

The VAID Trustees are working hard on your behalf to supply clean, safe potable water for home consumption and fire protection. Any ratepayers who have concerns or input, please let us know.



If you believe an error may have been made in your billing, contact us to register for the 2022 Court of Revision on Saturday February 12th, 10 am at Van Anda Firehall.

Also note our Annual General Meeting is tentatively scheduled (COVID restriction dependent) for Saturday April 9th at 10 am. Consider volunteering for your community as a Trustee as we have will be voting for 1 trustee position in 2022. Make a difference in your neighborhood!

As a registered municipal public body, we are qualified to receive gifts such as monetary, supplies or work-in-kind; therefore, we can issue official donation receipts that you can add to your tax return.

2036 Marble Bay Road	Office hours: 10-5 Tuesday & Wednesday, and Friday 2-6pm.	<i>Ratepayers should phone the Water Operators directly if they experience issues such as no water, low water pressure, or leaks.</i>
Box 115 Van Anda BC V0N 3K0	Phone messages and email are checked daily in the morning; urgent items will be responded to immediately, and non-urgent during office hours.	
contact@vananda-id.ca		
604-486-7035		Ken Soles: 604-414-7634 or Austin Rycroft: 604-413-1402



Van Anda Fire Rescue

Fires – 2

First Responder - 22

New Members – 6



Again this year, we were continually challenged with trying to maintain our training while maintaining our COVID-19 awareness. Our department for almost the entire year was split into two groups again, with only the new members meeting regularly for training. First Responder medical calls were again allowed although not at full-service level as was prior to COVID, but all responses are looked at with maximizing our members' safety.

Thanks to the Van Anda Improvement District, we have an additional 3 hydrants in service, giving us a total of 27 hydrants. The new hydrants will be colour coded for flow rates in the spring.

Van Anda Fire/Rescue graduated 8 members into our firefighting ranks as Exterior Operations Fire Fighters; this was an immense amount of work for the new recruits and they are to be commended for their dedication in getting the work completed. At present, we are now about 80% fully qualified as an Exterior operations fire department. We will now be starting to move into training for Interior as well.

Van Anda Fire Rescue applied for and received a grant to allow us to upgrade our extrication tools and provide training to all our members in their use, this weekend was very well received.

Van Anda Fire Rescue is always looking for interested volunteers to assist/join us. We meet Monday nights at 6:30 pm. Find us on Facebook as Van Anda Fire Department.

Thank you, Fire Chief Mike Craggs - 604 414-3601

Our water continues to be of excellent quality, thanks to the new water treatment plant paid for by the UBCM grant received three years ago. The system filters, removes sediments and organics, and disinfects our water. Our water constantly exceeds the Vancouver Coastal Health requirements for potable water and its production.

Leaks are regularly discovered and repaired. Water usage has decreased dramatically as a result of these repairs and is getting lower all the time as we keep this a priority.

Capital projects completed this year included Marble Bay/Coleborn replacement of water mains and service lines. This was critical as the main was leaking in several places being well past its replacement age – this was a steel line from 1941! Other capital costs included a line replacement at the Elks Hall and lake pump repairs.

Also this year, we completed the updating of job descriptions and performed job evaluations for all employees. Employee positions are Senior Water Operator - Ken Soles, Water Operator - Austin Rycroft, and Administrator - Sandra Haszard. Administration Assistant Sylvia Praught is moving on to other things: we will miss her, and thank her for her invaluable contributions from her hard work and dedication.

With this year's invoice, you'll note that there is an increase in your Parcel Taxes and Water Tolls. The increase is significant as this has been a challenging year, both financially and in handling climate and community changes. You deserve a full explanation; the following gives a brief overview and more detailed information is available on request.

Operation and maintenance of the new water treatment is costly and part of the rate increase. Leaking infrastructure and environmental conditions put demands on the plant that require extra labor and expendables (chlorine, salt, filters). We continue to work with experts to resolve these issues; we are making progress, and will keep at it until satisfied.

The operating costs of running the treatment system are not the only drivers of the rate increase. We are still dealing with frequent crises as new leaks appear. This situation has led to the major expense increase reflected in your Tolls and Taxes for 2022.

Staffing costs have increased to match the increased workload resulting from maintaining an aging infrastructure, coping with climatic extremes, increased local property development and stricter adherence to regulations. As in the rest of the world, all our major costs (insurance, freight, supplies, hydro & wages) are constantly increasing with inflation.

We are also allocating more to the contingency fund in order to be better prepared for emergency repairs. Our capital account is empty after this year's capital projects so we may have to consider a bank loan if crucial repairs are needed. A special public meeting will be held if this is the case. We are applying for every grant we can to address the most serious deficiencies of our water system.

As treating our water has a direct cost, continuing to find and repair leaks in an aged, deteriorating and previously neglected infrastructure remains a priority. Considering the volume of water treated and the estimated current population, the excess usage MUST be from leaks ... unless every house has a leaking toilet – have you checked yours?

Repairing these leaks, replacing old pipes and conserving water will help reduce our cost of operations. Structured programs for both leak detection and public education regarding water conservation are being developed. Please help us in these endeavours by reporting any leaks that you notice and talking to your neighbors about water conservation.

Included at the next AGM will be Universal Metering Feasibility and Parcel Tax Structure changes. A summary of the metering report is enclosed.

Thank you, Van Anda Improvement District Board of Trustees

Members of the public are invited to join us at our regular monthly meetings.

VAID Regular Board Meeting Schedule for 2022:

Jan 12, Feb 16, Mar 16, Apr 13, May 18, June 15, Jul 13, Aug 17, Sep 14, Oct 12, Nov 16, Dec 14