



A newsletter from the  
Black Mountain  
Irrigation District

# Water matters

February 2005

## VALLEY WIDE NEWS

The 2003 drought has had lasting effects on the way that the residents of the Okanagan appreciate their water resources. Watching Okanagan Lake drop to its lowest levels in decades has heightened awareness on this limited resource.

In 2004, the Provincial Government awarded funds to all water suppliers for the preparation of Drought Plans. BMID was awarded funds for the preparation of a Drought Management and a Conservation Plan. In addition, there are three valley wide studies underway.

1. Land and Water BC is conducting a Water Demand review to verify the usage of water licensees and the spare capacity available within the valley.
2. The Federal Government in conjunction with the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection is carrying out an audit to develop a complete database of the locations of water withdrawals including groundwater wells.
3. Environment Canada in conjunction with UBC is also carrying out the next phase of expected Climate Change impacts on the Okanagan water resources.

BMID is contributing information and resources to all of these initiatives.

*The frog will not drink up the pond  
in which he lives*

- American Indian Saying -

## WATER WEB

BMID's new website is located at  
<http://www.bmid.ca>

The new website, which is under construction, is loaded with information on water including District business, forms, bylaws, history, past newsletters, water quality data, and links to water resource information on the web.

## WATER DEVICES PRESSURE REDUCING VALVES (PRVs)

In the last issue of Water Matters, small in-home pressure reducing valves were explained. BMID also has large distribution system PRVs. These valves reduce the water pressure to safe levels within the larger water distribution system.



BMID operates a gravity fed water system. From our intake on Mission Creek below 8-Mile Ranch, the water is conveyed through large covered flumes and pipes to the Black Mountain subdivision area. Without pressure reducing valves in the system, the pressures that would develop in the Rutland flats area would be over 330 psi which is well above the pipe pressure rating.

PRVs regulate the pressure to within a safe range, usually between 50 and 140 psi. The valves act on pilot lines and differential pressure to control the opening and closing of the valve. They operate automatically to maintain a safe pressure leaving the valve to protect the water distribution system.

## MEET THE STAFF

Black Mountain Irrigation District has a long history of committed employees and Trustees. This year at our Christmas party our longest serving Trustee and employees were recognized for their commitment and dedication.

**Heinz Koetz** has been a Trustee with the District for 33 years and has seen the District grow from 900 connections to over 7,000. He was on the Board for the decisions to build the three Belgo Dams, the construction of Stevens Reservoir, and the Water Treatment Plant.

**Allen Pansegrau** (below top right) is our longest serving employee with 35 years of service to the BMID customers. His experience and knowledge of the distribution system makes him invaluable.



**Darlene Stotz** (2nd from left, lower row) has been with the BMID for 19 years and is very efficient in maintaining our database on land transfers, assessments, customer billings and customer payments.

**Brian Krause** (2nd from top right) has been with the District since 1988 and is a certified Level II Operator. His capabilities and ingenuity make him an extremely versatile and valuable employee.