

## January 2020 Newsletter

2019 was a busy year for your Van Anda Improvement District.

Your board of volunteer trustees with Ken Soles and Lin Johnson logged a record number of hours; dividing their time between hands on work, meetings, with the majority of time dedicated to our new water treatment plant and water tank installations.

Trustees and staff worked with Res 'Eau WaterNet (UBC), KWL Engineering consultants, qathet Regional District, Vancouver Coastal Health and local contractors to bring this major project to completion.

Our water storage tower and new water treatment plant are now in place. Commissioning has begun and full service is expected early spring 2020.



Van Anda Steel Water Tank October 2019

**Van Anda Improvement District is responsible for potable water supply and fire protection within our boundaries.**



## 2020 Water Tolls and Taxes

Your water tolls and taxes are set to cover the expenses required to provide potable water and fire protection services. VAID does not budget to create a surplus. This year, water tolls and taxes increased by approximately 4%.

Description	2020 Tax Rate	Classification	2020 Water Tolls
Group A (<0.5 acre)	\$146	Single Family	\$425
Group B (0.5 – <1 acre)	\$205	Store, Hall or Office	\$425
Group C (1-<5 acre)	\$437	B&B, camper, cabin	\$213
Group D (5 acres or more)	\$832	Institutional	\$590

### Invoices and Payment Plan

Included with this newsletter, you will find your 2020 water tolls & taxes invoice (white paper) and 2020 statement (blue paper). The 2020 statement on blue paper is the amount you owe and may include amounts from previous years or credits you have already paid. Please pay the amount from the blue statement on or before April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

If you wish to pay your water tolls and taxes in 8 equal instalments there will be a \$25 administration fee. You are required to return the enclosed Payment Plan Notice (yellow paper) with your first payment prior to March 15, 2020. Payments are due prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month, March thru October. Payments will be accepted by post dated cheques or payments at First Credit Union. First Credit Union will require that you bring a copy of your invoice to make your first payment to Van Anda Improvement District.

If you have any questions, please call 604.486.7035.



## **Court of Revision**

The annual Court of Revision will be held on Saturday, February 29, 2020 from 10:00 am – noon at Van Anda Improvement District office.

The Court of Revision is an opportunity for ratepayers to meet with VAID trustees to discuss their water tolls and taxes. If you have questions about your invoice, or if you think an error has been made, please attend the Court of Revision.

Note: No adjustments to tolls and taxes will be made after February 29, 2020.

## **VAID Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 29, 2020 at Mary Mary's Café at 7:00 pm.

Since Walter Gussman will be stepping down as trustee, a vacancy for his term expiring in April 2021 will need to be filled. The person who replaces Walter on the Board of Trustees will fill the remainder of Walter's term on the Board to 2021. Both Bob Timms' and Ron Smith's terms will end April 2020. They may put their names forward to serve another 3-year term.

All eligible VAID ratepayers are encouraged to consider putting their name forward to serve their community. When there are multiple candidates for the positions a vote among ratepayers in attendance will be used to select the new Trustees.

If you have questions, or if you would like more information about the role of Van Anda Improvement District trustee, please contact Van Anda Improvement District office at 604.486.7035.

**Fond farewell with much gratitude to Trustee Walter Gussman,  
Administrator Lin Johnson and Doug Saunders**

Walter Gussman has served our community and Van Anda Improvement District for over 40 years. Walter's expertise, commitment, and "get her done" attitude have been invaluable. We all thank Walter for his service to the community and wish him well in his new home.

Lin Johnson has been unwavering in her commitment to keep our grant going and maintain relations with all involved parties for our new water tank and treatment plant. We couldn't have done it without her.

Doug Saunders has also been a great asset. Doug has retired from his VAID duties and we thank him for all his hard work.

We wish Walter, Doug and Lin much happiness and freedom in their future endeavours.

We would like to welcome Sylvia Praught who is joining our team as our new Administrative Assistant.

**UBCM Strategic Priorities Grant Update**

The new water storage tank has been installed and has been commissioned. The new water tank stores 63,000 gallons of water, an increase of 20,000 gallons from the wood stave tank.

The water treatment plant is nearing completion and will be operational in the coming weeks.

The work on the second water distribution line into Van Anda has started.

## Water Workshop

The 2020 Water Workshop date is yet to be determined. Staff and trustees have been working at capacity with the new water infrastructure, so please contact us if you have suggestions or would like to participate on the 2020 Water Workshop Committee.

## VAID Employees and Trustees

Name	Position	Term Ends	Contact info
Ken Soles	Water Operator		604.414.7634
Mike Craggs	Fire Chief		604.414.3501
Sylvia Praught	Administrative Assistant		604.486.7035
Bob Timms	Chair of Trustees	Apr 2020	
Ron Smith	Trustee	Apr 2020	
Rodger Hort	Trustee	Apr 2021	
Mike Craggs	Trustee	Apr 2022	
Walter Gussman	Trustee	Apr 2021	stepping down April 2020

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

Court of Revision – Saturday February 29, 2020; 10 am – noon at Van Anda Improvement District office.

For ratepayers wishing to challenge their invoices

Annual General Meeting and Election of Trustees – Tuesday April 28, 2020 - 7:00 pm at Mary Mary's Cafe

Regular Board Meetings – usually held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am at VAID office. Ratepayers are welcome to attend meetings. Check website to confirm meeting date and time.

## **Fire Department update:**



Van Anda Fire/Texada Rescue has had a relatively busy year as well. We have ~ 16 active volunteer members, with others that will answer fire calls and take up duties to support our firefighters.

Fire Department attended at 11 fire scenes

Fire Department first responders attended to 16 emergency medical calls in conjunction with B.C. Ambulance

Texada Rescue attended 27 vehicle incidents

Our training is ongoing, we are designated as an Exterior Attack Hall, meaning that we try to extinguish the structure fire from the outside of the building and keep surrounding structures from becoming involved in the fire. Our main focus for training this year is to bring our newer members up to an Exterior level firefighter training standard, other training will occur as it becomes available and will increase their knowledge of emergency scenes.

During the past year, Van Anda responded to mutual aid calls and assisted Gillies Bay Fire and Gillies Bay responded to our calls for mutual assistance; both departments work closely together and train together when practical.

Our hats go off to our dedicated volunteers.

Our Fire Department is always looking for volunteers; call Mike, Fire Chief  
604.414.3601.