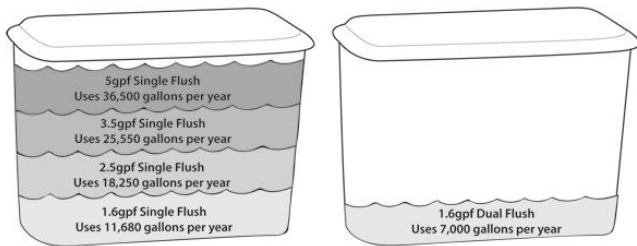


**Water Conservation Now Included in Bylaw**

In 2014 the prolonged drought caused a severe water shortage in many areas of BC, including Salt Spring. Thanks to those of you who participated in our voluntary conservation program the District managed to just squeak by. The District has now updated its Water Distribution Regulation Bylaw to include mandatory water conservation measures to be in effect from April to October each year.

The four conservation levels have been created to assist the District with drought management and ensure that everyone can have clean, safe drinking water all summer long.

An overview of Bylaw 268 is provided on the back of this newsletter.



A dual-flush toilet could save you nearly \$300 per year.

**Referendum Passed**

On Saturday March 28th North Salt Spring Waterworks District Referendum regarding Borrowing Bylaw 264 allowing the District to borrow up to \$8.4 million to finance the construction of a new treatment facility passed 359 to 310 votes.

As we move into the bidding and construction phases for the new treatment facility, our finance working group will be looking in the pros and cons of the options open to us for long term lending from either the Royal Bank or the Ministry of Finance. The Board wants to ensure that we minimize both project and financing costs as we

make every effort to ensure we select the best lending option for the District and that the long term lending surcharge is reduced to the lowest amount possible for our ratepayers.

**Tolls 2015-2016 - Bylaw 270**

The Trustees passed “North Salt Spring Waterworks District Tolls Bylaw 270, 2015-16” at their April 22nd meeting. Toll rates were not increased, however four (4) new upper-tier levels were introduced for users of 40,000 gallons or more to further encourage conservation. They are:

Range	Per 100 gallons/m <sup>3</sup>
40,001-60,000 gal	\$2.06/\$4.54
60,001-80,000 gal	\$2.10/\$4.62
80,001-100,000 gal	\$2.20/\$4.84
100,001-150,000 gal	\$2.50/\$5.50
150,000+ gal	\$3.00/\$6.60

A water-filling permit charge of \$200 for pools was added to our current miscellaneous charges per our Level 2 conservation measures as outlined in Bylaw 268. Both bylaws can be viewed on our website.

**Paying Online or by Mail**

Please note that the day you pay online is not the day the District receives the payment. Online payments may take as long as 5 business days to reach us. Please allow sufficient time for your payment to reach our office before any scheduled penalty date.

The same is true for those of you using regular mail. It can take anywhere from 1-15 days for a cheque to reach the office, depending on where you live.

Customers can pay by Visa or MasterCard over the phone or in person. We also accept debit cards in the office.

## Bylaw 268 – Water Conservation Levels – An Overview

### 1. Water Conservation Level 1 - Every Other Day Watering - April, September, and October

- **Sprinkler Watering** - Odd numbered civic addresses may water on odd numbered days and even numbered civic addresses may water on even numbered days. Watering times are 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and for no more than three (3) hours in duration per period with a maximum of six (6) hours of total allocated watering per day. For multi-unit stratas, watering applications may be applied based on "unit numbers" or "irrigation zones" to achieve the net same level of watering on permitted days (i.e. half of the watering/irrigation is undertaken on odd numbered days and half on even numbered days). This approach requires the prior written consent of the Trustees.
- Vegetable gardens, shrubs, trees and flowers are restricted to a hand held container or a hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle if watered outside of the times permitted.
- The filling of wading pools, hot tubs, swimming pools, garden ponds and water features, and the watering of public parks, open space, and sports fields is permitted, as is RV and boat washing, the washing of driveways, sidewalks, parking lots and buildings.



### 2. Water Conservation Level 2 - Every Other Day Watering - May, June, July, and August

- Odd/Even watering times are 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for no more than two (2) hours in duration per period with a maximum of four (4) hours of total allocated watering per day. Vegetable gardens, shrubs, trees and flowers are restricted to a hand held container or a hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle if watered outside of the times permitted. Multi-unit stratas can apply as in Level 1.
- The filling of wading pools and hot tubs is permitted. The filling of swimming pools, garden ponds and water features, and the watering of public parks, open space, and sports fields is permitted upon application and approval for a special watering permit. Permits are \$200 per application.
- RV and boat washing is restricted to the use of a hand held container or a hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle. The washing of sidewalks, driveways or parking lots and exterior building surfaces is not permitted, except as necessary for applying a product such as paint, sealers, preservative and stucco, or preparing a surface prior to paving or brickwork.

### 3. Water Conservation Level 3 - Every Other Day Watering - May, June, July, and August

- Odd/Even watering times are 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) hours in duration per period with a maximum of two (2) hours of total allocated watering per day. Multi-unit stratas can apply as in Level 1.
- The filling of wading pools and hot tubs is permitted.
- Vehicle, RV and boat washing is restricted as in Level 2. Washing of driveways, sidewalks, parking lots and buildings is also restricted as in Level 2. The filling of swimming pools, garden ponds and water features, and the watering of public parks, open space, and sports fields is banned.

### 4. Water Conservation Level 4- Comprehensive Water Ban

- All outdoor watering is prohibited including newly seeded and sodded lawns.
- Vegetable gardens, shrubs, trees and flowers are restricted to a hand held container or a hose equipped with a shut-off nozzle and micro-irrigation or drip-irrigation system between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- All other watering is banned.

For the complete details, penalties and exemptions view Bylaw 268 on our website in the Documents section. The current drought level is available on the Home page.