

## **Skaha Estates Improvement District Update March 2024**

The Trustees were finally able to get a meeting with our Drinking Water Officer from Interior Health Authority and want to share the following information:

- we now have a clear understanding of what information they want and are working towards providing it.
- it includes daily minimum, maximum and average chlorine and turbidity readings as well as temperature, chlorine contact time and PH readings from our system.
- we will now be sampling water from five different field locations three times per week, which is much more comprehensive than we have done in the past.
- after seeing a consistent pattern as well as no failed water samples, the Boil Water Notice will be replaced with a Water Quality Advisory until such time as we have achieved secondary disinfection, which will be a number of years. (See attachments below for more information on these advisories.)

In consultation with the Interior Health Authority, it is being advised to all residents of the Skaha Estates Improvement District that:

*"The SEID Water System uses a surface water source that can contain protozoa such as Cryptosporidium and Giardia."*

*The SEID Water System does not provide treatment to inactivate or remove protozoa. (Secondary disinfection is required for this.)*

*Protozoa like Cryptosporidium and Giardia in drinking water can cause gastrointestinal illness.*

*People who have a greater chance of getting sick include:*

- *People with weakened immune systems, such as those who have HIV/AIDS, an organ or bone marrow transplant, or who have had cancer treatment*
- *Infants and young children*
- *Pregnant women*
- *Older adults*
- *People with a chronic disease*

People more sensitive to waterborne illnesses can have severe reactions and serious complications, including death. For more information, see HealthLinkBC File #56 [Preventing water-borne infections for people with weakened immune systems](#)."

- the Okanagan watershed is impacted by treated sewage water from many communities as well as other agricultural, industrial, automotive, residential and natural contamination. As the population grows, the water quality will only decline.

- the RDOS continues to do their due diligence on acquiring our water system and expects to hold a community referendum later this year. More information about this will be forthcoming when we receive it.

The SEID board reminds residents that an in-house ultra-violet ray or reverse osmosis filtration system will free you from having to boil water.

- Please be advised that the 2024 Water Tax and Toll Invoice is due by March 31, 2024, payment can be made by e-Transfer to: [skahaestateswater@gmail.com](mailto:skahaestateswater@gmail.com) or by mailing a cheque payable to: Skaha Estates Improvement District, PO Box 455, Okanagan Falls, BC V0H 1R0, please note there is a 12% penalty on unpaid accounts at March 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Annual General Meeting of the Skaha Estates Improvement District will be held April 30, 2024, 7 PM at the Okanagan Falls Senior Centre, 1128 Willow Street, Okanagan Falls. There will be one Trustee position vacant as Mr. Ron Desilets' term expires at the meeting, Mr. Desilets has advised that he will not run for re-election. Nomination papers are available by contacting the SEID office at [skahaestateswater@gmail.com](mailto:skahaestateswater@gmail.com) . Nomination papers must be returned by 11:30 AM, April 16, 2024. Nominations from the floor will not be accepted. If you have any questions regarding the duties of the Trustee and the time commitment involved, please contact our office or contact the Chair, Mr. Ron Desilets at 778.531.8788.

The screenshot shows a mobile website with an orange header. On the left is a white icon of a kettle. To its right, the text "BOIL WATER NOTICE (BWN)" is displayed in white. Below the header, the text "A BOIL WATER NOTICE TELLS YOU THAT:" is followed by two bullet points: "There are organisms in the water that can make you sick." and "To safely consume (swallow) the water, you must bring it to a rolling boil on a stovetop for at least 60 seconds to kill these harmful organisms, or use an alternate, safe source of water." Below this, the text "ONCE THE WATER IS BOILED FOR AT LEAST 60 SECONDS AND COOLED DOWN AGAIN, YOU CAN USE IT FOR:" is followed by three bullet points: "Drinking", "Brushing your teeth", and "Washing and preparing food". The status bar at the top shows the time as 12:41 AM, the date as Fri Mar 1, and the battery level as 91%.

The screenshot shows a mobile website with a purple header. On the left is a white icon of a water drop. To its right, the text "WATER QUALITY ADVISORY (WQA)" is displayed in white. Above the header, the text "1 of 4" is visible, followed by the "water" logo and the "Interior Health" logo with the tagline "Every person matters". Below the header, the text "A WATER QUALITY ADVISORY TELLS YOU THAT:" is followed by two bullet points: "There is some level of risk associated with consuming the drinking water, but a boil water notice is not needed." and "The risk is elevated for people with weakened immune systems." Below this, the text "WATER QUALITY ADVISORIES MAY BE ISSUED FOR VARIOUS REASONS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:" is followed by three bullet points: "A potential long-term health risk such as exposure to water contaminants over long periods of time that could result in illness", "Routine maintenance work on the water supply system", and "Turbidity (the cloudiness of water)". The status bar at the top shows the time as 12:31 AM, the date as Fri Mar 1, and the battery level as 92%.