

WATERWELL NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010

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*Riddle: I throw away the outside and cook the inside, I then eat the outside and throw away the inside what did I eat?
See the reverse for the answer*

Marks desk; *Going green continued....*

Last year I wrote about this in reference to explanations and ideas.

This past year we ran into several more projects that were measuring the environmental footprint and they dealt with in different ways. The 3 "R's" reduce, reuse and recycle. The underlying purpose of irrigation is to beautify things. This is accomplished by providing an adequate amount of water in order to keep things lush and green. The projects I speak of below accomplished exactly this in different ways.

In the first project the irrigation was a retrofit to existing landscaping. Recycled water that had been used for "other" primary functions was reused to water the lawn and garden areas, thus reducing the amount of new water required to irrigate. This was accomplished through rerouting drainage water into reservoirs then pumping this same water into the irrigation system. Only when the water in the reservoir was exhausted would the secondary domestic water kick in to supplement the watering if and when required.

The second type of project we worked on was a new project, there was no existing landscaping or irrigation system. In this instance rather than invest more money in creating reservoirs etc. more planning was done in the plant material used. Steps were taken in the selection of more drought resistant plants and grasses. The hard landscapes incorporated rocks and gravel beds. In regards to the irrigation system this shortened the length of time it would run. A small weather station was installed to automatically adjust the zone run times depending on the quantity of rain. In some cases drip line was used rather than overhead watering. Drip line conserves water as there is much less evaporation, the water is directed more precisely and it is not effected by wind. With planning both projects accomplished the goal of reducing their carbon footprint and provided an enjoyable, sustainable result.

Water reservoir



Water park



Festivities by *Emily Shearer*

This year, our annual Holiday Party was held at Brasserie Le Manoir in Pointe-Claire. As always, a good time was had by all! This year was also a special one as 2 members of our dedicated staff were given the 5 year Gold Watch – Michelle Roy and David Thompson. For fun, every year we play a guessing game to win a door prize. This year, it was won by Michael Smythe – a very pleasant surprise for him as he said "I've never won anything before in my life!". The door prize was a beautiful gift basket full of goodies that Mark put together himself!

As the wonderful evening came to a close, so ended another successful year at Waterwell!

Our efforts

Following up on last years going green initiatives. If all goes as planned we will have succeeded in reducing the amount of paper we use, as much as 250 000 sheets annually (approximately 2.8 trees). We have implemented electronic notepads as a new tool our technicians will carry. This will significantly reduce the printed work orders, drawings, schedules and lists our technicians require everyday. All of these items that used to be supplied on paper will now be given electronically.



DID YOU KNOW?



Rain-sensors are becoming more and more popular as people and companies are becoming more conscious of waste.

There are many variables to consider but from some preliminary web based research we performed and based on our data of days it rained over the last 8 years in Montreal. We estimate a rain sensor will save about 20% of the water consumption. This is about 31 000 gallons of water per household per year. If your water is metered this represents about \$65.00. This could be much more for larger homes and or companies

Many people say, "These things do not work!" Well they do, but similar to everything else if it is not installed correctly it will not work properly. When installing rain-sensors the location is very important if it is to function correctly. It has to be installed on a flat surface unobstructed from getting wet and or drying out. This means locations like ½ way up the wall of the building, on telephone poles and under

trees or overhangs is not acceptable. This is a common mistake.

We also come across many people who have manually turned them off because when left in active mode the timer turns off. The cause is generally because the wire has been cut. We can again blame this on poor installation practices. When ever the wire makes a transition from underground to above ground it should be protected by a conduit. This will protect the wire from getting cut by things such as the weed eater.

If you do not have a rain-sensor and would like one please call us for a quote.

It's that time of the year again, time to write something for the newsletter. After several years of writing informative articles, (at least I hope they were) this year I wanted to make it a bit more personal. It's going to be my sixth season at Waterwell and I'm looking forward to it. For those of you whom I have not had the pleasure of serving, I am the customer service department manager. Hello! And thank you for counting yourself as one of our most precious commodities, our customers! Without you and our great staff we wouldn't be where we are today and heading where we hope to be tomorrow.

Your loyalty and satisfaction are our number one goal. We're aware that a happy customer is a bragging customer which means more customers!! But we are also aware that an unhappy customer is a bragging customer and not the flattering kind. As manager my job is to make it right! We always want to be fair to you and to our company. We are of course in business to earn a profit, 'earn' being the key word.

Sometimes mistakes happen like billing errors, or errors in the repair, if this happens let us make it right. Our customer service department is here 7 days a week to help you or call me personally and I will do my best to make it right, I promise!

Our company started all the way back in 1985 and we still hold most of our original customers. To these customers who have been with us from the beginning, thank you so very much. You're a testament that hard work and integrity fuel's a company. For our new customers I look forward to many years of continued service and thank you for joining our team.



Looking forward to my sixth season with you,

Michelle



The answer to the riddle

is

Corn on the cob!



Not all recycling ideas are efficient...

Got something to say?

Contact us!

info@waterwellirrigation.com

Benefits of monthly inspections

Through the years there have been clients who have requested monthly inspections as part of the regular maintenance of their irrigation system. Due to a growing demand, in recent years we have created discount packages which include one or two inspections during the season. The benefits of regular inspections are quite simple. It means always having a system that is functioning optimally. The average system is opened in the month of May when most plants are very early in their growing season. By returning in a month we are able to adjust the watering to suit the height, distance and time needed. While planting and transplanting in the spring gardeners often have unknowingly cut a pipe, or while raking broken a few fansprays or laid new grass over existing sprinkler heads. Given systems typically water at night the owner won't always see a problem until it's very visible. The other benefit is the elimination of the travel time on selected pkgs., maximizing the technicians time spent on your system.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are now being accepted for Irrigation Technicians. No experience required. We are looking for bilingual individuals who have a valid driver's license. Send your CV to:

michelle@waterwellirrigation.com

Waste Water management IRRIGATION in Qatar by Jeffrey Seris

Dubai, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi are generally perceived as oil giants and current economic growth centers in the world. For over 20 years, we have been designing and installing irrigation systems mostly in the greater Montréal area. Ranging in size from the average residential home to large commercial properties, shopping complexes and city centers, never have we worked outside the limits of Canada...until now.

Waterwell Irrigation Inc. is pleased to announce its first ever international project in helping to design a massive irrigation system for the SNC-Lavalin Greenfield Aluminum Smelter plant in Qatar. Beginning in the summer of 2008, in conjunction with Planex - an independent Montréal based Landscape Design Company - many laborious hours were spent analyzing, discussing, calculating, designing and drawing the rigorous demands needed to construct a foreign desert landscape irrigation system spanning more than 1.5km in length.

Comprising of thousands of sprinklers, kilometers of various size piping and a whopping 500 cubic meters/day demand of water (about the volume of several backyard swimming pools), the project will take over a year to construct and cost more than \$1 million. With palm trees requiring large daily water consumption, different size/type shrubs, ground covers and good old fashion green grass, the diversified landscape required a hodgepodge of overhead sprinklers, drip lines, pop-ups, manual fountain supplies and tree bubblers.

So how does one go about designing an irrigation system about the size of ten city block, located in such a hot and humid climate, where it costs money to supply potable water, and conversely to dispose of reconditioned water?

Simple...by going Green! Using the waste water from the processes of the smelting plant and then filtering it into a very large underground water tank, landscape irrigation can then be supplied by a network of pumps.

Inevitably, it wasn't *that* simple. A myriad of variables had to be considered, ranging from: pH levels, turbidity, alkalinity, salinity, climate tolerance and water temperature, to name a few. The project consisted of professionals assisting from the various fields of agronomy, landscape architecture, mechanical engineering and local sprinkler contractors/distributors. With over 6000 gallons of water needed per hour to meet the demand of the wasted water from the plant, a careful balancing of the watering requirements for each type of plant/flower/tree had to be galvanized in an artful mathematical unison. Plant stress: yellowing of leaves, slow plant growth, loss of leaves, deterioration leading to death, was one of the primary concerns.

The good news for this behemoth sized irrigation project: The system never has to be blown out, since winter temperatures only sizzle down to a *cool* 20 degrees C

We would like to thank all those at Planex consultants for giving us this opportunity, especially Kristopher Parent, and Yaroslav Wyjadlowski, Kim Descotesand Paul Demers for their unbridled technical assistance.