

Corporation of the Village of Cumberland

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April 2013

Alternate Approval Process Water Improvements Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 981, 2013

Information about Cumberland's Drinking Water System and the Proposed Improvement Projects

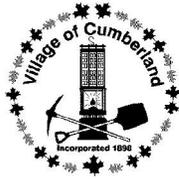
The Village of Cumberland is seeking the approval of the electors through an alternative approval process (also known as a counter petition) to adopt the *Water Improvements Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 981, 2013*.

This bylaw would authorize the borrowing of \$1.3 million over 20 to 30 years to allow for

- the reconstruction the Stevens Lake dam at a cost of \$560,000,
- the reconstruction the Cumberland No. 2 dam at a cost of \$450,000, and
- the construction of an ultraviolet sterilization water treatment system at a cost of \$290,000.

The entire cost of borrowing is proposed to be recovered through utility fees from those owners of property connected to the Village of Cumberland water system.

This information sheet provides some background information on Cumberland's water system, the proposed improvements, and the expected impact on your utility bill.



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Where does Cumberland's drinking water come from?

Most of Cumberland's drinking water comes from five lakes located in the Cumberland Creek and Perseverance Creek watersheds. This water and the new ground water source in Coal Creek Historic Park are the water sources for all of Cumberland and the Royston community. At full storage capacity these reservoirs hold 891,000 m³ of water.

Why do we need to reconstruct Stevens Lake dam and No. 2 dam?

The Cumberland Creek dams were originally constructed between 1890 and 1930 for water supply to Cumberland and as part of a hydroelectric project. A dam safety review was completed in 2003 which identified the need for further testing and investigation to determine the condition of the dams and recommendations for repair.

A dam stability assessment was undertaken in 2009. This report recommended reconstruction of the Stevens Lake dam and No. 2 dam to lessen the potential for failure of these dams due to an earthquake. Failure of these dams would leave Cumberland without one of its main sources of drinking water.

Alternatives to full reconstruction were suggested in the study, however reconstruction, although the most costly, is thought to offer greater certainty, and an improved opportunity for quality control and quality assurance.

The Village hopes to design and reconstruct the Stevens Lake dam in 2013 at an estimated cost of \$560,000 and the No. 2 dam in 2014 at an estimated cost of \$450,000.



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Why do we need ultraviolet disinfection?

Cumberland's water is now treated with chlorination which kills viruses and keeps the water free of harmful bacteria and some other pathogenic organisms. The water is tested regularly by Village staff at six sites located throughout Cumberland and Royston and results are submitted to Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA). Cumberland water is safe, but the water quality could be improved by a second disinfection method. Chlorine is most effective when combined with a second type of disinfection.

The Vancouver Island Health Authority's 2007 surface water treatment policy, nicknamed the 4-3-2-1 policy, requires adequate removal or inactivation of pathogenic organisms that may be present in raw water. Cumberland must meet these requirements in order to provide safe drinking water for residents and it is a condition of Cumberland's operating permit.

VIHA has ordered that Cumberland provide a second treatment method in addition to chlorination. Cumberland is proposing to install ultraviolet disinfection treatment in 2015 at an estimated cost of \$290,000. UV disinfection would neutralize bacteria and parasites such as *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* that can cause water-borne diseases.

What do these water system improvements mean to me?

For those connected to the Village water system, this means that the water system would be more secure in the event of a large earthquake and that the quality of the water you drink would be significantly improved.

In terms of costs, each residential utility rate payer (only those connected to the water system) would pay approximately \$79 per year over 20 years to repay the debt borrowed for these capital improvements. It is expected that this increase in your utility bill will not occur until 2016 when all the projects are completed. The increased amount may be reduced as the community grows and more property owners share the cost to repay the debt.



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What if I don't want Council to undertake these projects and incur this debt?

The water supply and treatment system is owned and operated by the residents of Cumberland with the elected Council making decisions on operation, maintenance and improvements on your behalf.

The *BC Community Charter* requires that the Council obtain elector approval through an alternate approval process (counter petition) or through the assent of the electors (voting) in order to borrow money for capital projects.

Individuals that are eligible to vote as either a resident or non-resident property elector may choose to oppose the borrowing by signing an elector response form. If 10% or 243 electors submit elector response forms to the Village by the deadline, the Council may not adopt the loan authorization bylaw without obtaining the assent of the electors through a vote. The **deadline for elector response forms is June 10, 2013.**

Where can I find more information?

You can view a variety of plans, reports and studies on Cumberland's water system at cumberland.ca.

The Vancouver Island Health Authority's website at viha/mho/water has information about drinking water safety.

Contact staff at the Village office at 250-336-2291 for:

Questions about	Contact
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Construction projects	Rob Crisfield, Manager of Operations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Debt financing and utility payments	Michelle Mason, Financial Officer
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Alternate approval process and Elector Response Forms	Rachel Parker, Deputy Corporate Officer