

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN
PRESS RELEASE
February 3, 2010**

Sage Mesa Water System Transfer

The Sage Mesa Water System has been operated and maintained for the past 20 years by Al Lister, Chief Water System Operator and his staff Jim Grasswick and Frank Lamberty. After 20 years of outstanding service, Al retired on January 31, 2010 and effective February 1, 2010, water system operator duties, including repairs and maintenance, were transferred to the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

The Deputy Comptroller of Water Rights, Ministry of Environment will continue to oversee the management of the Sage Mesa Water system operations and finances. The role of the RDOS will be in operating the system on contract for the Ministry.

Upon the retirement of Al Lister, the Province opted to transfer the operating contract to the RDOS, which has several skilled and certified water system operators on staff.

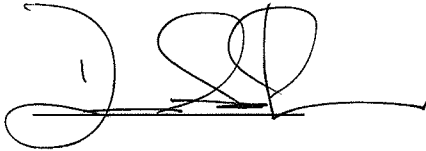
Michael Brydon, Area F director, states, "The safety of drinking water is critical. Fortunately, this agreement allows us to replace Al and his crew of certified and experienced water system operators with our own certified and experienced water system operators. In addition, the RDOS realizes efficiencies across the multiple water systems it manages. So ratepayers on the Sage Mesa system will benefit from these economies of scale."

RDOS water system operators will continue to provide the same high level of service that Sage Mesa residents are accustomed to receiving. RDOS water system operators will be checking both pump stations daily, sampling the water weekly to test it for bacteriological quality and responding quickly to any water system emergencies. RDOS staff will also be responsible for the quarterly water meter readings. Additionally, the RDOS has a strong water conservation education program in place to assist homeowners in reducing their water consumption.

Residents are invited to attend a brief ceremony at the reservoir (located at Pine Hills Golf Course) on Wednesday, February 10th at 1:00pm. The Ministry of Environment and the RDOS will be presenting the three retiring operators Al Lister, Jim Grasswick and Frank Lamberty, plaques in appreciation for their devotion and dedicated service to the water system.

Residents with any enquiries, concerns or emergencies related to the water system operations should call 250.490.4135 Monday to Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Any afterhours emergencies should be directed to 250.490.2324 (Penticton Fire Dispatch).

For more information, please call the RDOS at 250.490.4112 or email info@rdos.bc.ca .

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Ashton', written over a horizontal line.

D. Ashton

RDOS Board Chair

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