



## St. Mary Treatment Plant Design Update

Our engineering consultants, Kerr Wood Leidal, continue their work on the preliminary design and costing for the new treatment plant. We look forward to revealing their design a Dissolved Air Floatation (DAF) plant and our financing options to you, our ratepayers, in the fall.

## What is Dissolved Air Floatation?

Dissolved Air Floatation (DAF) is a water treatment process that clarifies water by the removal of suspended matter such as algae or solids. DAF water treatment plants excel in treating lake and reservoir water containing high levels of colour, algae and turbidity – all challenges in St. Mary Lake.

## How DAF works

A chemical coagulant added to the raw water encourages particles suspended in the water to bind together and form larger particles called "flocs". Gentle agitation encourages these to grow into even larger clumps before they pass into a floatation

zone. There, microscopic air bubbles are injected which rapidly float the flocs to the surface forming a floc blanket. The floating floc blanket is then skimmed off. The clarified water is then filtered and disinfected before being piped on to customers.

## Advantages of DAF

A new modern treatment plant using a Dissolved Air Floatation (DAF) plus gravity filtration;

- Will improve our ability to meet the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality regardless of the quality of the raw lake water.
- Will reduce customer health risk from pathogenic microorganisms and chemical contaminants by removing organic matter from the water.
- Will greatly improve water taste, odour and clarity.

Visit the FAQs Page on our website to learn more about why we are going to build a new treatment plant and the advantages of the DAF process.

## What's going on in St. Mary Lake Now?

You may have noticed a recent improvement in the appearance of St. Mary Lake. Although the cyanobacterial bloom continues, toxin levels in the raw lake water began to decline in mid-May. At that time, many of the cyanobacterial cells sank to a lower layer several meters below the surface of the lake. As a result, the lake appears clearer; however, the bloom is not over. Most of the cyanobacteria remain suspended in the water and may return to shallower waters at any time.

Despite the ongoing bloom and poor quality of the raw lake water, filtration and disinfection processes at the St. Mary Lake treatment plant have continued to successfully remove all toxin from the treated water.



For the most up-to-date swimming advisories visit the Vancouver Island Health

Authority (VIHA) website at [http://www.viha.ca/mho/recreation/beach\\_reports.htm](http://www.viha.ca/mho/recreation/beach_reports.htm) .

## Get Rid of the Chlorine Taste

Did you know that you can get rid of the chlorine taste in drinking water by letting it stand?

Chlorine will naturally dissipate into the air. Just fill up a pitcher and pop it uncovered into your fridge to chill.

## Toll & Tax Rates

The Board of Trustees passed Bylaw 260 2013-14 Water Toll and Miscellaneous Rates at their May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Water consumption rates will increase by 3% effective on the September invoice for July/August.

The Trustees also voted to reorganize the toll rate structure from three tiers to four effective on either the December 2013 or the February 2014 invoice. The new structure for single family dwellings will be:

1. up to and including 10,000 gallons – 0.96 cents per 100 gallons, \$2.11 per cubic meter
2. 10,001 to 20,000 gallons – \$1.00 per 100 gallons, \$2.20 per cubic meter
3. 20,001 gallons to 40,000 gallons - \$1.46 cents per 100 gallons, \$3.23 per cubic meter
4. over 40,001 gallons – \$1.96 cents per 100 gallons, \$4.28 per cubic meter

## 2014 Parcel Tax Rates & Dates

Per Bylaw 261 the 2014 Parcel Tax will also increase by 3%. In 2014 Parcel Tax invoices will be mailed on February 4, 2014 and

be due and payable on or before 4:00 p.m. on March 5, 2014. All payments outstanding after the due date will be charged a 10% penalty on March 6, 2014.

The Capital Construction Fund Surcharge of \$5.00 per consumption billing and \$30.00 per taxed lot remains the same.

Visit the Regular Charges page of our Billing & Rates section on our website for more information.

## Moving? Change Your Account # if Paying Online

Moving to another home in the District?



Water Toll and

Parcel Tax account numbers are connected to the physical address of the property. When you move your account number changes to that of your new address. If you use online banking to pay your bills, be sure to update your North Salt Spring Waterworks account numbers for your online “payees” so that your payment is credited to the correct customer – you.

## Customer Information Updates

Changed your name, phone number, address, tenant? *Customer Information Change forms* are available on the Contact page of our website or stop by the office.

## Avoid a Surprise on your next Water Bill

To avoid an excessive water bill, please be sure your outside taps

are turned off when not in use and make sure all your taps and toilets are in good working order. To view our Leak Allowance Policy please visit the Policies section on our website or visit our FAQs page for tips on how to check for a leak.

## Hate Late Fees?

We are happy to accept your post-dated cheque(s) for deposit before the due date or you can pre-pay on your account.

## Help Preserve the Maxwell Watershed & Reservoir

We’d again like to remind everyone that Maxwell Lake is a vital part of our island watershed, supplying water to many District homes and businesses.

The lake is clearly marked as private property and is not open for picnicking, swimming or off-roading. In the past, particularly last summer, we have had significant problems with vandalism.



Campfires and the careless disposal of cigarette butts are a particular worry to

all of us. A forest fire would be extremely devastating and would destroy the Maxwell watershed for many years to come.

The District appreciates your efforts to help conserve this valuable resource. If you are aware of any incidents of vandalism please report them to the District office.