



District of Lake Country

Engineering Department

10150 Bottom Wood Lake Road

Lake Country, British Columbia V4V 2M1

E-mail: phansen@lakecountry.bc.ca

Telephone: (250)766-6677 Fax: (250)766-0116

September 2, 2009

Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program Progress Report

The District of Lake Country (DLC) was incorporated in 1995 and is located near the centre of the Okanagan Valley. It is made up of four distinct neighborhood communities: Oyama, Winfield, Carr's Landing and Okanagan Centre with a population of approximately 10,000 people.

The DLC relies on 80% of its water source from two community watersheds: Beaver and Oyama Lakes. These water sources were initially built approximately 100 years ago for irrigation. In the late 1970's the systems evolved to become a major domestic supply. Since that time an active interest in watershed management has been to increase water quality for the DLC customers.

As mandated by Interior Health on DLC's Permit to Operate a Comprehensive Drinking Water Source to Tap Assessments is required for both the DLC's upland watersheds in addition to the intakes on Kalamalka and Okanagan Lakes. The cost to complete assessments on all DLC source water supplies exceeded the current budget; however, DLC has been able to proceed with assessments on the Oyama and Beaver Lake watersheds after receiving Water Conservation and Quality Improvements Grants from the OBWB.

Assessments will follow modules 1, 2, 7 and 8 of the Comprehensive Drinking Water source to Tap Assessment Guidelines, with the overall objectives of the assessment to identify current and/or future drinking water health hazard(s) and vulnerabilities, characterize the risk posed by each identified hazard and provide recommendations to reduce the overall impacts on the drinking water source.

Ecoscope Environmental Consultants Ltd. (Ecoscope) has been retained to conduct the source water assessment for both the Oyama and Beaver Lake watersheds. To date, works have included spatial data acquisition, the involvement of numerous stakeholders, background review/data mining, analysis and mapping for Modules 1 and 2, and comprehensive field surveys of both watersheds. These initial works have pinpointed a series of potential hazards that exist within the watersheds. Hazards include natural events such as landslides and forest fires (Photos 1 & 2), as well as anthropogenic activities like recreation and intentional dumping (Photos 3 & 4).

Thus far, both watershed assessments are progressing on schedule, and no major obstacles have been encountered. The first stakeholder meeting has been scheduled for September 23. The intent of this meeting is to brief the stakeholders on the progress of each assessment and to solicit comments and other constructive input. Subsequent to this meeting, any final field surveys will be undertaken, with document preparation to follow. Upon completion of a draft

document, it will be distributed to all stakeholders for review and comment. Lastly, a second stakeholder meeting will be held prior to finalization of the document. The anticipated date for completion of these assessments is December, 2009.

PHOTOS



Photo 1: Illustrates one of several natural landslides that occur upstream of the source water intake in the Beaver Lake watershed.



Photo 2: Depicts the remnants of a recent forest fire in the Oyama watershed. Potential impacts from the fire include large scale vegetation disturbance, ground water seepage from the fire site to the adjacent reservoir and the chemical-based fire retardant that is visible above.



Photo 3: Shows the tracks of an all terrain vehicle which has disturbed sediment below the high water level of Vernon Creek.



Photo 4: Illustrates garbage which was intentionally dumped along the High Rim Trail.