



Every Drop Counts

# North Salt Spring Waterworks District

Be water savvy – Use only what you need.

September 2017

## Thank You for Conserving

It's been another long, hot, dry summer. Fortunately, due to our exceptionally wet spring, we went into it with full reservoirs. And, thanks to all of you who have so diligently practiced conservation all summer, it looks like we'll make it through to the rainy season. We're still at Level 3, but congratulations and please keep conserving!

## Maxwell Fire Danger Remains Extreme

Maxwell Lake is a vital part of our island watershed, supplying water to many island homes, farms and businesses. The risk of wildfire during the summer months on Salt Spring is significant. A fire caused by a cigarette or campfire could cause devastating and permanent damage to the Maxwell watershed, render the lake unusable as a drinking water source for Ganges and jeopardize the safety of nearby residents, homes and farms.



Both islanders and tourists alike can help to play a vital role in watershed protection by honouring the fact that it is private community watershed and not open for camping, swimming, walking, hiking, picnicking, mountain biking or off-road vehicles such as motorbikes and ATVs.

In addition to the fire danger, 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 will negatively impact 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; damage to the watershed will directly result in decreased water quality and increased treatment costs in order to meet the appropriate standards and regulations for drinking water.

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

## Did You Know?

Did you know that in addition to complying with bylaws established by the Islands Trust and/or the CRD, property owners in the NSSWD must also comply with the District's bylaws for Subdivision (#s 271 & 272) and Water Distribution (#274)? Bylaw #274 includes governance of changes to water use on a property. For example, if you are planning to change the current use of your property, perhaps by adding a business such as a B&B/AirBnB, or subdividing your lot, you must apply to the District and have all changes in use approved by the Board of Trustees. The District works closely with the Building Inspection office and the Islands Trust planning department to ensure that the current moratorium on additional demand is maintained.

To view District bylaws, visit the Bylaws page on the District website.

## Winter is Coming

It's hard to believe that winter is on the horizon, but it won't be long before many islanders head to far off places for a week or two, or even a month or three. We'd like to remind you that you can sign up for eBilling and receive your bills anywhere, and you can pay with Visa or Mastercard over the phone from wherever you are. We also accept post-dated cheques.

Before you head out be sure to:

- Turn your water off and drain your hot water heater;
- Take advantage of our turn off/turn on service (\$71) – let us know when you're going and our crew will turn off your water once you're out the door and turn it back on before you return on the date of your choosing (Monday to Friday only);
- Turn off all hoses and ensure your pipes are protected from freezing (view our Leak Allowance Policy on our website);
- Arrange for someone to check your property every couple of days;
- Provide our office with an on-island emergency contact person.