

City of  
**Parksville**

## *NEWS RELEASE*

April 27, 2009

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### **LOW WATER LEVEL AT ARROWSMITH DAM UNDERLINES NEED TO CONSERVE**

Residents in the City of Parksville and Nanoose Bay residents within the Regional District of Nanaimo's Nanoose Bay Peninsula Water Service Area may face extra water restrictions this summer due to unusually low water levels at the Arrowsmith Dam.

"We are not seeing any significant rainfall that would help in raising the water level at the dam," said RDN Chairperson Joe Stanhope. "Although we hope that the remaining snow melt will assist to increase reservoir levels, in the interest of conserving water, there may be a need for extra watering restrictions in Parksville and in the Nanoose Bay Peninsula water service area this summer."

In 2008, 1000 of the 1900 connections in the Nanoose Bay Peninsula water service area used less than twice their winter consumption, or less than one cubic metre per day in the summer. However, the remaining 900 users (just over 600 connections) used from three to six times their winter consumption. The higher summer consumption can be attributed to outside use and landscape irrigation.

"The system cannot maintain supply if unnecessary use of water continues, particularly since we are not getting the rain we normally would," said Parksville Mayor Ed Mayne. "We encourage all residents to look at their water use and conserve wherever they can so that we won't be faced with a summer water shortage."

The Arrowsmith Dam controls the release of water from the Arrowsmith Lake reservoir to the Englishman River. The Arrowsmith Water Service, a joint venture of the City of Parksville, the Town of Qualicum Beach and the Regional District of Nanaimo, operates and maintains the dam and storage reservoir, which currently benefit the City of Parksville and the RDN Nanoose Bay Peninsula Water Service Area. Other water service areas will benefit as future components of the bulk water infrastructure are developed.

“The Englishman River water the AWS provides is not intended to be a replacement water source, but a supplemental source to existing groundwater supplies,” explained John Finnie, General Manager of Water and Wastewater Services for the RDN. “Water utility billing is structured to encourage conservation, so that we can continue to meet water supply demands for drinking, fire protection and irrigation, and make more water available for riparian habitats and aquatic ecosystems. We still need water restrictions, and we still need residents to use water wisely. A winter period of low precipitation and low snowpack not only affects surface water flows but can impact groundwater levels and well supplies.”

City of Parksville Stage 1 watering restrictions will come into effect May 1. Regional District of Nanaimo Level 1 water restrictions are now in effect, with Level 2 restrictions scheduled to begin on June 1 and Level 3 and Level 4 to be applied as needed throughout the summer months. Residents will be informed if further restrictions are required.

For more City of Parksville information visit [www.city.parksville.bc.ca](http://www.city.parksville.bc.ca) or contact Engineering and Operations at 250 248-5412. Residents in the Regional District may visit [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) or contact Mike Donnelly, RDN Manager of Water Services, at 250-390-6560 or 250-954-3792.

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