

Quarterly information for residents by the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD).

## Water Conservation Starts with You!

For many months of the year we may have an abundance of water here on the Sunshine Coast, but conserving water is still important – especially during these times of prolonged dry weather.

“There is certainly a feeling in the community that we have an abundance of water. And we have a very good watershed that has a lot of water,” says Bryan Shoji, General Manager of Infrastructure Services at the SCRD. “But when the weather turns dry for prolonged periods, the amount of water in the system starts to drop. If this goes on long enough, then we are scrambling like a lot of other places, wondering where the fresh water is going to come from. It doesn’t help that these prolonged dry periods coincide with an increase in the amount of water used by residents for irrigation, filling pools, and other outdoor activities.”

The SCRD’s water conservation advertising and education campaign is a two-part program. The first is a series of advertisements appealing to the public to join the campaign by being more efficient with water use in their homes, businesses, gardens and yards. The education component of the campaign includes sprinkling regulation patrolling, involvement in various community events, and direct mail campaigns on ways to conserve water.

“We want the community to know that their individual efforts to conserve water means big water savings for the Coast overall,” says Shoji. “No matter how small an effort to reduce water consumption may seem, every little bit will help this region in the long term.”

“When we issued the Stage 3 watering restrictions the week of September 17, water consumption decreased by over one third,” says Shoji. “This not only indicates how much of our potable water is typically used for irrigation and other outdoor purposes, but goes to show how much of a difference individuals can make in conserving water.”

The SCRD supplied a total of 5.6 billion litres of water to its customers in 2011, equivalent to 540 litres per capita per day, which is 9% less than historical averages (2004-2010). The SCRD’s goal is to reduce per capita consumption by 33% by the year 2020.

The community’s cooperation is essential to reach that goal, explained Bryan Shoji. “The campaign is not intended to be preaching, telling people that you need to do this and you need to do that. What we’re trying to get people to do is step back and have a look where they think they can get the most out of the water they are using.”

To encourage residents to conserve water, the SCRD offers a \$200 rebate for homeowners replacing old toilets with new, high efficiency toilets. Last year, 123 rebates were given out, and in 2012 so far 125 have been paid.

What’s more, the SCRD has a drought management plan that regularly restricts when residents can water their lawn from May 1 to September 30. This year, due to prolonged dry weather, our water supply levels are at their lowest point ever, triggering the SCRD to issue strict water use restrictions for all Sunshine Coast water users.

The SCRD also runs two award systems to promote and acknowledge water efficient leaders on the Sunshine Coast. The Golden Lawn Awards program recognizes residents who save water by letting their lawns go brown, while the Industrial-Commercial-Institutional (ICI) Water Efficiency Awards Program recognizes businesses and organizations that take steps to reduce water consumption in their facilities and operations.

For more information on the SCRD’s water conservation program, go to [www.scrd.ca/Water-Conservation](http://www.scrd.ca/Water-Conservation), or call 604-885-6806.

## Q: How can you participate in the SCR D decision making processes?

A: There are a number of ways that you can get involved:

- by directly contacting an SCR D Director.
- by attending and speaking at a Board Meeting (all of which are open to the public), a committee meeting, a public hearing or other SCR D public events.
- by voting in elector assent referendums and/or participating in alternative approval processes (for proposed services)



Electoral Area “E”  
(Elphinstone)  
Director Lorne Lewis



Electoral Area “B”  
(Halfmoon Bay)  
Director and Board Chair  
Garry Nohr



Electoral Area “D”  
(Roberts Creek)  
Director Donna Shugar

## Directors Receive Leadership Certificates at UBCM Convention

Three SCR D Board members received Level 2 Certificates in Local Government Leadership at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention, held in Victoria from September 24 to 28.

Electoral Area “E” (Elphinstone) director Lorne Lewis, Electoral Area “B” (Halfmoon Bay) director and Board Chair Garry Nohr, Electoral Area “D” (Roberts Creek) director Donna Shugar all received certificates.

“The Local Government Leadership Academy Certificate is a great way for Board members to help improve our leadership skills, and become better elected officials in the process,” said SCR D Board Chair Garry Nohr. “It’s also proof that our efforts are recognized by our peers.”

The Local Government Leadership Academy supports and promotes education and training for local government and First Nations elected officials and senior administrators throughout the Province of British Columbia.

This Certificate Program is limited to elected officials only and provides comprehensive, timely and dedicated leadership development opportunities for elected officials throughout their terms of office/employment in the interest of improving governance at the local level.

To receive this information electronically, go to [www.scrd.ca](http://www.scrd.ca) and click on “Sign up for our newsletter”.

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