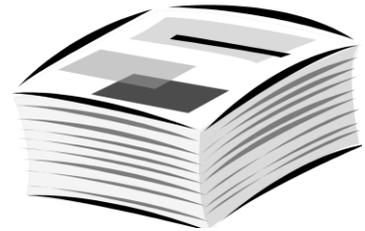


## Hydrology Studies - Review & Analysis

In 2013, the North Salt Spring Waterworks District commissioned a review and update of the available capacity of Maxwell and St Mary Lakes - the island's two largest potable water sources. The preliminary results of the hydrology studies and water budgets have raised serious concerns about the amount of water available. Over the next six months (or more), we will be reviewing the final reports and completing a demand analysis based on our current commitments. Further, we will be working with other agencies, including the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Agency (SSIWPA), the Islands Trust, the CRD, the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, to assess the impact of the findings on our district and community.



These reports will play an integral part in assisting other agencies understanding of our island's water resources. These studies, and the time needed to complete them, are of vital importance to the District and the community as a whole.

However, until this review and analysis process is completed the District will not be approving any additional connections other than for those that have paid capital expenditure charges and are already on the District's parcel tax roll. Once the review step has been completed, we will be in a position to advise potential new customers whether or not we are able to add them to our service. When completed, next year, the reports will be available on the District website.

## 2015 Parcel Tax - Bylaw 266

The board passed the District's 2015 Taxation Bylaw 266 on October 22<sup>nd</sup> approving a parcel tax increase of 1.5%, and the Capital Construction Fund Surcharge was set at \$120.00 per ratepayer.

On Nov 4<sup>th</sup>, as part of their decision making process, Island Health representatives toured the existing St Mary Lake plant. We are still waiting to hear from them to determine our next steps.

As Parcel Tax is only billed once per year, in February, we had to set the surcharge amount now to cover taking out the anticipated interest-only construction loan beginning sometime next year even though the approval process for borrowing funds is not yet complete. Funds collected will be deposited in the Capital Construction Reserve Fund and be used to pay the interest on the construction loan, when the time comes, and to pay for other needed capital infrastructure upgrades throughout the district. Also, the more money accumulated in the fund now will mean the less we have to borrow later, and the lower a future long-term borrowing surcharge will be.

Planned capital projects for 2015, totalling just over \$500K, include:

- Tank sandblasting and painting at Forest Hills and Cottonwood
- Installation of cathodic protection for the Cottonwood Tank
- Lining the Mountain Park tank
- Design for upgrading a portion of the Cranberry watermain to 12"
- Replacing and/or upgrading 6 standpipes
- Upgrading the Chu An Programmable Relief Valve (PRV) station
- Installing a FlowWorks Data Logger in the Shepherd Hills meter chamber
- Installing a transducer for monitoring the lake level at Maxwell
- Continuing the watershed protection fence at Maxwell
- Completion of the Detailed Design Drawings for the St. Mary DAF Plant
- Replacing a 10+ year old truck

2015 Parcel Tax rates and penalty dates are as follows:

|                         | BYLAW 266 | BYLAW 266 | TOTAL    | Penalty Dates |               |     |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|---------------|---------------|-----|
| WATER PARCEL TAX 2015   | 2015      | Surcharge | 2015     | 1             | Mar. 12, 2015 | 10% |
| Group A – up to 1 acre  | \$358.30  | \$120.00  | \$478.30 | 2             | June 1, 2015  | 5%  |
| Group B – 1 to 5 acres  | \$383.67  | \$120.00  | \$503.67 | 3             | Sept. 1, 2015 | 5%  |
| Group C – 5 to 10 acres | \$412.60  | \$120.00  | \$532.60 |               |               |     |
| Group D – over 10 acres | \$438.99  | \$120.00  | \$558.99 |               |               |     |

For your convenience we are now allowing a 35 day payment time frame. Invoices will be mailed February 4, 2015 and due by 4:00 p.m. March 11, 2015.

### **Water Tolls & Miscellaneous Charges – Bylaw 267**

Effective November 1, 2014 the Bulk Water rate is \$5.00 per 100 gallons and the Bulk Station will now be open 8:00 to 4:00 Monday to Friday, and closed after hours and weekends.

Effective January 1, 2015 per Bylaw 267, meter charges for institutional customers are: Class 1 \$79.72 per billing, Class 2 \$93.17 per billing. The shut-off charge for delinquent accounts is \$71.00, as is the Turn off/on Charge. The \$5 Capital Construction Fund Surcharge will apply to each unit in a multiple unit complex.

### **Open Door Policy**

Ratepayers have an open invitation to visit the District office during office hours to view the preliminary design plans and ask questions about the proposed St. Mary DAF treatment plant, project financing, and the district in general. District Manager Ron Stepaniuk or Office Manager, Anne Williams are always available to answer any questions you may have.

Office hours are 8:00 – 4:30 Monday to Friday. Information and FAQs are also available on our website.

### **Customer Information Updates & Emergency Contact #s**

If you have changed your name, phone number, email address, mailing address, or have a new tenant please update your contact information. Also, please be sure we have an emergency/alternate contact phone number in case we need to reach you or your on-island representative about your property.

*Customer Information Change* forms are available online on the Contact page and from the office.