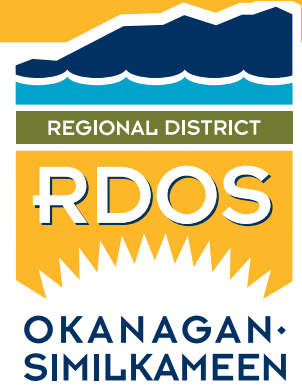


Join our email list

The RDOS is compiling an email database to provide residents with instant access to water advisories and other urgent information. If you would like to be included in this list, please send an email to jburton@rdos.bc.ca.

West Bench Water Update

Keeping the Community Informed



MARCH 2014

Water work wrapping up

Residents reminded Boil Water Notice remains in effect

The West Bench Water Upgrade Project is nearing completion.

Water mains and water meters are installed, the booster station is constructed and the electrical transformer has arrived on site.

After the booster station is energized, commissioning tests will be carried out to ensure all equipment is operating properly. Once testing is complete — expected by early April — treated water will begin flowing in the water mains.

Currently, West Bench water is of poor quality and most of the pipes have accumulated a layer of sediment and potential bacteria over the years. This will need



RDOS Environmental Technician Rob Palmer inside the West Bench booster station.

to be removed through a flushing program.

A plan is in place to carry out a complete system flush as soon as the treated water is available.

This will ensure the system has clean pipes to carry treated water.

During the flushing, some discoloration of water could occur in your residence as the sediment is disturbed in the pipes. Run the tap for a few minutes to clear the discoloration until it runs clean (clear). Also check your water before doing laundry.

The West Bench water reservoir has also accumulated a layer of sediment on the bottom. This will also be cleaned as part of the flushing program.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

PLEASE READ

Until the Boil Water Notice is rescinded, please continue to boil your water before use to protect yourself and your family.

Residents are advised to use bottled water or to boil water for all drinking, oral hygiene and food preparation/cooking purposes.

Water should be brought to a full boil and allowed to boil for at least one minute to reduce the risk of infection from bacteria, parasites and other organisms that may be found in the water.

When the Boil Water Notice is rescinded, the Regional District will inform residents through local media, signage and website postings.

ANTICIPATED SERVICE SCHEDULE

Week of March 31:
Permanent power connected; commissioning testing.

Week of April 7: *Cleaning of reservoir and flushing program begin.*

Week of May 5: *Testing carried out for Interior Health Authority.*

Week of May 19: *IHA will review test results and decide if Boil Water Notice will be rescinded.*

May/June: *Landscaping will be completed as weather permits.*

June: *Grand opening planned for water system and pathway.*

Operations change coming April 1

Water Operators employed by the Regional District will assume full West Bench water systems operations and maintenance duties from the City of Penticton on April 1.

For the past several years, the City of Penticton has operated the West Bench water system.

Initially, the West Bench Irrigation District retained the City of

Penticton operators to maintain and operate the system.

When the RDOS received the system from the Irrigation District, the City of Penticton was contracted to continue operations until the upgrades were completed.

Now that the upgrades are complete, the RDOS operators will be taking on maintenance and opera-

tion of the West Bench water system.

The Regional District wants to extend a thank you to the City of Penticton for its service to the West Bench.

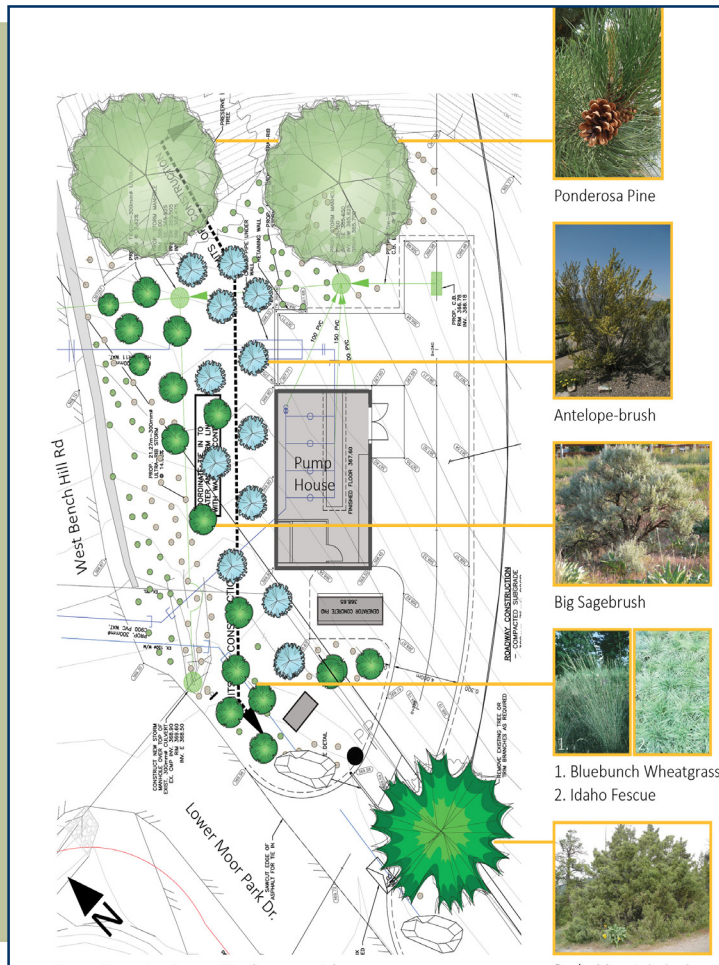
City of Penticton operators have done an excellent job of keeping the system operating despite the many problems with the system over the years.

Water meters installed and recording use

Water meters are installed and recording water use on the West Bench.

After data is uploaded and integrated into our meter reading software later this spring, the Regional District will begin meter readings. Towards the end of the summer, you will receive information detailing your initial water usage reading and other readings accrued during the processing period.

For at least the first year, West Bench residents will not be billed for water based on monthly usage.



Ponderosa Pine



Antelope-brush



Big Sagebrush



1. Bluebunch Wheatgrass
2. Idaho Fescue



Pumphouse plantings will prove educational

The site of the new booster station will be restored with native plantings to increase habitat value for wildlife and will also serve as an educational model for a xeriscape garden.

Planting is set to begin in the early spring.

Landscape restoration will continue to take place along the pedestrian path, increasing the recreational experience for residents.

For more information, please contact Lindsay Bourque, Rural Projects Coordinator, at lbourque@rdos.bc.ca.



WEST BENCH WATER SERVICES — IMPORTANT CONTACTS

RDOS Main Office
(Call for general inquiries)
250-492-0237

Water General
250-490-4135

Upgrade projects
250-490-4112

Water Emergencies
(24 Hours)
250-490-4141



Area "F" Director
Michael Brydon
250-809-2563
mbrydon@rdos.bc.ca