

Utility Newsletter

November 2010



UPDATE FROM SUN PEAKS UTILITIES

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Page 2 – FOGS in the Sewer System & Community Information – Discovery Centre Update

GAS RATE CHANGE – In the past, Sun Peaks Utilities has joined with other propane distribution utilities and pre-purchased its winter fuel requirements. However, due to the increase in fuel costs over the past nine months, we had held off committing to our previous pre-buy volumes in the hopes that the premium and basic fuel cost would drop. We now have pre-purchased 1,000,000 liters of our normal 3,000,000 liter requirement for the winter season.

Based on our pre-purchased fuel price and the current market conditions, the Utility has now filed an application to the BC Utilities Commission (www.bcuc.com) for a 5.9% rate increase on the commodity price with a proposed effective date of December 1, 2010. If granted, the change would appear on your January 2011 invoice. A copy of the full application is available on the Utility's web site at www.sunpeaksutilities.com under "Gas."

The following are examples of the effects of this proposed rate increase scheduled to be effective December 1, 2010:

Customer Type	Annual Propane in Gigajoules (Gj) used	Current Commodity Rate per Gj	Proposed Commodity Rate Only per Gj	% Increase in Overall Annual Gas Cost (% includes Basic and Delivery charges)
Residential Condo	18	\$15.7360	\$16.6650	3.1%
Single Family Home	85	\$15.7360	\$16.6650	4.5%
Small Commercial	354	\$15.7360	\$16.6650	4.9%
Commercial	4,260	\$15.7360	\$16.6650	4.9%
Large Commercial	10,000	\$15.7360	\$16.6650	5.0%

Future Gas Rate Changes – With the continued significant increase in fuel prices, the Utility is allowing the Gas Cost Recovery Account to absorb what would normally have required a gas commodity increase of over 12%. We remain hopeful that should prices drop in the spring as they traditionally have, we will be able to hold these proposed rates. However, we will review the commodity fuel costs once the pre-purchased fuel is used up in March 2011 and we may be forced to apply for a further increase in the commodity price rather than wait until the Fall as we have done in the past.

***** A WINTER SAFETY REMINDER *****

Please keep snow and ice from building up around your gas meter set in order to ensure that the meter can continue to work properly. If necessary, Sun Peaks Utilities will clear meters of ice, snow or other materials. The Gas Tariff's Terms and Conditions allow the charge for this work to be added to your monthly Utility bill. The charge for the first time this work is required during a **one-year period is \$50 and each additional time is \$100**. If you are not sure on how to safely clear your meter, please contact the Utility at 250-578-5490 or 250-319-0629 and we would be pleased to help you at no charge. Remember that gas is a safe commodity if treated and used properly.



Fridge Magnets that can be left in your unit with contact information are available free of charge at the Utilities' Burfield Offices.

If you do detect a gas odor (similar to rotten eggs), please call our emergency number at 250-319-0629.

If you cannot reach the Utilities' technician at 250-319-0629, PLEASE DIAL 9-1-1.

For more information on these subjects or any other utility matter, please contact the Utility's office at utilities@sunpeaksresort.com or 250-578-5490.

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FATS, OILS AND GREASE AREN'T JUST BAD FOR ARTERIES AND WAISTLINES; THEY'RE BAD FOR SEWERS TOO!

Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. A common cause of overflows is sewer pipes blocked by grease. Grease gets into the sewer from household drains, as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses.

Caution: Grease traps or interceptors at restaurants, large buildings, and other commercial establishments must be properly designed to handle the amount of grease that is expected, be installed correctly, and be cleaned and serviced on a frequent basis.



Helping To Prevent Sewer Overflows and Backups Is Easy.

Where Does the Grease Come From? – Grease is a byproduct of cooking from meat fats, lard, oils, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baked goods, sauces, and dairy products. When washed down the sink, grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and under the streets). Over time, it can build up and block entire portions of your home's or businesses' plumbing system.

The results can be:

- Raw sewage overflowing into your home or the house next door.
- An expensive and unpleasant cleanup often required to be paid for by you, the home or business owner.
- Raw sewage overflowing into parks and streams.
- Potential contact with disease causing organisms.

Each year, the Utility spends between \$10,000 and \$20,000 flushing grease and rocks (from construction) out of its sewer main lines. This maintenance work required due to grease building up causes higher sewer bills for our customers. Please help us keep the sewer system flushing by keeping grease out of your drains.

Tip: Cool your grease in disposable container in the refrigerator until full and discard with your trash.

For more information on these subjects or any other utility matter, please contact the Utility's office at utilities@sunpeaksresort.com or 250-578-5490.

Community Message – Learning at the Discovery Centre in Sun Peaks is now in full swing and the children love their new learning environment at the top of the Platter Ski Run. Along with regular daily lessons, the children have enjoyed golf lessons; soccer; music; plus a field trip to the Adams River Sockeye Salmon run, the largest Sockeye run in a century that turned out to be a great day with lots learned.

The children have a great line up of activities starting in November with Gym & Swim at the Canada Games Centre, plus the first Young Peoples Concert of the year. With the ski hill slated to open on November 20th, children are very excited about winter sports and being able to ski or tube during their lunch hour! With a winter sports program of Skiing; Tubing; Snowshoeing; Skating; and Cross Country, students will be able to take advantage of this great mountain environment.

Fund raising - The response to our fund raising efforts to date has been incredible and we extend our warmest thanks to everyone for their generous support. Fall fund raising kicks off with one of Sun Peaks' premier fund raising events – the Sun Peaks Fire Fighters Charity Gala on November 20th. More fundraising events are planned for the festive holiday season. For more news and information visit our website at www.balancededucation.ca