



For Immediate Release

April 12, 2010

Go Low-flow this Earth Day!

As part of the District of Maple Ridge's green initiatives, 100 eligible Maple Ridge homeowners can apply to be part of a low-flow toilet rebate pilot project.

"The goal of this pilot project is to conserve water" said Ed Mitchell Superintendent of Water Works. "It's estimated that twenty-eight percent of household water is used by the toilet. Switching your old 13 litre toilet to the new low-flow 6 litre will reduce the costs associated with sewer and water use in our community."

On average, Lower Mainland residents use more than 340/litres of water per day for activities such as washing dishes and clothes, showering and flushing toilets. Water use can typically be reduced by making simple changes to water use around the home and ensuring that appliances are in good working order. Older toilets use 13 to 20 litres of water per flush. This adds up to more than 30,000 litres more per year than a 6.0 litre low flush toilet. The new 6.0 litre toilets are made to perform better and conserve water.

"It costs money to treat the water coming in and out of your house, so using less water per flush will conserve our water source and save us all money in the long run," said Mitchell.

The \$50 utility tax rebate is available to Maple Ridge homeowners who are part of the District's water utility program for replacement of an old 13 litre toilet. One toilet per property and the applicant must be the property owner or owner's representative, no contractors or renovations that require a permit are accepted. Limited funding is available for this program so the first 100 eligible applicants to sign up on Saturday April 24 2010, at Memorial Peace Park, 11944 Haney Place, will be included in the pilot project. The homeowner will have until August 1,2010 to purchase and install the new low-flow toilet, then bring the old toilet together with proof of purchase to the Maple Ridge Recycling Depot at 10092 236 Street for final authorization of the \$50 utility tax rebate. (This offer is not retroactive) The District will crush your old toilet and use it as road fill. There is no charge to drop off your old toilet, if you are part of the program. For complete information or to print out an application, go to www.rmrecycling.org.

Local businesses: Haney Builders, Home Hardware and Rona Revy will also have additional discount coupons available to purchase a new low-flow toilet.

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