



North Salt Spring Waterworks District

Be water savvy - Use only what you need.

May 2016

North Salt Spring Waterworks District is preparing for another Hot Dry Summer!

Water Conservation Level 2 is Now In Effect

As of May 1, 2016, both Maxwell and St Mary Lake levels were below the weir crest. This means that, as of now, the District is relying solely on lake storage, and any summer rain, for our drinking water until the fall/winter rains return. It is unknown at this time if the District will reach Level 4 restrictions, as we did last year, but with wildfire already a problem in northern BC and Alberta concern is growing. NSSWD staff will continue to monitor the situation and advise ratepayers on the District's website. Current lake level graphs are available on our website.

Level 2 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 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 for a maximum of 1 hour per watering day. Visit our website for detailed information on the District's Conservation Levels.

Support Water Protection & Conservation in BC - Win a Weekend in Whistler!



BC Water Week may be over, but you can still win a weekend in Whistler by pledging to conserve, protect and support water in BC.

Visit valueofwater.ca by May 31st and take the pledge!

Maxwell Watershed Protection

As islanders you are helping to play a vital role in Maxwell Lake's watershed protection by honouring the fact that it is private property and not open for 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 negatively impacts water quality in both the short and long term. A healthy and intact watershed helps to filter and purify runoff before it reaches the lake.

The risk of wildfire during the summer months, especially in a drought situation, is significant and could cause devastating and permanent damage to the watershed and the District's ability to supply water.

The District appreciates your cooperation in our ongoing efforts to preserve this valuable natural resource.

Moratorium on St Mary Service Connections Relaxed

At a special Board meeting held April 6, 2016 the Board of Trustees adopted the following staff recommendations for District-served properties within the St. Mary Lake distribution system.

The Moratorium

The Board of Trustees is fully aware of the hardship placed on the ratepayers wishing to build homes or sell properties, within the District boundaries, that have been adversely affected by the moratorium.

In 2014, the District engaged Kerr Wood Leidal Consulting Engineers to prepare a *Water Availability and Demand – Climate Change Assessment* for both St. Mary and Maxwell Lakes. These reports justified the Board taking a precautionary approach and implementing a moratorium on increases in water demand. This moratorium was expanded as the 2015 drought increased in severity to include all un-served lots on the District’s tax role.

The underlying reasons for the moratorium have not changed. The District remains acutely aware of the limitation of water availability on Salt Spring Island and licensed withdrawal limits available to the District. Furthermore, the Board is also expected to exercise their fiduciary responsibility to provide potable water to all tax paying properties within the District’s ability. The reasons for relaxing the moratorium are:

- The Duck Creek weir project timeline is now expected to be a 2018/19 completion and a complete analysis of the District’s water supply cannot be completed until a full determination of total demand potential within the District has been provided by Islands Trust. The Board feels it is unrealistic to expect our ratepayers to wait an additional three to four years to receive service while the District awaits the receipt of information and the raising of the weir is complete.
- The District has a legal obligation to serve current properties on the tax roll and the Board of Trustees must exercise their fiduciary responsibility. Please note that while properties on the tax roll are entitled to service, that right does not extend to expansions of existing facilities even if permitted by current zoning. Further, NSSWD cannot allocate water based on project merit. The District is legally responsible and

accountable to existing ratepayers only. Instead, the District can approve service only to un-served lots on the tax roll and developments with infrastructure already in-ground for which a legal agreement to serve existed prior to the moratorium.

- During the summer of 2014 and particularly during the drought summer of 2015, ratepayers demonstrated their willingness and ability to conserve water. The District realizes that while our water supply may become limited in the summer months, the demonstrated willingness of our ratepayers to conserve allows us to have confidence that our additional commitments can be served at this time.

The District may reinstate the moratorium in full if circumstances warrant in the future. Visit our website to read the full statement.

Paying Online or by Mail

Your payment is processed on the day it is received in our office up to 4:00 pm. Payments received after 4:00 pm and after hours and on weekends are processed on the next business day.

We’d like to remind customers 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.