Meeting

DETAILS OVER >

ELECTORAL AREA E WATER MONITORING PROGRAM

The Regional District of Nanaimo is moving forward on expanding the Electoral Area E-wide surface and groundwater monitoring network. This network provides information that will assist in **developing a more indepth understanding of the water resources in the area**. Working with residents, the Regional District of Nanaimo Drinking Water & Watershed Protection program staff, with the help of additional water resource specialists, will **develop a long term plan** that establishes monitoring for groundwater levels, stream flows and precipitation/temperature. A community session will be developed for spring of this year where residents can join in to learn more and participate in the development of this program.

RAINWATER COLLECTION

The Drinking Water and Watershed Protection program can help you with the costs to install rainwater harvesting equipment at your residence. This program **recognizes the value of using rainwater** and is able to assist eligible applicants with up to \$750.

Please see www.rdnrebates.ca and click on Rainwater Harvesting Incentive Program

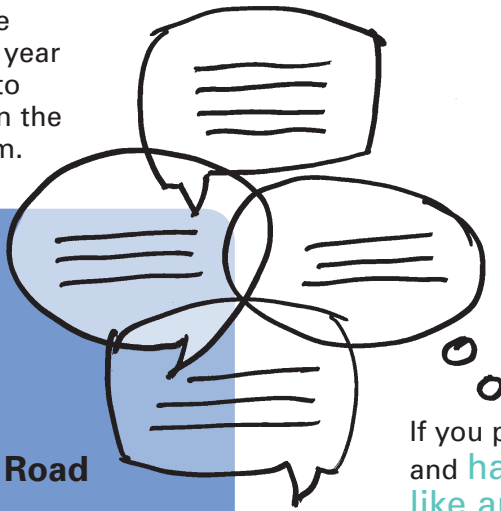


Public Meeting

February 18
7-9 pm
Nanoose Place
2931 Northwest Bay Road

Doors open at 7pm
Presentations begin at 7:15

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND
THIS IMPORTANT MEETING.**



If you plan to attend the February 18 meeting and **have some questions you would like answered** at that meeting, or, if you cannot attend, please send your questions to us and we will do our best to address them. *Please use the email address provided below.*

Questions?

If you have any questions please contact Water & Utility Services at 1-877-607-4111, rcu@rdn.bc.ca or visit the WaterSmart website at www.rdn.bc.ca