

Referendum Confirmed for March 28th

**YOUR
VOTE
COUNTS**

On Saturday March 28th North Salt Spring Waterworks District ratepayers (landowners) will be asked to vote on the question:

“Are you in favour of the Board of Trustees of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District adopting Bylaw No.264 cited as

“St. Mary Treatment Plant Borrowing Bylaw” to borrow the sum of up to \$8.4 million (\$8,400,000) to finance the construction costs, equipment costs, infrastructure upgrades, commissioning and other associated project costs as detailed in the preliminary and detailed design for a new dissolved air treatment plant facility at 381 Tripp Road?” Yes or No

The board and management would like to stress that the Ministry requires us to state a maximum borrowing amount in the Borrowing Bylaw and the maximum taxation impact ratepayers can expect. We fully expect that the use of reserve funds, a successful donor campaign and any additional savings found through the bidding phase will lower the borrowing cost and taxation impact further.

The polling station at Community Gospel Chapel will be open 8:00am to 8:00pm on Referendum Day and for the Advance Polls on March 18th and 25th. Visit our website for more information on the referendum and voter eligibility requirements.

Open Houses - March 12th & 17th

During the referendum process ratepayers are invited to meet the board and management at two open forums to ask any questions they may have about the borrowing bylaw, project financing and why this design and configuration was chosen for the plant and

why the Board believes it is the best and most cost-effective design possible.

Our first Open House is scheduled for Thursday, March 12th from 5-8 pm in the main hall at Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road. It will include a brief presentation from the design team and the board, and questions from the audience.

Our second Open House will be informal and takes place from 2-4 pm on Tuesday, March 17th in the Fireside Room at Community Gospel Chapel.

If you can't make an Open House, visit or call the District office any time during office hours to ask your questions. Detailed information and FAQs are available on our website.

New After-Hours Emergency

Effective March 1st we have a new after-hours emergency contact number: 1-888-777-4054.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a fridge magnet that will allow you to keep the number handy in case you have a middle of the night or weekend emergency.

Charlie McDonald Retires

Management and staff bid a fond farewell to senior operator Charlie McDonald on February 27th as he headed off into retirement after 20 dedicated years of service with the District. When asked what he's going to get up to now, Charlie stated *“I'm just going to putter for a while.”* He will be greatly missed around the District.

Paying Online

Just a reminder that if you're paying your bills online you need to set up two payment accounts for the Waterworks; one for your water bill and one for your parcel tax.

Account/Roll numbers are located at the top left corner of your bill just under the fax number. For

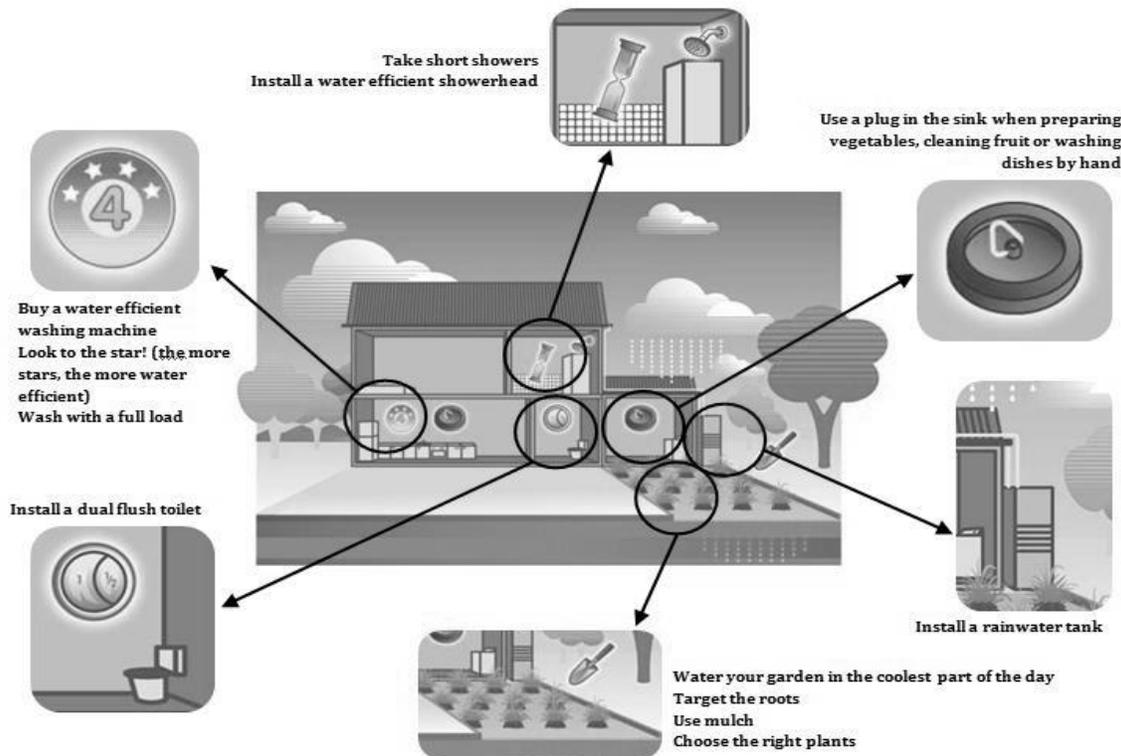
parcel tax drop the “764” and any periods in the number. Some banks may require you to add or drop a zero at the beginning from your account or roll number in order for it to work in their system.

Water Fair

Water conservation is a major priority for the District and islanders alike. Join us and the many other participants at the Water Fair on Sunday, March 22nd from 10:00am – 3:00pm at the Farmers Institute on Rainbow Road. Learn how you can conserve water and help the island protect its watersheds.

Water Conservation Bylaw

The District expects to pass a water conservation bylaw at its next board meeting to assist with conservation efforts in the event of drought conditions such as we had last summer. This will allow mandatory restrictions on watering should conditions warrant. Details will be forthcoming in the next month or two.



Petition Response

The North Salt Spring Waterworks District Board of Trustees would like to acknowledge receipt of the recent, locally circulated, petition signed by NSSWD ratepayers and islanders-at-large requesting that the Board stop all work on the proposed water treatment plant for St. Mary Lake and start the process from the beginning by hiring a different consultant.

We respectfully suggest that this is not a realistic request, that the project costs noted in the petition were misrepresented, as was the suggestion that there is an option for the selection of technologies

Did You Know?
A faucet that drips just once per second wastes 27,000 gallons of water annually.

other than that mandated by Island Health. We would also like to note that we clearly heard the message during our Alternative Approval Process vote last spring that our ratepayers will only respect an outcome where each ratepayer has a chance to vote Yes or No to a question.