

**N**ew tax and toll rates for 2002. BMID trustees have approved a \$2 per acre increase in Grade 'A' irrigation rates and a \$1.50 per acre increase in Grade 'C' irrigation rates for the 2001 tax year.

Similarly, the trustees have increased the residential rate by \$1 per month effective January 1st, 2002. Comparable increases for commercial and industrial properties will also apply. For more detail on rate changes, go to BMID's website located at [bmid.org](http://bmid.org) or contact the office at 765-5169.

The rate increases will enable the District to proceed with water system improvements to further enhance water quality and to maintain a sound financial position. Even with these increases BMID water rates are still some of the lowest within the province.

Tap water is very inexpensive compared with some other common drinks. For example, on litre of water costs about 0.00066 cents, while the same amount of cola would be 79 cents; milk, 90 cents; mineral water, \$1.33; and table wine, \$9.00.



(An aerial view of BMID's Water Treatment Plant.)

## Prevent Frozen Pipes

To look for possible freeze points in your home, check water pipes that sit against outside walls. Fill any cracks or joints that could let freezing air to the pipe. Check around pipes that go to outside taps; fill any holes with insulation. Make sure you disconnect sprinkler hoses from outside taps. Should you get a frozen pipe, try the hair dryer trick. Open a tap, and with the dryer on low heat, fan the pipe with warm air until the pipe is thawed.

## Do You Know Where Your Shut-Off Is?

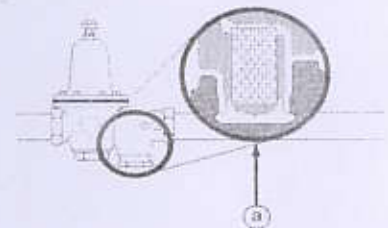
All homes have an internal water shut-off; and in most emergency situations, a large percentage of water users do not know where their shut-off is within their home. It is imperative whether you are an owner or a tenant to know where this valve is located in case of flooding or any other problem that could exist with internal plumbing. If you do not know where your shut-off is, please find out from the owner or from the original owner if possible.

### What is a Pressure Reducing Valve?

To reduce water pressure to safe working levels, most homes are equipped with water pressure reducing valves. Usually found after the shut-off valve that controls water supply into your house, your reducing valve prevents pressure build up that can stress your pipe connections.

To ensure proper long-term operation of the valve, it should be cleaned regularly. When the valve needs cleaning, you may experience low water pressure.

Cleaning your reducing valve is easy if you follow these steps: 1. Do not use any water until you are done; 2. Shut off the in-line valve (shut-off valve) in your house; 3. Use a bucket to catch any drips; 4. Undo the hexagon nut (a) nearest the



shut-off valve on the bottom of the unit, and remove and rinse the stainless steel screen; 5. Replace the screen and nut and turn the water back on, checking for leaks.

## Season's Greetings!

If you spend time in the watershed, please protect drinking water quality by following these simple rules.

- Take out whatever you take in,
- Avoid driving in or near streams and lakes,
- Go to the bathroom well away from water sources, and
- Refuel your gas motor away from the water, as one litre of gas can contaminate two million litres of drinking water.

