



February, 2023

A newsletter from the  
Black Mountain Irrigation District  
No. 57

[www.bmid.ca](http://www.bmid.ca)

## BMID WATER NEWS

**BMID AGM** The BMID AGM has been set for 7:00 pm, April 12, 2023 at the BMID office at 285 Gray Road. The annual reporting documents, including the Financial Statements and reports on BMID business, works and water quality will be presented at the AGM. These documents will be available on our web page and in printed format for pickup at the office 3 days prior to the meeting.

The term for office for Allen Kirschner expires in 2023. Allen, who has served as a BMID Trustee for 21 years, will be seeking re-election. The nomination period for this position will be open from 8:00 am March 20, 2023 to 3:30 pm March 31, 2023. If an election is required, Voting will take place on Thursday April 20, 2023 between the hours of 10am - 6pm with an Advanced Poll on April 13, 2023 between 12 - 4pm.

**2023 Domestic Rates** have been set. For a single-family residence the toll will be \$56.50/month or \$678/year an increase of 5.5% which is just below the current inflation rate.

**2023 Irrigation Turn-Ons** are tentatively scheduled starting the week of April 11th, 2023, weather dependent. The crews will be working hard to get the water turned on so please be patient during this period. There is a fee and waiver form required for early turn-ons.

**2023 Irrigation Rates** are projected to increase by \$6.00/acre per year to \$138.00/acre for Grade A land and \$110.40/acre for Grade C land.

**2022 Water Usage** Last year's BMID monthly usage and 20-year-average monthly water usage is listed below. Units are in mega-liters (ML).

1 ML = 1,000 m<sup>3</sup>.

Month	Actual	Avg.	%
Jan-March	736	640	115 %
April	408	471	87 %
May	999	1,381	72 %
June	1,029	1,845	56 %
July	3,135	2,902	108 %
August	2,481	2,754	90 %
September	1,417	1,309	108 %
Oct-Dec	1,185	887	134 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,390</b>	<b>12,189</b>	<b>93 %</b>

As shown by the water demand numbers, 2022 was wet through the early spring and summer until July when we were blessed with a clear-sky summer and no fire smoke.

## DEDICATION "AL HORNING WAY"



Al Horning, BMID Trustee, former Member of Parliament, Member of Legislative Assembly and several term City Councillor was honoured on February 6, 2023 at City Hall with a road dedication made in his name. The future road, to be located on the east side of the rail trail, from the Airport to the south will be dedicated as "Al Horning Way". The above photo was taken on February 6th, 2023 with City Council and BMID representatives by the invitation of the Mayor. In 1989, Al was the Conservative MP for Kelowna and was getting very little MLA support for the Kelowna Airport Runway extension. Al went directly to the Prime Minister's home at 24 Sussex Drive, and lobbied for funding of the airport extension....and got it. Under his term as MLA in the 2000's, the new floating bridge, the Kelowna hospital expansion, the UBCO campus expansion and several other important community projects received Provincial and Federal support. Al's tenacious, community-minded public-first approach has filtered throughout our organization. BMID has been very fortunate to have Al serving as Trustee since 2010, serving the public the "Al Horning Way".

Coupled with the event at City Hall is improved communication with City leadership. At the BMID 100-year Anniversary event in September, and at the BMID Christmas Open House, there was excellent participation by City Council. Subsequently there have been additional meetings. There is renewed sense of partnership with a focus on the community rather than a specific agenda by any individual. Projects that would serve the entire community well into the future include improved interconnections between the water utilities, protection of the Mission Creek watershed and its water quality, fortification and widening of diking along Mission Creek, infrastructure protection along Mission Creek including Hadden and Stevens Reservoirs, and long term improvement of environmental flows in the creek. There is much work to do.

*"Help others and give something back. I guarantee you will discover that while public service improves the lives and the world around you, its greatest reward is the enrichment and new meaning it will bring your own life."* Arnold Schwarzenegger



## BMID WATER NEWS

### Water Supply Association of BC

This organization, which was formerly the Association of BC Irrigation Districts, now consists of Municipalities, Regional Districts, private utilities and Improvement (Irrigation) Districts. It represents the interests of BC's water suppliers in the BC Southern Interior. There are still 189 Improvement Districts in the Province. BMID was there at the first ever meeting of this association on April 3, 1923 at the Palace Hotel in Kelowna. That hotel became the Royal Anne and is now the Coast Royal Anne. BMID has supported this organization throughout its history and attended the 100th AGM last November in Penticton.

Website [www.wsabc.ca](http://www.wsabc.ca)

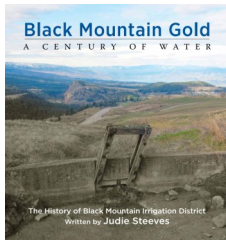
### Search for the Rock Ovens



The Kelowna Canadian Italian Club this year released a video that they shot of the rock ovens located near BMID's Belgo Dam. The ovens were constructed around 1911 when the dams were first being built by Italian immigrants. The cooks would bake dozens of loaves of bread each day to feed the work crews. Although hidden, some people know where they are. The easiest way to learn about them is to watch the wonderful video made by Gord Hotchkiss of the Kelowna Italian Club. Just search on You-Tube: "Search for the Rock Ovens". It is a heart-warming 10-minute adventure.

### BMID History Book

The BMID 100-year history book, written by Judie Steeves, is a remarkable record of the settlers that valued agriculture and created the orchard setting that surrounds us. It is available at the BMID Office front desk. Price is \$25.00 cash or debit.



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

## WATERSHED SECURITY STRATEGY

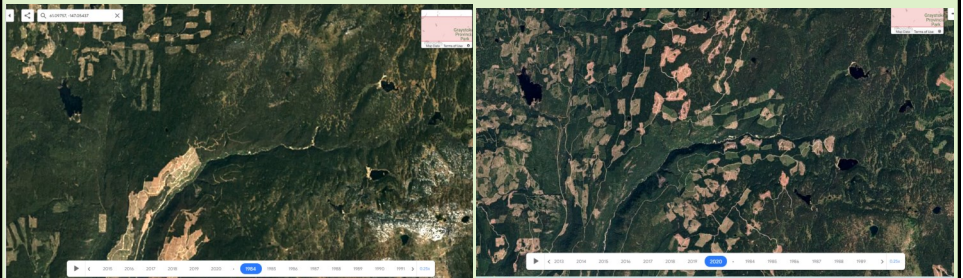
Over the past year, the Province has engaged the public in the development of a Watershed Security Strategy that considers the protection of the watersheds, so they will become more resilient to the impacts of climate change and the high rainfall events such as the atmospheric river experienced in Nov. 2021. BMID, with the Water Supply Association, has provided feedback to the Province and is participating in workshops to communicate our local concerns and possible steps to be taken by the Province.

In December 2022, national news stories ran with comments made by BC Premier David Eby that stated "BC's Forest Industry has never been under greater stress". The commentary continued with "*short-term thinking in land management has led to exhausted forests*". BC forests have seen substantial losses to beetle infestation, with forest fires in 2017 & 2018, and over 1.2 million hectares of forest burned each year.

Katrine Conroy, who was Minister of Forests in 2021 commented that "*Past policies on forestry had left too much control of forest operations in the hands of the private sector*".

Historically, prior to 1960, there were "Drinking Watershed Reserves" where the protection of public drinking water was an obligatory and a fiduciary responsibility, and was understood to be a "moral obligation" recognized by the Forest Service. Through the following decades, the reserves were reclassified as "Community Watersheds" and the power and influence by the forest industry slowly but surely crept into those areas. The lobbying and influence on Provincial government has seen logging now in many community watersheds, including BMID's water source Mission Creek. Some protection measures have been undertaken, however they appear to be inadequate to deal with the volumes of runoff that is now greater than ever.

BMID is reliant on Mission Creek for an uncontaminated natural water supply of suitable quality and sufficient quantity. There is minimal industry in the watershed and no measurable signs of chemical contamination in the source water. The highest concern for many water suppliers this year in the US is of 'Forever Chemicals'. These are carbon-fluoride chain chemicals simple do not break down naturally and are extremely toxic at very low levels. BMID is fortunate in that we have tested for these substances and have found no measurable traces in Mission Creek water above our intake. With those not present yet in Mission Creek, it is foreseen that the importance of Mission Creek as a drinking water source for all of Kelowna will only increase in time.



BMID has concerns regarding the forestry impacts on water quality and increased runoff. Mapping from Timelapse-Google Earth shows images of reduced forest cover in Mission Creek between Belgo Reservoir and the Graystoke between 1980-2020.

Peak runoff flow rates since 2012 have increased and BMID frequently sees flows in the creek above 100 m<sup>3</sup>/s. Over the last 10 years, the '1 in 200 year flood' design flow rate in Mission Creek has been increased from 125 m<sup>3</sup>/s to 180 m<sup>3</sup>/s.

There is hope in the process and in some of the recent actions taken by the Province. In early February, 2023, the Province decided to remove the "Unduly Restrict" clause in forest regulations that allowed timber supply to trump all other values, including ecosystem health, wildlife protection and First Nations cultural values. The clause prevented any conservation measures from "unduly restricting" available timber supply for the forest industry.

BMID is concerned that the forest replant is designed to maximize the future forest economic revenue so a mono-culture forest is replanted in the cut-blocks. The coniferous trees planted are more susceptible to mass forest fire and beetle infestation.

One of the best descriptions of the state of the forest industry is by MLA Mike Morris for Prince George - McKenzie. Search on You-Tube: *Mike Morris, October 26, Bill 23* for 28 minutes of education on his take on the current state of BC forests.

"Even with all our technology and the inventions that make modern life so much easier than it once was, it takes just one big natural disaster to wipe all that away and remind us that, here on Earth, we're still at the mercy of nature." Neil deGrasse Tyson