



Village of PEMBERTON | Community Update



Chris Sykes

It takes a Village... to throw a ten day party.

Pemberton's annual Winterfest celebration has grown tenfold thanks to the dedication of organizers, volunteers and the support of the local business community. From parades to exhibits to readings to film screenings to street hockey to Winterfeasts to sleepovers to dances to polar bear swims, this year's Winterfest really proved that Pemberton is the place where winter gets real.

Pemberton in the Cross-hairs.

Stay tuned to the March Pemberton page, when the local photographer chosen to shoot 6 images of Pemberton for the Picture BC project will be announced.

Thanks to the Snow-Movers.

Pemberton has enjoyed the snowiest winter in more than ten years which has kept out Works Crew and our snowclearing contractors prettysnowed under. Their efforts at clearing the streets, searching for new dumpzones and ploughing clear the sidewalks has been unprecedented, with many all-night shifts. Many thanks to Dwayne, Chas, Martin, Ray, Caleb, Bob and Wayne for their hard work, keeping us on top of the dumps! Thanks also to residents for their patience, as the crew continue to battle Jack Frost and come up with new locations to mound epic snowbanks.

Advisory Design Review Committee

welcomes new appointees Shane Pedrini and Saad Hasan (Chair), the reappointment of Karen Love (Vice Chair), and ongoing member Patrick Bradner, alongside staff member and Chamber of Commerce rep.

Village Favours More Cost-Effective Measures Over Water Metering.

Every February, the Village sets its annual water and sewer rates, prior to issuing Utility bills.

As in all decisions, the Village sets these rates in accordance with its guiding principles of good governance and balancing environmental, economic and social sustainability.

For 10 years, Village has had a long-term plan to roll out a universal water metering program.

It was thought that water metering would achieve fairness, meaning a single person wouldn't be charged the same rate for their water usage as a family of 6 with a pool, a leaky hot-tub and a penchant for long showers.

Metering also seemed the best tool to promote conservation, as residents who were more responsible with consumption would enjoy cheaper water bills.

To move towards that goal, which was prioritized under the 2007 Strategic Plan, the Village commissioned a Cost Benefit of a Universal Water Metering Program report, from Earth Tech (Canada) Inc.

The results, presented to Council in November, have led to a major rethink. As it turns out, universal metering may not be the most cost-effective solution.

Says Village Administrator Lori Pilon, "The report indicates that there is a significant cost associated with metering that renders the savings for low-consumers less significant as they have to pay more for the metering infrastructure itself. Council wants to ensure that any measure the Village takes is cost-effective, so are reviewing the feasibility of implementing metering universally."

Currently, rates for Utilities bills are calculated by establishing the annual fixed costs of operating the Water and Sewer infrastructure.

Pemberton's water system is made up of 2 wells, a reservoir, a pressure reducing station and valves, and the annual cost for general operations and administration of the system, inspections, repairs, weekly water sampling and basic maintenance is approximately \$435,000.

Apportioned amongst Pemberton users (950 residences, 41 commercial operators and 18 industrial facilities), with a 3% increase over 2007 to factor in cost of living increases, 2008 rates will see a residence pay a flat rate of \$304/year or \$25.30/month for their water. Residences with a suite pay an additional half-share for a total of \$450/year.

In view of the Earth Tech report, the Village is pursuing a range of cost-effective tools to help meet its equity and conservation

goals while continuing to collect data on water consumption and metering.

More accurate inventory of suites. The statutory declaration process that has been rolling out since November has identified an additional 150 homes with secondary suites which will now be billed a 50% surcharge for water usage for those suites. "Residents raised this as an issue at our Town Hall meeting, and this program has identified where it's fair that an additional contribution be made to the cost of running the Village's water system," says Pilon.

More accurate consumption information. The Village will focus metering efforts on commercial and industrial properties, as a way of gathering accurate information upon which to base future rate calculations. "The variability between water consumption by an office or a clothing store, as opposed to a laundromat, dog wash facility or water-bottling plant, is likely to be huge. That's why we're moving forward with metering for commercial and industrial users with the goal of getting an accurate gauge on usage. With accurate consumption data, we can set fair and appropriate rates that take into account that variability in consumption."

In addition, with the installation of the new well, flow meters will be installed on the pumps and at the outfall of the reservoir, which will enable more accurate data on Pemberton's global water consumption.

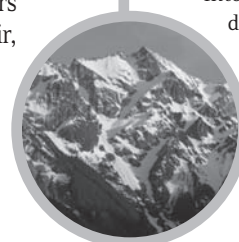
Encouraging conservation. Industry best practice is to base water rates on a full-cost recovery, which factors in the cost of replacement and expansion of the infrastructure, adding \$500,000 a year to the amount that needs to be recovered from ratepayers. The Village deferred pursuing this recommendation, feeling it would be too burdensome on ratepayers. "It's a question of balancing out how much the present generation pays for the future," says Pilon. "Instead of asking residents to pay rates that would pay for replacement of existing facilities sometime in the future, we're simply asking residents to future-proof our infrastructure by thinking green around the house by monitoring their consumption."

Earth Tech's reports and recommendations can be viewed at www.pemberton.ca. Utilities bills will be sent mid-March, and the standard procedure for discounting will still apply. The final due date for payment will be July 2.



Pemberton's Puppy Love Award.

Purchase PAWS membership at the same time you pick up your 2008 dog licence from Twisted Whisker this month, and your dog will be entered into a draw to win the ultimate doggie-bag, valued at \$150.



Upcoming meetings

will be held in Council Chambers at 1350 Aster Street (above the Fire Hall) on March 4, 7pm and March 18, 8am.



If you have a matter you would like appear on a Council Agenda, you can:

1.) Address a letter to Mayor and Council, and submit it to the Village Office by mail, email, fax, or in person, before noon, the Wednesday prior to the Council meeting;

2.) Visit www.pemberton.ca to submit an online request to make a presentation to Council; or

3.) Participate in the Open Question Period which concludes each Council meeting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

on these or any other topics, please:

*Visit our website at www.pemberton.ca,

*Email us at admin@pemberton.ca,

*Call us at 604.894.6135, or

*Drop by the Village Office

