

Union Bay Improvement District

Box 70, 5471 S. Island Highway

Union Bay, BC, V0R 3B0

Phone: 250-335-2511

Fax: 250-335-1178

email: ubid@shawcable.com

November 2006 Landowners' Update

Water System

In September, Union Bay was invited to attend a workshop "Convening for Action in British Columbia: Moving towards the Water Balance Way-of-Thinking and Acting" as part of the "Water in the City" Conference held in Victoria. Union Bay was acknowledged as being innovative in the management of its water supply by installing water meters, establishing a water conservation and drought management plan which established water tolls to encourage water conservation, while allowing funds to cover operating expenses and plan for renewal and replacement. Unlike other areas of the Comox Valley, the residents of Union Bay were able to avoid strict water restrictions this past summer as a result of the water management plan that was established.

In the weeks leading up to the October 21st referendum, there were concerns raised regarding the UBID's involvement with the Regional Van Lakes Water System. Accusations were made that landowners were not informed or consulted regarding this proposed system.

It should be noted that both Graeme Faris, Regional District's General Manager of Operational Services, and Brian McMahon, Vice President of Kensington Island Properties, clearly stated that there was no "official" plan in place; merely a "concept" of a water system which could service the entire Baynes Sound area.

Since this "concept" has received no formal study or documentation, there was little more that your Board of Trustees could report to landowners, other than what was published in the local media. Recent requests by UBID for additional information on the proposed system have gone unanswered. Requested meetings with CSRD staff to further discuss the proposal were either cancelled or postponed until after the referendum.

Until such time as an approved alternative may become available, your elected UBID Trustees will continue to provide a safe and affordable water service to the landowners using the Langley Lake system.

Fire Department

Some concern has been raised over the authorized use of the Duty Officer's vehicle. As a volunteer fire department, our community depends on the fast response of its members. These members must continue to carry on their normal lives when not called upon for emergency duties. This is especially true of the designated Duty Officer who must be the first on scene to assess the seriousness of a fire or incident and the response required. Therefore, the Duty Officers are permitted to use this vehicle 24/7 to remain in fast response to any emergency calls. This is standard practice in most other fire departments.

As indicated prior to the referendum, regardless of the outcome, there is a pressing need to update the Fire Department's hall and equipment. To this end, a committee has been formed to investigate the purchase of land and the design and costs of the new facility.

Although Kensington Island Properties had offered to make land available and help fund a new hall, the future of their project and the associated development fees are now in question. As such, the Trustees feel compelled to begin the process of investigating a community funded replacement for the fire hall.

Detailed information regarding future plans for the waterworks and fire department should be available at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for the spring of 2007.

UBID Board of Trustees

New Website: www.union-bay.ca