



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN
CITY OF PENTICTON
PRESS RELEASE
August 11, 2008**



Grand Opening Septic Waste Treatment Facility

The City of Penticton will be opening a new septic waste facility at the Penticton Waste Water Treatment Plant on Wednesday August 13, 2008. Representatives from the Province of BC, City of Penticton and the RDOS will be in attendance.

The facility will receive septic waste from properties in Penticton (those not on sewer) as well as surrounding rural areas including Naramata, West Bench, Kaleden, Okanagan Falls and parts of the lower Similkameen Valley. Prior to this facility septic waste was taken to open air pits at the Campbell Mountain Landfill. These pits generated several concerns including odour complaints and the creation of leachate. The BC Ministry of Environment requested these ponds be removed.

RDOS Chair Dan Ashton believes that this project has been a positive example that other communities can follow.

“There is a real willingness for communities to solve common issues in our Region,” explains Chair Ashton. “By working together we’ve shown we can provide effective solutions that benefit citizens in Penticton as well as the surrounding rural areas.”

The final cost for building the septage receiving facility was \$989,000; 10% lower than budgeted. The RDOS was able to secure a \$121,000 grant from the Province to cover a portion of capital costs. The remaining money for construction and operations will come from user fees. Tax money was not used to fund this project. If any unforeseen issues occur the RDOS has agreed to pay 70% of the extra costs.

Mayor Jake Kimberly is encouraged that a long term solution to the septage ponds at the Campbell Mountain Landfill has been achieved.

“Over the years the septage ponds have been a major odour concern for local homes,” states Mayor Kimberly. “The septage ponds also had the potential to create leachate in our landfill. By expanding the City of Penticton sewage plant we found an environmentally sound and sustainable solution to these problems.”

The price for disposing of septic waste in the Penticton area has increased slightly. Prior to the opening of this facility it cost \$25 per tonne to drop off material at the Campbell Mountain Landfill. The City of Penticton Waste Water Treatment Facility now charges approximately \$33.50 to treat a similar volume of waste. Campbell Mountain Landfill will no longer accept septic waste.

Andrew Reeder, RDOS Engineering Services Manager notes that a higher price for treating septic waste was unavoidable.

“The Province would not allow us to continue operating the septage beds at Campbell Mountain,” states Reeder. “This treatment facility is by far the best long term solution available for rural land owners.”

If you have any questions relating to the new septic treatment facility please contact Berne Udala, City of Penticton Waste Water Supervisor at 250-490-2551 or e-mail berne.udala@penticton.ca

D. Ashton
RDOS Board Chair

J. Kimberly
Mayor City of Penticton

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Due to the nature of the facility the grand opening ceremony is not open to the public but all media are welcome. The grand opening will take place from 10 am to 10:30 am Wednesday August 13, 2008 at the Penticton Waste Water Treatment Plant at 459 Waterloo Ave. If you have any questions on the ceremony or would like photos of the event please contact Darcy Kirkpatrick, RDOS Engineering Services Clerk at 250-490-4112.

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