

5.1.1.1 Carolyn Stewart, Water Conservation Program Coordinator, Penticton

Carolyn Stewart, Water Conservation Coordinator for the City of Penticton, spoke to the Council about conservation efforts in Penticton. Penticton residents have been **metered for decades**, rates are increasing at base rate and the volume rate is going up 22%. The City wishes to **increase the value of water** in Penticton, and ensure everyone understands that **conservation doesn't mean going without, it means to use water wisely**.

Domestic and ICI (industrial, commercial and institutional) growth rate 2%. Penticton is focused on smart growth (building up). Demand was 1650 litres per capita per day in 2003, 54 million litres of treated water just for ICIs., in 2006 demand is 645 litres per capita per day. Decrease water waste in summer – already 8% reduction over 5 years. Eg. Hospital **low flow fixtures** - 200 6-gallon toilets were installed, saving \$200 million a year. Water slide has closed down and a golf course is closing down. Existing users are considering retrofits.

Penticton is investigating **rainwater harvesting and re-use** (from roof runoff, for example), and considering changing the bylaw to mandate 6 gallon toilets.

Parks irrigation has been tweaked to remove 1 day of water per week. Parks are rated A/B/C/D according to use, high-use parks (eg Gyro for Peachfest and Ironman) are allowed to keep the green areas lush and beautiful, while other parks out in the back 40 are watered as infrequently as possible.

RDOS is a pilot project of Water Smart Ambassador (Leanne), and Penticton is working with Oliver and Summerland to share information.

Successes include **voluntary 4-day watering restrictions**. Odd/even manual irrigation for 5 hrs per day, automatic irrigation 4 hrs per day. Eg. mobile home park odd users water on the 1st and 5th, even users on the 2nd and 6th, etc. Very successful and has been reproduced. More than 30% reduction in water use over 3 years – about 10% per year.

Toilet rebates – 3.3 million litres reduced by replacing 200 toilets. Cost for this program to save 1 million litres is \$3,500.

Surveys by **Water Smart Ambassadors** identify barriers to water reduction activities. What inhibits a resident from adhering to the watering restrictions? After all the marketing and educational campaigns, why is someone still watering at noon?

Fines and enforcement –1,2, 3 strikes you're out. Yellow doorhanger – oops you forgot – Bright orange 2nd - hey we're serious - 3rd warning Carolyn shows up at your door to hand you a \$20 fine.

Summer students are surveying 3 affluent neighbourhoods to see which of these 3 require the most enforcement. Another student is doing a school program. Two people working together is better than two individuals working alone.