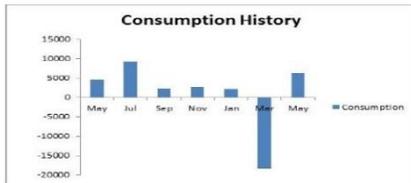


## May Invoices Reflect Adjustments for March Estimates

Due to heavy snowfall, invoices for the January/February billing all had estimated consumption. Current invoices reflect any corrections, up or down, to those estimates. If your consumption



graph looks like the illustration, it means your bill has had a downwards adjustment.

## Alternative Approval Process

The Alternative Approval Process is now underway until 4:00 pm May 30<sup>th</sup> for Borrowing Bylaw 264.

Approval of the bylaw will allow the Board to move forward with borrowing up to \$10.4 million for design and construction of the new St. Mary DAF Treatment plant.

Those opposed to the bylaw may complete an Elector Response Form and return the signed

original to the District office either in person or by mail. Complete details about the process are available on the District's website on the Alternative Approval Process page.

## View the Plans

Ratepayers are invited to drop into the District office during May office hours to view the preliminary plans for the proposed new St. Mary DAF treatment plant. District Manager Ron Stepaniuk or Office Manager, Anne Williams, will also be available to answer any questions you may have.

## 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.



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 area is clearly marked as private property and is not open for picnicking, swimming or off-roading. To further our efforts to protect this vital watershed, this year the District has erected a fence and gates to improve security.

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.

## "Leaky Season" is Here



It's that time of year again. 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. Visit our FAQs page for tips on how to check for a leak.

## Board Changes

Trustees elected Marshall Heinekey as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for a two-year term at their April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Jeff Thompson was elected Vice

Chairman. Retiring Chairman Denis Russell remains as a Trustee.

The Board of Trustees would like to thank outgoing Trustee Bob Watson for his 18 years of dedicated service to the District.

### Meet our New Trustee



Don Hodgins, Ph.D., P.Eng., AFCA, was elected to the Board at the April 15th AGM.

Don is a Professional Engineer and majority owner of Seaconsult Marine Research Ltd., a consulting firm specializing in environmental data acquisition and analysis in support of numerical and statistical modelling of ocean phenomena—particularly waves and tides, currents, and sediment and effluent transport. He is also a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Salt Spring Island Watersheds Protection Authority (SSIWPA). A District water user since the summer of 1980, Don brings a new perspective to the board, based on more than 30 years of professional engineering practise in water resources, project management, and corporate and applied research administration.

### What BC's New Water Act Means for the District

On March 11, 2014, The *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA) was introduced as *Bill 18* into the BC Legislature for First Reading. If

passed, WSA will replace the 105-year-old existing *Water Act*. The WSA represents a major shift in water policy in BC and recognizes that, as our most precious resource, water must be sustainably managed. These policy changes could impact District operations in a variety of ways. In particular, the requirement to use water efficiently will directly affect our operations. Fortunately, NSSWD has already implemented many of the tools that will be needed for efficiency and conservation including a progressive rate structure and a fully metered distribution system. A number of measures that are necessary for sustainable operations and management are also underway including a new treatment plant and comprehensive hydrology studies of St. Mary and Maxwell lakes.

The District will be closely following the progress of the *Act* as it makes its way through the legislative process.

### Inclined Rates for All Coming This Summer

For many years the District's single family homeowners have been on an inclined rate system; meaning those that use the most water, pay the most for it.

In fairness to all and to promote conservation the Board has agreed that all rate classes will shift to an inclined rate system this summer. Complete details will be announced later this month. To

be as fair as possible to users, some rate classes have been adjusted.

Classifications remaining the same are: single family, multi-family, industrial and bulk water.

Commercial has been split into two classes:

1. Commercial Class 1: Basic commercial, for single unit businesses – 1 property, 1 business
2. Commercial Class 2: Commercial Multi-Family/Multi-Business

Institutional has also been split into two classes:

1. Institutional Class 1: small non-profits, such as churches, and subsidized housing residences
2. Institutional Class 2: large institutions – the hospital, CRD parks, fire halls, schools, etc.

A new category has been created for active farms: Farm Service.

Rates for each classification are still being finalized, but are expected to be the same as or similar to the single family rate structure. An overall increase of approximately 2% is expected to be incorporated for this year.

A newsletter detailing the changes will be sent to all users once the Board finalizes the new rates. It should be noted that most users will see no change to their bi-monthly water bill.