

Penticton News



Osoyoos sewer funding announcement

*by Contributed - Story: 52641
Feb 14, 2010 / 12:00 pm*

Since 1989, the RDOS and the Town of Osoyoos have been concerned about the deteriorating quality of Osoyoos Lake and groundwater.

Since 1989 the RDOS has been applying for grants to cover the significant cost to connect affected homeowners to the Osoyoos wastewater collection system.

In 2007, the RDOS applied for and received a 2/3 grant from the Province for \$4,514,000. Even with the grant funding however, the cost to homeowners remained high.

In addition to the infrastructure grant, the RDOS has received a grant from the Okanagan Basin Water Board for \$80,981 per annum. This grant will be used to reduce the debt payments for the project.

Residents can expect a reduction in the \$8,000 lump sum payment or \$890 per annum fee required for the project, however at this point, it is unknown what the exact reduction will be.

The first phase of the project, from the Town boundary to the north end of 81st Street, is currently being tendered with the expected completion date to be June 30, 2010.

The second phase, from the north end of 81 Street to Robert's Point, will be tended as soon as rights of way required in this phase are continuous. This project comprises a total of six phases, whereby the project is scheduled to complete no later than March 31, 2012.

Acting town mayor, Michael Ryan is pleased with the announcement.

"The Town of Osoyoos is delighted to see that the Okanagan Water basin Board has approved a grant to support the development of the Northwest Sewer Project. This grant endorses the importance of eliminating potential residential sewer leaching impacts on Osoyoos Lake water quality and expands the partnership working on this project to

maintain a sustainable Osoyoos Lake,” says Ryan.

Area 'A' director, Mark Pendegraft is also thrilled with the announcement.

“Area 'A' residents in this area have had a dual concern for many years: their impact on the environment and the high cost of correcting the issues of leeching and contamination. Now with this additional grant money from OBWB, the costs for affected residents will be significantly more reasonable and we can get to work and solve this problem,” says Pendegraft.

More information on the project is available on the Town of Osoyoos website, or the RDOS website.