



December 2020

A newsletter from the
Black Mountain Irrigation District
No. 52

www.bmid.ca

OKANAGAN WATER NEWS

BMID Updates

BMID will be closed over the Christmas Break from 12:00 pm, Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020 to 8:00 am Monday, Jan. 4, 2021.

Irrigation water taxes have been issued and are due prior to year end. Please refer to your bill or the website for details. The water tax rate will be increasing over the next 5 years as per the Notice sent with the tax bills.

Domestic water rates will increase in 2021 by 2.00% for all residential, industrial and commercial accounts.

The BMID Board of Trustees has had no changes in the past year. Our board members are:

Colin Day (Chair) Al Horning
Allen Kirschner Gerry Zimmerman
Sukhpaul Bal

BMID held our AGM at Rutland Hall on April 22, 2020. The Board report, Financial Report & Operations Reports for 2019 were presented at that meeting.

Information on current BMID projects is provided on the next page.

Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB)

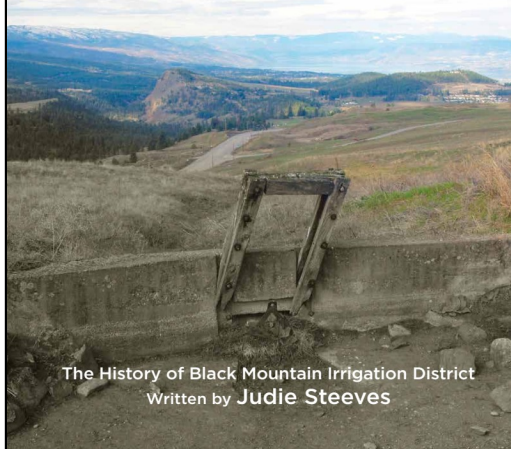
The OBWB celebrated 50 years of service to the Okanagan Valley with a small limited attendance event at Bertram Creek Park on October 1, 2020. The current Board and past members of the Board were able to reflect on past years and challenges we are facing in the future.

With the lead by Dr. Anna Warwick-Sears, over the past 15 years the OBWB has been able to provide a very useful role of bringing together water suppliers, agriculture, fish management and water management staff and regulators to work to improve water management within the Okanagan Basin. This collaborative water management role is a model for partnerships and engagement. It has resulted in a greater number of persons and agencies throughout the valley contributing to better water stewardship. BMID has recently benefited in the receipt of funds from the OBWB small grants program of the OBWB. BMID installed continuous flow monitoring on Pearson Creek in the Mission Creek watershed. Pearson Creek is the largest creek in the watershed that is un-regulated, i.e. has no dams above it to impede runoff.

BMID'S 100—YEAR HISTORY BOOK—NOW AVAILABLE

Black Mountain Gold

A CENTURY OF WATER



The History of Black Mountain Irrigation District
Written by Judie Steeves

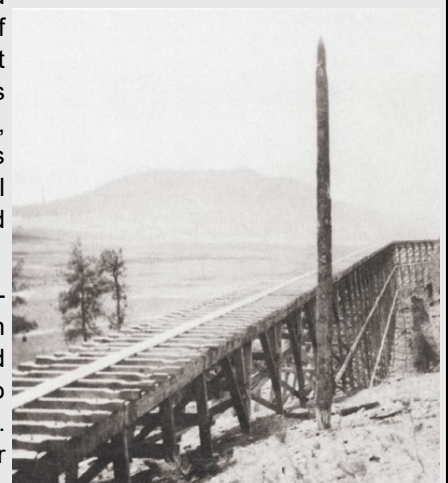
The Letters Patent were signed by the province Nov. 3, 1920. With that, the Black Mountain Irrigation District was formed. Its role is as an autonomous local government body responsible for providing water services for the benefit of the rate-payers.

This excerpt from our history book notes the date BMID was formed. The book chronicles the first 100 years of BMID plus describing settlement in the BMID service area going back 30 years earlier to the 1890s. The 100-year date passed without fanfare due to COVID, but BMID still plans to celebrate this milestone.

Our book was completed in October. The printed version arrived at BMID in late November, 2020. The book is two years of effort and was driven by Al Horning who pushed to form a committee that included himself, John and Evelyn Vielvoye, Lynn Stevens, Elaine Senger and Bob Hrasko. This group researched 100 years of meeting minutes, history documents and the Kelowna Museum archives. They interviewed retired employees and local residents with stories to tell about water and the transition of our community to the present day.

Judie Steeves, a local writer, organized and crafted everything into a history of our water dependent area. The graphics and layout were completed by Buddy Cole of Cole Design. The printing and development costs were greatly reduced by contributions by 32 sponsors that included manufacturers, suppliers and community minded persons with close ties to BMID. To the editorial committee, the author, graphic designer, and our sponsors, BMID is very grateful.

A small book launch was planned for December 5, that was also to include an open house for of our UV Disinfection Facility and recognition of 100 years of service. It was to be recorded and to include local dignitaries. Due to the provincial safety restrictions for COVID, the date for this event has been deferred to when a larger event may be possible.



Hepburn Hill (Kirschner Mtn.) & 1912 Flume

The book is now available for purchase at the front desk at BMID for the price of \$25.00. BMID accepts debit or cash payment for book purchases.

"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything" *George Bernard Shaw*



BMID WATER NEWS

Kelowna Water Utilities

Although correspondence between BMID and the 3 other large Kelowna water utilities has been reduced in 2020, the four large Kelowna Water Utilities set up an Essential Services Agreement to aid and assist each other in the event of loss of staffing or supplies due to the pandemic.

In the past 2 years, the City Water Utility expended significant time and effort integrating the SEKID water system to the large City water utility. Their understanding of requirements of the supply of water for agriculture has undoubtedly increased.

There has been a recent presentation by City staff to City Council regarding the overall regional water supply and integration. The information is public and can be viewed on the City website for the Nov 16 council meeting. In 2017, the City took a different path from the 2012 Water Plan followed by the 3 other utilities. Of note from the 2012 Kelowna Integrated Water Supply plan is that 19 of the first 20 projects listed in 2012 are now completed (in order). BMID has been lobbying to carry out the next project, System Interconnections across utility boundaries. These interconnections will help to supplement water supplies in times of emergencies to any utility and would result in less risk of loss of domestic water supply.

2020 Water Usage - Year-to-Date

After an average winter season, the spring was very wet resulting in very low water usage in May and June. July was wetter than usual which is reflected in the water usage. The actual and 24 year-average monthly water usage from all sources is listed below in mega-liters (ML=1,000 m³).

Month	Actual	Average	%
Jan-Mar	676	608	111 %
April, 2019	565	481	117 %
May, 2019	838	1,457	57 %
June, 2019	1,012	1,919	53 %
July, 2019	2,517	2,844	88 %
Aug, 2019	2,844	2,827	100 %
Sept, 2019	1,713	1,377	124 %
Oct, 2019	489	489	100 %
Nov-Dec (est.)	460	438	105 %
2020 (est.)	11,114	12,440	89 %

2020 has been a low water demand year, with only approximately 89% of the annual average water usage.

"Time spent among trees is never time wasted" *Anonymous*

OBSERVE, RECORD & REPORT
questionable watershed activities to
BMID at (250) 765-5169

COVID CHALLENGES TO THE WATER UTILITY

WATER SUPPLY - STILL AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE

For the health and well-being of a community, a water utility is an obvious service that would be considered essential. These are challenging times when marijuana shops and liquor stores are considered higher on the essential services list than our schools and churches. In facing the first global pandemic since the 1918 Spanish Flu, the critical services provided by water utilities continues to be extremely important.

A documentary on the 1918 Spanish Flu is available for viewing on Netflix. An interesting observation from the film is that history is repeating itself. The wisdom of earlier generations, fortunately is not entirely lost on some of the current leaders. BC has been fortunate with the leadership of our health officials and the careful and measured approach by the Province and local health authorities. Unfortunately, the pandemic has become politicized with a lesser trust in science.

When visiting BMID facilities, the wearing of a mask is requested in conformance with Provincial regulations. BMID is obligated to follow the Provincial regulations and has a significant number of older customers. Reducing the exposure to our higher risk customers, by whatever means, is a respectful approach to look after our community.

All of the local water utilities have operated since the Provincial lock-down in March and April, some with closed doors. The pandemic has changed how we operate, how we communicate, and how we interact, with more space, more social distancing, and a greater awareness of our immediate surroundings. Safety procedures have been implemented by BMID to create more space and less close contact with the public and with fellow employees. The result so far for BMID has been very good as we have had one of our healthiest years of operation with minimal employee-days lost due to illness.

BMID PROJECTS in 2020

The staff at BMID found a work load greater than that of a normal year. The steep slope along our conduit that was unstable in 2018 has stabilized. Drilling to determine a route for an extension of our existing rock tunnel was completed and a secure route was found. BMID is planning to carry out this "Tunnel Extension Project" in the next two years. BMID is currently working with the property owners to obtain access for the tunnel route. Design of the works will take place in 2021.

The 42" transmission main from the Surge Tower to the UV Disinfection Facility, and then to Swainson Road is almost complete. This \$8,000,000 project is being funded through a cost sharing agreement between Frind Properties and BMID. The overall water system capacity and reliability are improved by this project.

In October, in Graystoke Park, BMID installed a new bridge (see photo) over Mission Creek. The 13m wide bridge is at the 5,700 foot elevation. It provides BMID with road access to Fish Hawk dam. The fording of Mission Creek is no longer required to inspect and conduct maintenance works on Fish Hawk Dam.



"What is the use of a fine house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on"
Henry David Thoreau