



## OKANAGAN WATER NEWS

**BMID Updates** The terms of Al Horning and Gerry Zimmermann expired in April, 2022 and both ran again for a three-year term on the Board. Both were re-elected by acclamation. The board for 2022-23 is led by Chair, Colin Day, who is also supported by Trustees Horning, Zimmermann, Allen Kirschner and Sukhpaul Bal.

The Annual General Meeting was held on April 13, 2022. The Trustees, Operations & Auditors Reports were presented & questions from the public were addressed. See [www.bmid.ca](http://www.bmid.ca) to view our Annual Reports.

BMID staff have been working on some significant projects. For 2022, BMID has been working on:

- \* Modeling of flows to determine higher levels of flood protection for BMID facilities along Mission Creek;
- \* Dam Safety work on Belgo, FishHawk and Graystoke dams;
- \* Completion of additional sludge-drying beds at the Water Treatment Plant;
- \* Design works of the extension of the McDougall Water Tunnel.

**2022 Domestic Rates** have been set. For a single-family residence the toll is \$53.50/month or \$642/year.

**2022 Irrigation Rates** are projected to increase by \$6.00/acre per year to \$132.00/acre for Grade A land and to \$105.60/acre for Grade C land.

BMID is seeing the effects of inflation with higher prices for services, equipment and materials. With an inflation rate of greater than 6%, BMID does not foresee any changes in rates for the remainder of 2022, but will re-assess the situation later in the year prior to setting 2023 water rates.

### BMID Open House (Save the date)

Please set aside some time on Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022, to visit the BMID UV Facility. BMID is planning an open house to celebrate 100-years of service to the community, an official launch of our history book, Black Mountain Gold, and the official opening of our UV Disinfection Facility. This event has been delayed 3 times due to COVID.

## GET THE LEAD OUT!

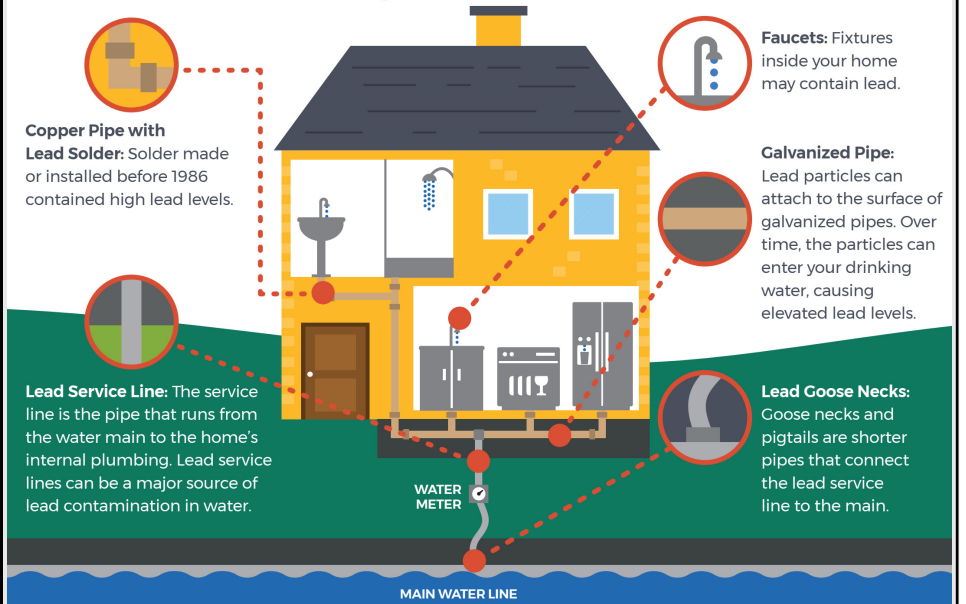
Important information about drinking water and lead



On Apr.28, 2022, the Water Supply Association of BC hosted a \*Lead in Drinking Water\* workshop in Kelowna. The workshop had presentations from expert speakers and health regulators on the challenges that our communities face regarding lead in drinking water. **Although there are no known incidents of lead in the raw water sources in the Okanagan, it is still measurable at some drinking water taps.**

Exposure to high levels of lead may cause anemia, weakness, and kidney and brain damage. Very high lead exposure can cause death. Children younger than 6 years are especially vulnerable to lead poisoning, which can severely affect mental and physical development. The current Health Canada limit for drinking water is 0.005 mg/L (5 parts per billion), however it includes the caveat that every effort should be made to maintain lead levels as low as reasonably possible.

## Sources of LEAD in Drinking Water



Where lead has been found is as shown in the figure above. (Figure source - EPA) BMID has no authority regarding the plumbing works on private property. To manage the risks associated with lead, it requires a partnership between the utility and the customer. The utility must provide safe water that is stable (not corrosive) and inform the customer that there may be risks present. **The historical monitoring of BMID's raw and distributed water have not found any measurable traces of lead.** We are also unaware of any lead service pipe in our water distribution system. Copper pipe with lead solder is common in houses built pre-1990. (continued next pg)

*"Carbon is the currency of how you measure climate change, but water will be the teeth"* Jim Yong Kim



## BMID WATER NEWS

### Water Supply Association of BC

The WSABC, formerly the Association of BC Irrigation Districts, is busy planning their 100th Annual General Meeting, to be held in Vernon on October 20 & 21 this year. The theme is expected to be of the history of water in the BC southern interior. Website [www.wsabc.ca](http://www.wsabc.ca)

In the past 6 months, we are sad to report that some notable persons that supported BMID passed away.

#### Don Dobson Apr 28,1947 - Dec 18,2021

Don passed away in December after a battle with cancer. He has supported BMID as a consultant since 1989 and was one of the most respected voices Provincially in the water industry. His work has led to changes in fuel management of our forests and the heightened awareness towards the safety of the Mission Creek dikes through Kelowna. On April 28 Don was post-humously awarded the Champion of the Environment award from the City of Kelowna.

#### Brian Thorburn Jan 19,1970 - May 3,2022

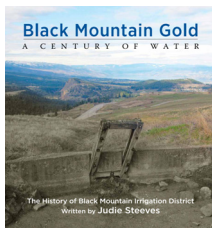
Brian was the first Level 4 water treatment plant operator for BMID from 2002 to 2006. He went through the early challenges of tuning our then new water treatment plant to provide water of much higher quality than the original design intent. In doing so, Brian delayed the need to filter the water, saving our community tens of millions of dollars. Brian was highly respected contributor to the BC water industry.

#### Allan Seigmann Oct. 19,1946 - May 10,2022

Allan worked on the BMID water system in the late 1960's. He was an outstanding Foreman for the major pipeline installations and works under the ARDA program. Alan also worked for SEKID for a number of years. He was an excellent foreman during the times when the crews were comprised of many "character" workers which made a Foreman's job quite challenging (to say the least).

#### Black Mountain Gold

is available at the BMID Office front desk. It is a good read and makes a great gift for persons interested in the local history. Price is \$25.00 cash or debit.



**OBSERVE, RECORD & REPORT**  
questionable watershed activities to  
BMID at (250) 765-5169

## LEAD INFORMATION—CONTINUED

Although the risk of lead being present is small, the consequences can be high. For how to test for lead, how much it costs, where to take the water samples, and how to minimize your risk of exposure to lead, go to the BMID website at [www.bmid.ca](http://www.bmid.ca) for more information. At the site there is a video link of how to determine if you have lead, metal or plastic pipes. There are brochures for how to minimize your risk. There are also links to the major event of lead contamination in Flint, Michigan.

BMID Water Treatment Plant has a water treatment process where the pH of the water is dropped so that the dissolved and particulate matter in the water can be removed. Following our removal process, the pH is raised to a level > 7.5 through the addition of caustic soda so that the water is stable and considered non-corrosive.

There are simple methods in which the customer can lessen the risk of lead from their drinking water. These could include:

- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water;
- Regularly clean your faucet screens (aerators) at all taps in your house;
- If you have an old house with copper pipes, and young children, consider using a water filter to remove lead (with activated carbon filter & reverse osmosis);
- Before drinking water, flush your pipes by running your tap until the water is cold.

Although flushing is counter-intuitive to saving water, the volume needed to flush is small and can be other in-home uses such as laundry or showering.

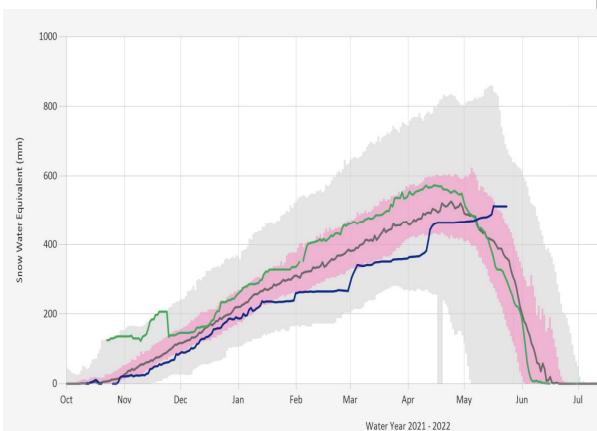
## \$\$ SECURITY DEPOSITS REFUNDED \$\$

You may notice a small credit applied to your utility bill this coming quarter. The average credit is \$25 - \$35. These credits are from Security Deposits that were collected in the 90's and held separately by property. Nearly 2000 accounts will see a small credit applied. The Security Deposit requirement was discontinued in 2005, so not all accounts will be affected.

### 2022 Mission Creek Snowpack

2021 was a challenging year for water supply with BMID drawing down our upper watershed reservoirs to less than 20% volume at year-end. BMID worked with the Ministry of Environment and Fisheries staff to maintain 1.0 m3/s flow in Mission Creek through the drought of 2021.

The above graph is an automated snow-pillow that the Province operates on the Graystoke plateau. It showed that over the winter, the snow-water equivalent was lower than the 25 percentile depth through much of the winter



The dark blue line is the spring of 2022 data with the 40-year average being the black line. BMID's lower reservoirs, Belgo Reservoir and James Reservoir have already filled and are spilling. The high elevation reservoirs, Loch Long, Fish Hawk and Graystoke, still has snow cover and, with the cooler temperatures, the snowpack is just starting to melt. BMID expects all reservoirs to start the season at full pool. With the cooler weather, it is also expected that the saturated watershed below the dams will be able to delay when the outlet gates at the upper reservoir will have to be opened.

The process for how we assemble these Newsletters  
"To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism: to steal from many is research." Steven Wright