

Let's Talk Water!

City of Parksville
Office of the Mayor



As Mayor of Parksville, I am pleased to share that the City has officially entered into a professional services agreement with Kerr Wood Leidal and Associates Ltd. for the first phase of the comprehensive water use planning and management study. One of the commitments to our constituency was to start planning for the resiliency of our potable water supply in the face of development and climate change challenges. Water security is a key issue for our community and as elected officials, our goal is to provide visionary planning to ensure necessary infrastructure for potable water in the future.

The signing of this contract marks an exciting milestone for this important project and I wish to share high level details of the proposed plan.

Phase 1 is intended to assess future water supply and demand scenarios and options. The ultimate goal is to provide a cohesive plan which will consider the impact of factors including climate change, aquifer health and population growth, as well as identify different source and storage options and potential for possible hydroelectric generation. The plan is also intended to prepare a baseline 50 year demand forecast including review of resilience and redundancy systems, while considering existing surface water licences on the Englishman River. It is hoped that the use of hydrological modelling will allow for identification and assessment of potential alternative water storage locations anywhere within the Englishman River area, while considering seasonal off stream storage capacity, whereby water can be withdrawn during winter when natural flows are abundant and contained in off-stream storage facilities which can be used as a source in the drier summer months.

The report will examine the option of installing hydroelectric generation at the Arrowsmith Dam, reservoirs, or inline generation, after assessing bulk water scenarios based on a series of reservoirs within the watershed. This source of power could possibly offset energy load requirements throughout the Englishman River water system. It is our hope the plan will define the capacity of the existing Englishman River Water Service and Parksville water system, incorporating environmental and habitat enhancement flow needs and comprehensive water master plan data.

The successful proponent for this project has a proven track record and significant experience and expertise. They have completed water supply and strategic master plans, load displacement feasibility studies for hydropower and demand modeling locally and throughout BC. I am confident this local knowledge and experience will ensure Parksville's water plan is based on quality research and provide informed recommendations.

Parksville Council is committed to serving as responsible stewards of one of our community's most precious resources: water. We are proud and excited of this initiative to provide our community with a reliable and resilient water supply while also providing enhanced habitat protection.

Sincerely,

DOUG O'BRIEN
Mayor

