



# North Salt Spring Waterworks District

**Be water savvy – Use only what you need.**

July 2016

## Level 4 Drought Declared

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) declared a Level 4 drought from Victoria, Sooke and Port Renfrew north to Campbell River June 28<sup>th</sup>. A week earlier than 2015!

Provincial water stewardship manager Valerie Cameron noted that this is the earliest the region has been moved to Level 4 since the current system was created in 2010, and it will take a large amount of rain to change the situation.

Cameron stated *“We have dry soil. We have dropping groundwater levels and dropping stream levels, so it would take a significant precipitation event of the sort we normally get in the fall to turn things around”*

The District responded immediately and raised the District to Conservation Level 4.

## Water Conservation Level 4 Now In Effect

### Comprehensive Watering Ban

The District’s Level 4 Conservation regulations per Bylaw 274 are in effect.

- All outdoor watering is prohibited including newly seeded or sodded lawns, orchards, pastures or any other intensive agricultural or horticultural uses. Established vegetable gardens, shrubs, trees and flowers are restricted to a hand held container or a hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle system between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and for no more than one (1) hour total in duration per watering day. A micro-irrigation or drip-irrigation system may be used by odd numbered civic addresses on odd numbered days and even numbered civic addresses on

even numbered days for a maximum of one (1) hour per watering day during the specified watering times.

- All washing of vehicles, RVs, and boats is banned. All washing and/or power washing of driveways, sidewalks, parking lots and exterior building surfaces is banned.
- Filling of wading pools, hot tubs, swimming pools, garden ponds and water features is banned.
- Watering of public parks, open space, and sports fields is banned.
- All other watering is banned.

## Great Strides in Leak Reduction

North Salt Spring Waterworks District has made great strides in reducing bulk withdrawals from both St. Mary and Maxwell Lakes by actively and diligently addressing leaks and other unaccounted for losses. This can be seen as a downward trend over the past decade but NSSWD cannot do it alone.

Ratepayers can continue to do their part by observing the conservation levels as posted on the District’s website and ensuring leaky faucets and toilets are repaired immediately. And please remember to take time to advise visiting family and friends of the island’s water scarcity.



The Districts’ Board of Trustees would like to thank the ratepayers for their ongoing support by using our valuable water supply wisely. Every Drop Counts!

Visit our website for conservation tips or to view our bylaws and leak allowance policy.