



## Message from the Acting Mayor

### Update on Our Water Treatment Plant

Lake Cowichan – May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

There has been misinformation being disseminated about our new Water Treatment Plant facility. We are currently operating the water treatment plant under the terms and conditions of the Interim Operating Permit issued by Island Health. We are moving towards the full commissioning of the Facility. COVID-19 has delayed the final commissioning process.

There was a requirement for the Town to install a soda ash injection system so that the pH as established by the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality is maintained at acceptable levels. There are no specific health effects on which to base limits for the pH of drinking water. The main purpose in controlling pH is to produce water in which corrosion and incrustation are minimized.

The construction of the Water Treatment Plant is complete and is operational. Currently we are treating the water supply with direct filtration, chlorine, and Ultraviolet disinfection. Soon we will be adding soda ash. While continuing to monitor and test the quality of the supply with our certified operators, the intent is to move forward with upgrading training opportunities to the levels required by EOCP and Island Health for the treatment and distribution of water.

The next step is for Public Works to determine the right amount of soda ash (sodium carbonate) to add to the water before and after the commissioning phase. Adjustments to the system will be required for a period of time to stabilize the pH levels.

There are no water quality warnings or advisories currently in place for our water supply. The following is the Island Health website for up to date advisories or notices pertaining to water systems under its authority. [https://www.healthspace.ca/Clients/VIHA/VIHA\\_Website.nsf/Water-List-Boil?OpenView&count=100](https://www.healthspace.ca/Clients/VIHA/VIHA_Website.nsf/Water-List-Boil?OpenView&count=100)

Thank you,

Tim McGonigle  
Acting Mayor

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