

NSSWD Hosts MOE

On June 18th, NSSWD hosted a group of BC Ministry of Environment (MOE) staff who were responsible for writing the new *Water Sustainability Act* and are currently writing its accompanying regulations. The group toured the Maxwell watershed and also visited St. Mary Lake at the site of the weir on Duck Creek. Representatives from SSIWPA and the SSI Conservancy also participated.



MOE group visit the Duck Creek Weir

The purpose of the tour was to inform MOE staff about the specific water management challenges faced by the District. Discussion topics included watershed security and protection, source water quality, collaborative watershed management, water governance and sustainability. It was also a great opportunity to acknowledge the importance and success of the Maxwell watershed land purchase in 2001.

The District hopes that a greater understanding of our local issues will help these policy makers to draft regulations that support us in achieving sustainable water management.

Referendum August 16th

The voting referendum for Borrowing Bylaw 264 will be held on Saturday, August 16th at a location to be announced from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (please note date change as well). Advance polls will be held at the District office on Wednesday, August 6th from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Wednesday, August 13th from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

This bylaw deals with authorizing the borrowing up to a maximum of \$10.4 million for the design, construction, commissioning and needed infrastructure upgrades for the new St. Mary DAF plant. Kerr Wood Leidal Consulting Engineers are currently developing the detailed design with oversight from the Board of Trustees and District staff.

To view a copy of Borrowing Bylaw 264 please visit the St. Mary DAF Plant section of our website or drop by the office for a copy.

Cost savings realized throughout the design process, the use of reserve funds, plus donations and grants received will keep the amount that is borrowed to a minimum and result in the lowest possible surcharge.

Water Shortages This Summer?

The island had an exceptionally dry winter this year resulting in the lakes not completely filling until March. Our dry winter was followed by a fairly dry spring, and, so far, a dry summer. While at this time we believe there is sufficient water supply in our reservoirs, customers are reminded that it may be necessary to impose water restrictions later should we not receive adequate rainfall to maintain appropriate reservoir levels.

View the Preliminary Plans

Ratepayers are invited to the District office during office hours to view the preliminary plans and ask questions about the proposed St. Mary DAF treatment plant and project financing. District Manager Ron Stepaniuk or Office Manager, Anne Williams, will be available to answer any questions you may have.

Information about the project is also available on our website in the St. Mary DAF Plant section.

Register Your Farm



The District's newly created Farm category for water tolls is for customers who are actively farming and have a Farm Classification Number.

To register your Farm with the District please complete and return a *Farm Registration Form* to the District office by August 31st. Forms are available on the Contact and Regular Charges pages of our website and from the office.

Commercial & Residential Multiplexes

Owners and managers of commercial and residential multiplexes such as business complexes, stratas and RV parks are urged to contact the District office as soon as possible to confirm the number of units in their complex. Doing so will ensure that your water usage is charged at the appropriate rate for your complex as per the letter recently sent to all commercial and residential multiplex owners and/or managers.

Did You Know?

- The average household's leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year, or the amount of water needed to wash 270 loads of laundry.
- A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year. That's the amount of water needed to take more than 180 showers!



- Common types of leaks found in the home include worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves. All are easily correctable.
- Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners about 10 percent on their water bills.

To view our Leak Allowance Policy visit the Policies section on our website. Visit our FAQs page for tips on how to check for a leak.

Please Respect the Maxwell Watershed

The Board of Trustees of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District wish to remind everyone that Maxwell Lake is **Private Property** and a **Community Watershed** and is **not** open for hiking, swimming, picnicking, mountain biking or off-road vehicles such as motorbikes and ATVs.



These activities slowly degrade the watershed because the expansion of trails and pathways creates a direct route for nutrients and sediment to enter the lake during the rainy season. This nutrient loading will negatively impact water quality in both the short and long term. The risk of wildfire during the summer months is significant and could cause devastating and permanent damage to the watershed.

A healthy and intact watershed helps to filter and purify runoff before it reaches the lake; damage to the watershed will directly result in decreased water quality and increased treatment costs in order to meet the appropriate standards and regulations for drinking water.

The efforts being made today to protect the lake and surrounding watershed may allow the District to defer or minimize the capital costs required to treat Maxwell Lake water in the future.

The North Salt Spring Waterworks appreciates your cooperation in their ongoing efforts to preserve this valuable natural resource.