

WEST KELOWNA

Treatment plant saves thousands

by *Wayne Moore - Kelowna* - Story: 102567
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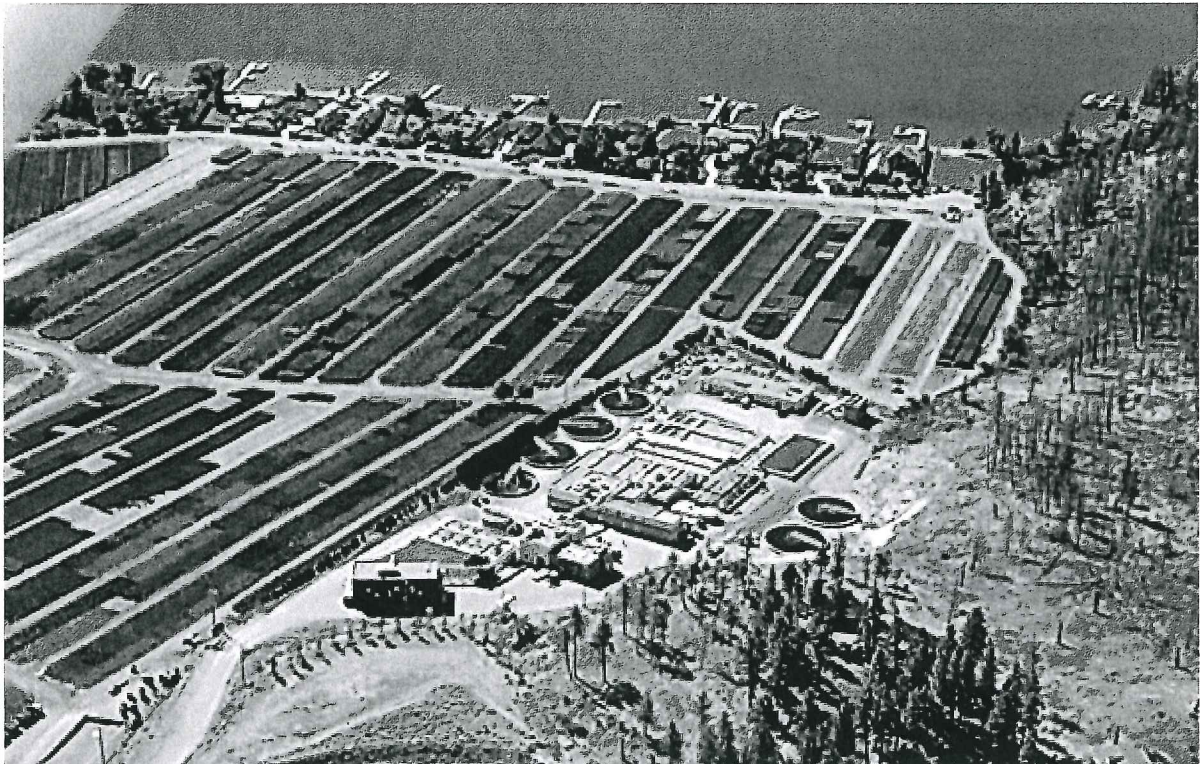


Photo: Contributed - RDCO
Aerial photo of Westside Wastewater Treatment Plant

The Regional District of Central Okanagan will save about \$12,000 a year through improvements made earlier this year at the Westside Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant.

According to officials with the RDCO there has been a dramatic reduction in the amount of potable drinking water needed for everyday use around the Gellatly Road plant since completion of a water reclamation project in the summer.

The RDCO completed major upgrades to a small water reclamation system with a \$25,000 grant from the Okanagan Basin Water Board and \$10,000 of district funds.

"We've always used a small amount of treated plant effluent water around the facility, but were using a vast amount of treated, potable drinking water," says RDCO communications officer, Bruce Smith.

"With the grant, we were able to substantially upgrade our system by retrofitting two existing pumps, purchasing and installing new filters that use minimal electricity and water for backwashing and converting plumbing from the treated drinking water system to use the newly filtered treated plant water in appropriate areas of the plant."

As a result, Smith says the plant has been able to decrease the use of regular quality drinking water.

Last summer the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant used 3,212 cubic metres of potable drinking water, a drop of 67 per cent over the same period in 2021.

Over the course of a year, Smith says the plant's total water consumption is expected to drop by at least 25,000 cubic metres, equating to a savings of about \$12,000 a year.

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