

WATER SUSTAINABILITY GROUP PROVIDES ADVICE TO CRD ON OIL TANKS

For Immediate Release
November 12, 2014

Last week, another residential oil tank leak was discovered in the Blenkinsop Creek watershed. The event coincides with a just-completed research report from the Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia (PWS) written specifically for Capital Regional District communities urging priority work on updating information on existing underground storage tanks in an ‘amalgamated’, coordinated fashion.

“Adequate and consistent inventory would make it possible to systematically locate USTs and work with property owners to have them removed,” says Past President of PWS, Tim Pringle.

The report found that about 10.5% or 13,055 homes constructed in the Capital Regional District prior to 1992, when natural gas became available, had oil heating installed. Failure of old oil heating systems, including unmaintained underground storage tanks (USTs), can lead to spills and costly clean up.

“Failures likely will continue for decades in the CRD as has been the experience of the districts of North Vancouver and West Vancouver, where conversion to natural gas began in 1957. Communities need to work harder on preventing what I call ‘catastrophic’ failures that damage watersheds and become very costly for homeowners to mitigate,” says Pringle.

PWS undertook this research to identify measures that can be adopted by local government to prevent leakage from residential properties and eliminate contamination of watercourses as well as properties. The need for preventative action was identified as a priority by stakeholders at an information session hosted by the Victoria Real Estate Board in July 2013. PWS became involved based on this shared outlook.

Fewer than half of the municipalities in the CRD have up-to-date inventories that include the number of oil heating systems, their condition, and whether or not there may USTs. In view of the need for complete information, the PWS research recommends that “the CRD, on behalf of its municipal members, initiate and help coordinate a project to design and adopt one inventory system to track residential properties with oil heating systems in any condition.

The full report is available at www.waterbucket.ca/. The Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia is a non-profit organization with more than ten years of experience working with communities on Vancouver Island and elsewhere to plan for and implement water sustainability practices.

For more information contact Tim Pringle (250-538-8520).

See Appendix One for a list of Participants at the July 2013 Information Session.

- See Appendix Two for a list of persons receiving this release and the report.

Appendix One: Stakeholders Attending July 2013 Information Session Hosted by the Victoria Real Estate Board

1. Dorothy Chambers, Colquitz Creek
2. Councilor Vicki Sanders at District of Saanich
3. Councilor Dean Murdock at District of Saanich (not there but wants to be kept informed)
4. Rob Fleming, MLA (not there but wants to be kept informed)
5. District of Saanich Fire Dept.- R. Tala Assistant Chief
6. Township of Esquimalt Fire Dept. – Chief Saurette
7. Township of Esquimalt, Maureen Lagoa, Community Development Coordinator
8. Jim Bennett, Government Relations Coordinator, Victoria Real Estate Board
9. Shelley Mann, Chair, VREB Government Liaison Committee
10. Ian Mason, VREB staff
11. Tim Pringle, Partnership for Water Sustainability in British Columbia
12. Dale Green, Capital Regional District
13. City of Victoria Fire Department
14. Dave Rogers, BC Hazmat



Appendix Two: Individuals Receiving this Report

Stakeholders

William Adams – V.P.
Gordon Anderson
Allison Ashcroft - City of Victoria
Cori Barraclough –Aqua-Tex Scientific
Richard Boase – District of North Van
Jim Bennett – Vic Real Estate Board
Mark Boysen – Dist. of Saanich
Rob Buchaan – North Saanich Admin
Michael Burgess – Saanich
Oliver Brandes -POLIS
Alastair Bryson – Central Saanich
Dorothy Chambers
Don Edgcombe
Rob Fleming – BC Legislature
Dean Ford
Dale Green - CRD
Marson Jednyak
Laurie Hurst – Esquimalt
Rob Kivell
Ethan Krindle
Lynn Kriwoken – Province
Marlene Lagoa – Esquimalt
Jan Lewis – Langford
David Mcallister –
Rick McLeod - Dist. Of Sooke
Jeff Miller –
Norma Miller –
Mike MacFarlane – Province
Eric Meredith - Metchosin
Meggin Messenger - Province
Adriane Pollard - Dist. Of Saanich -
John Ranns - Metchosin
Dave Rogers
Chris Royle – Fire, City of Victoria
Christa Rutherford – West Van
Calvin Sandborn
Viki Sanders – Councillor
Ray Saurette –
D’Arcy Sego
Kerry Smith
Richard Tala – Fire Dept., Saanich
Mike Vanderlinden, Sidney
Gary Wilton – Nth Saanich
Jack Wong -Real Estate Foundation

Insurance Bureau of Canada, Edmonton
Fire Commissioner Province of BC
Planning
aqua-tex consulting Victoria
Manager Environmental Protection
Government Liaison
Engineering
CAO
Fire chief
University of Victoria
Mayor
Colquitz Creek Stewardship
Petroleum Tank Management Association of Alberta

Fire Chief
Environmental Protection
Engineering
CAO
Fire Chief
Environmental lawyer
Director Water Protection & Sustainability – MOE
Community Devel Coord
Buildings inspections
Saanich Engineering
Fire Inspector
Dist. Of Esquimalt
BCREA
Dir. Land Remediation Section; Min Forests and Lands
Captain Metchosin Fire Dept.
Intergovernmental and Planning (Community, Sport)
Planning
Mayor
President, BC Hazmat
City of Victoria Fire Chief
Fire Department
Environmental law University of Victoria
District of Saanich
Fire Chief., Esquimalt
Manager Emergency Operations, Province of BC
Fire Chief, Colwood
Assit. Fire Chief
Engineering
Fire Chief
CEO

MEDIA

Sandra Mulloch -Times colonist
Kyle Slavin -Black Press
Ted Hill -Black Press
Sharon Tiffin -Victoria News
Joe Perkins -Bell Media
Stephanie Sherlock -Bell Mdia
Ian Jessop -Bell Media
Terry Moore -Bell Media
Frank Stafford -Bell Media
Bruce Williams -Bell Media
Jo-Ann Roberts -CBC Radio