



November 2019 Newsletter

ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER

If you installed a generator after last year's extended power outage, remember that it must be connected through a proper transfer switch installed by a licensed electrician. A transfer switch will prevent electrical backfeed and protect workers trying to restore power.

The 2018 experience taught us that our water system is quite robust during a power failure. With reduced use due to the attention of residents (and the inability to heat hot water), the District found that there was sufficient treated water to meet demand throughout the 7 day power outage.

Last year's storm and successive dry summers weakened some trees. You might want to have trees near your house evaluated by a professional.

SYSTEM LEAK

After dealing with other operational issues, it has become apparent that there is a leak somewhere on the system and the size might make it difficult to locate. Residents are asked to be patient if they find their water shut-off for periods while NSSWD staff works to locate the leak. And if you notice unusual wet areas along Scott Point Drive, please inform one of the Trustees

IN THE NEWS

You may have read that the Ministry and CRD have commenced a review of governance structures for water improvement districts and evaluation of the pros and cons of having CRD operate all of the island's systems. The trustees have contacted the Ministry and expressed the need to meaningfully consult with SPWD and are still waiting to hear back.

There have also been news reports on lead in drinking water. This is not a big issue for Scott Point as the District did not use lead pipe; and the age of houses make use of lead pipe unlikely. But old brass fittings and solder can add leach lead in household systems. If you are interested or concerned about lead in drinking water, the District has published a paper on its website at www.scottpointwaterworks.com under the Water Quality tab.

Scott Point Waterworks District



WATER DEPOSITS ON DISHES

Project Blend was designed to address issues with disinfectant by-products in the water. The changes had the additional benefit of eliminating the costs of adding salt, reducing the amount of sodium in our water, and increasing the pH to improve the life of hot water tanks. The negative effect of increasing water hardness is limescale deposits. These deposits are unsightly, especially to residents used to the very soft water of Vancouver and Victoria.

The deposits are easily removed by a quick rinse of vinegar or CLR. But the Trustees are working with our consultant to review potential application of new treatments that may reduce hardness without adding salt. We hope to know more in 2020 and determine if this is an avenue to pursue.

WATER BILLS

Residents are encouraged to pay their bi-monthly water bill through Interac e-banking transfers. When doing so, please use the password written on your invoice - it should meet the password standards of most banks. Using your own custom password forces our billing administrator to guess or remember and can make the process difficult.

POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT AND SUB-DIVISION

Following introduction for comment last year, the Trustees have approved a Development, Subdivision and Short-Term Rental Policy. In short, the District will oppose any development or action that will have the effect of increasing water demand. This is not a statement on social values, but simply the reality that Scott Point does not have enough water supply to support increased density.

LEAKAGE INCIDENTS

In 2019 there have been 4 major leaks at residents' properties caused by the failure of plumbing fittings. While the Trustees are somewhat sympathetic to the sudden nature of these incidents, we are very concerned about their impact on the overall health of our water supply. Residents are reminded to regularly inspect their own water systems and appliances.

PLANNING ON BEING AWAY - CLOSE YOUR SHUT-OFF VALVE

Residents are reminded that if you will be absent for 3 days or more, you **MUST** close your shut-off valve at the street. If a leak occurs at an unoccupied house without the valve closed, the resident will be liable for the cost of all water used.