

SION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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To All Property Owners

July1/15

For our new property owners we would like to introduce ourselves as Cassandra Thomas and Heather Smith in the SION Administration Office. Darryll Hunt is our full time Water Bailiff. Darryll will have 2 part-time employees to assist him when necessary. Steve Rezanoff has been chairman for many many years and has stepped down as such due to other commitments. We are very appreciative for all his guidance and the many hours helping us with our transitioning period. Our current Board members along with their status are now as follows:

Ron Subotin – Chair
Larry Jmaiff – Vice Chair
Roy Stevenson – Secretary
Steve Rezanoff – Trustee
John Zibin – Trustee

IMPORTANT NOTICE: WE ARE ASKING OUR PROPERTY OWNERS TO RESPECT OUR WATER SUPPLY AND VOLUNTEER TO REDUCE EXCESSIVE WATER CONSUMPTION. The current climate changes are the extended summer dry spells and less snow pack to replenish our aquifers which creates a drought situation. This is becoming a common situation in North America – California is severe, Washington State has declared an emergency drought situation – even Vancouver, BC has declared a drought situation. This is happening throughout our province. Water saved is money saved which means less burden on our infrastructure system and reduced power costs. For your information our power cost has doubled from Jan to May this year as compared to Jan to May last year.

If we do not see a significant reduction in our water consumption by JULY 15, 2015 we will impose a water restriction for watering only on odd/even days. House numbers ending in odd number will only water on odd numbered days and house numbers ending in even numbers will only water on even numbered days until the end of the irrigation season.

The last page will show you an example of water consumption versus water cost. How much do we value our water?

We now have our own office phone number which is 250-444-7139 and is also our **emergency phone number for after hours and weekends.** Since we are not in the office full time you may leave a message and we will get back to you or you could email any issues, questions, etc. Emailing will enable us to keep a record of everyone's correspondences for backup should any questions be brought up regarding correspondences. Fay, the USCC administrator, will continue to relay messages to us for calls made to the USCC's phone nbr 250-442-8252. Fay has been and is a great help to SION and we appreciate her patience with us as we go thru our transition.

We also have a website! www.sionimprovementdistrict.wordpress.com. We will continue to add to our website with information about what's new, drought information, water conservation articles, etc. Please have a look and enter your vote on the poll – 'should Sion sell bottled water to offset user costs?' along with other comments and suggestions.

We have said that this year Jan-Dec2015 would not see any increases for water taxes or tolls - unless there were unexpected costs – and that 20% penalty charges will be incurred only on outstanding balance as of end of day Dec31, 2015.

Two invoices are enclosed – one for July-Dec2015 Water Toll and one for the Annual Irrigation Tax. These invoices will only show what is being billed – annual water taxes or semi-annual water tolls – and will not show any other items that may still be outstanding. These will be due in full by the due dates shown on the invoices except for those on SION's scheduled payment plan list. A July 1/15 Statement of outstanding balance is included showing all payments rec'd as of end of day June30/15 and the outstanding balance. **Payments received after June 30/15 will not show on this statement.**

Please check for accuracy in mailing addresses, names, etc. We would also like to have everyone's email address so that we may email you these statements and invoices to save on postage and envelopes.

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Moving forward to Year 2016 we will continue to offer monthly payments. SION office must be notified if you wish to be on the payment plan and we will let you know the minimum monthly amount required in order for outstanding balances to be paid in full by Dec31/16. Those who are not on the SION scheduled monthly payment plan will be charged the 20% penalty charges if not paid by the due dates shown on the invoices. We would like you to know that we are willing to discuss payment solutions with you to help you achieve this goal.

Meetings will be held in the coming months to discuss the percentage of increase in tolls and taxes for 2016 and future years to prepare for the future costs of upgrading our infrastructure.

In order to keep our water system up to date it means we need to continue to invest in training and to be active participants in organizations that are relevant to our industry as a water improvement district – the goal is to continue with our stewardship to ‘ensure the quality and quantity of your water from the source to your tap’. It is thru these organizations that we will be looking to educate ourselves on new products, technologies, and other means to be more streamlined in an effort to reduce costs, maintain/better the quality of our water and provide a sustainable infrastructure future. To be able to network with other improvement districts gives us a chance to learn from other districts experiences. There will continue to be more changes in the future and it will take time to tweak these changes until it works for everyone. These are paid for by monies received thru the annual water taxes in July and the bi-annual water tolls in January and again in July.

A reminder to everyone that as per ByLaw 59 written permission from SION Improvement District is required for in-ground or above ground pool along with an annual charge. If you have a Pool and you do not show a Swimming Pool Annual tax on your invoice then please notify SION office immediately for correction to avoid penalties.

Creating a Master Plan for an infrastructure renewal and upgrade system for our ageing infrastructures (wells and pumps) so that we know what the expected costs will be in the future. Spending money now to have this plan in place will save us money in the future to gradually update all wells and pumps as needed on a timely basis. This includes communication and monitoring technologies and software tools to monitor real-time information from the wells and pump houses. This allows our Water Bailiff to be able to analyse this information to ensure everything is working as it should without having to visit each well etc.

We have already started with preparation for upgrading Pumphouse #2 this year and Pumphouse #1 upgrade is scheduled for next year. Plus we had a well inspection taken place recently thru Interior Health Authority and are waiting for a recommendation report from them.

There are water right licenses that need to be maintained in case they are needed in the future so that we can tap into other water sources if necessary. Water samples are collected and sent weekly to an accredited testing facility in Kelowna to ensure they are within the guidelines of the water quality parameters. Discussion are in process on changes to implement water samples to be collected both before and after the tap to ensure there are no cross connection – currently we are only collecting samples before the tap.

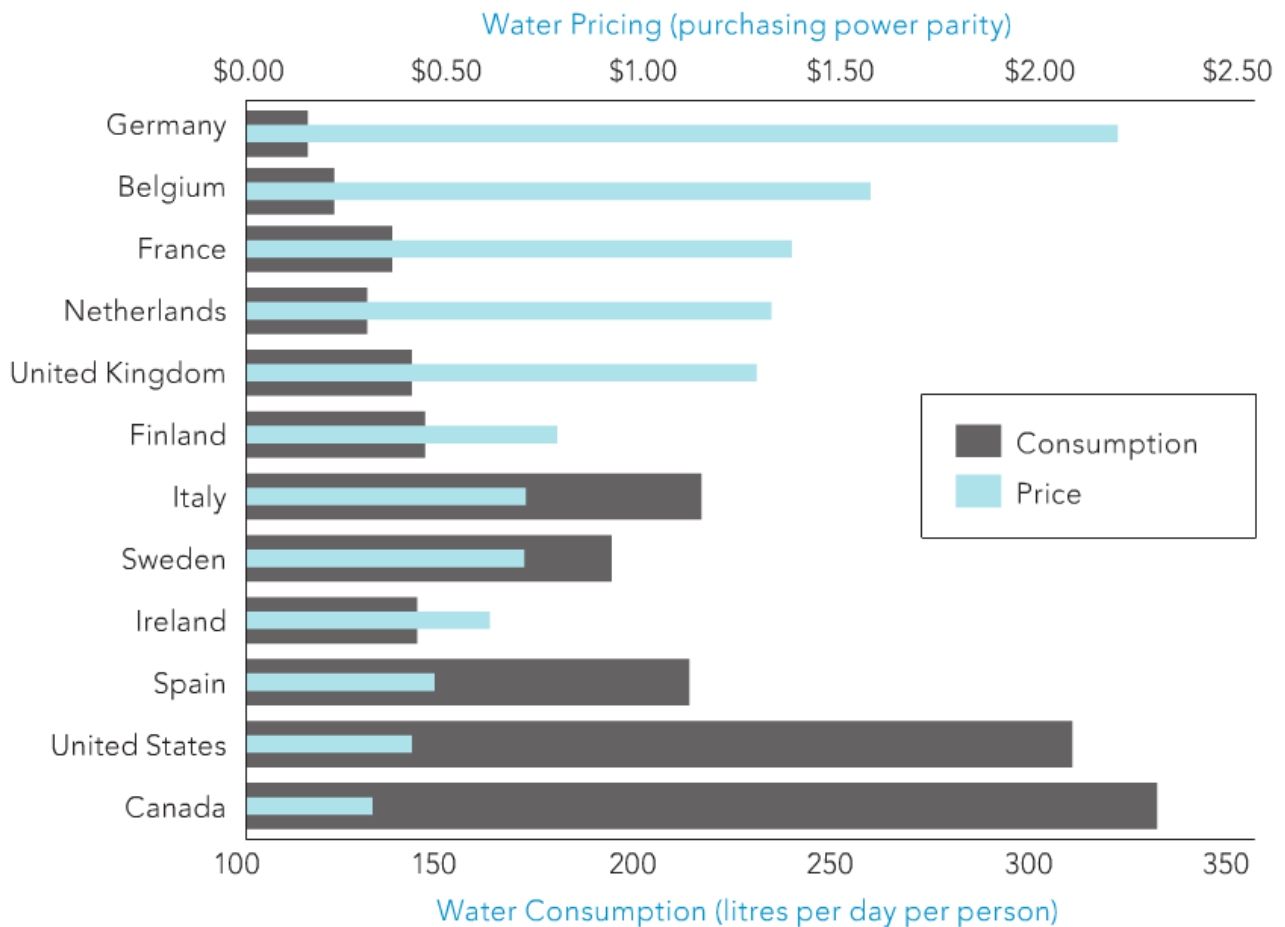
In closing we would like to thank you for your participation to our polls in Jan2015 as we try to make a better system that works for both you and SION. If you have any suggestions about how we can serve you better please let us know via email or on our website. We would love to have our customers be more involved in future plans for good water stewardship!

Thank you!
Staff and Board Members
SION Improvement District

“The thing that is glaringly obvious in a cost versus consumption comparison is that there is an almost linear inverse relationship between the price of water and the amount of water consumed.”

TABLE 1: MUNICIPAL WATER CONSUMPTION AND PRICING

(Data Source: Environment Canada, 2008c; OECD, 1999)



Source: Council of Canadian Academies. Sustainable Management of Groundwater in Canada, 2009.