

North Island Laboratories E-Newsletter

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Opening Comment:



A New Year has begun! With it begins a new North Island Laboratories resolution - a quarterly E-Newsletter! The format for this newsletter is electronic, although printed copies will be available at the office. We would like to give you the option to sign on to our electronic mailing list in order to receive each subsequent quarterly issue. If you do not wish to receive any more copies, simply send us an email at NILEN@telus.net and request to remove your email address from our mailing list and you will receive no further issues.

The goal of the North Island Laboratories Interactive Electronic Newsletter is to provide you with information on a variety of current water-related topics and to create a new dialog style with our clients. Your ideas and input concerning topics you would like to read about in future issues would be of great assistance. An interactive question and answer section will be included in each issue to provide a medium for discussion. Please e-mail us with any questions you may wish to pose regarding any topics of interest at NILEN@telus.net.



Further Information:

- See our web site: <http://www.nilabs.com/>
- <http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/soerpt/6surfacewater/qualityglance.html>
- http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/wat/gws/pub_info/faq_grdwater.html
- <http://www.cwac.net/issues.html>

Did You Know...?



- As of May 2005, septic systems installed in British Columbia will no longer be required to be inspected by a Medical Health Officer. Instead you must prove that a certified professional, who will ultimately bear the responsibility for it working properly, installed your septic system. What does this mean to you as a homeowner? When you are choosing an individual to install a new septic field, it would be a good idea to make sure that they are certified. The installer will be responsible for your septic field working.

- Legislation regarding groundwater policy in British Columbia is being revised and changed in order to protect ground water quality. http://www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/stat/D/01009_01.htm] Well drillers will soon be required to be certified and to follow approved procedures for drilling new wells, ensuring resistance to surface water. Many local well drilling companies are already using approved procedures. In particular, artesian wells will not be allowed to flow or bubble above ground in an uncontrolled manner, and must be contained. Older, abandoned wells must be closed and sealed properly in order to prevent surface contamination of our ground water supply. If you have an old, abandoned well on your property, you might wish to contact a certified well driller or technician to advise you on how to best deal with the problem.

- Trees are a valuable part of our ecosystem! If you have an older, healthy tree with a diameter greater than 30 centimeters on your property, think twice before cutting it down! Trees filter surface water permeating into the aquifer, and reduce surface runoff and soil erosion. Look into some alternatives to actually removing the tree – you can ask a local tree maintenance company to give you advice. If the tree must be removed, then consider replanting with an appropriate species. A single older tree can hold and filter many gallons of water!

- Remember that what you pour down your household drain affects everyone...!

