

Scott Point Waterworks District



April 2020 Newsletter

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

As with other organizations, the Water District has instituted measures in response to the COVID19 pandemic. NSSWD implemented a plan to keep its employees safe and ensure continued ability to manage water systems. The District's Emergency Response Plan was updated to include a Pandemic Plan that includes NSSWD's actions. The plan was activated and appropriate measures are in place at all pump-houses. Authorities have indicated that routine disinfection with sodium hypochlorite is effective against viruses, including SARS-CoV2, and water supply safety is unaffected.

AGM IS POSTPONED

In light of provincial recommendations regarding group gatherings during the COVID19 pandemic the Trustees have approved the postponement of the April 30 Annual General Meeting until such a time as it is safe to hold the meeting.

In the meantime, the Trustees have approved the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2019 and accepted the Auditor's report. The Trustees will recommend to the ratepayers that the McLean Wheadon Lizotte be approved as Auditor for calendar year 2020 at the AGM.

The 2020 election for a Trustee to serve a 3-year term will also be postponed with Tim Slaney continuing to serve until an election can be held at the AGM.

This Newsletter is also your invitation to review the Financial Statements and the annual reports for the District: Report from the Chair, Water Quality Report and the Financial Report. All these documents are available on the District's website at <http://www.scottpointwaterworks.com/governance/2020-annual-general-meeting/>

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

The Trustees approved a 2020 parcel tax of \$500, unchanged from 2019. It was also decided that water tolls could remain at the same level as 2019.

The District makes a concerted effort to keep residents informed. Our main vehicle for this is the website at www.scottpointwaterworks.com. If you have a question on water matters, you will probably find the answer here.

The lack of precipitation in November caused some concern about the state of groundwater recharge. The unexpected level of January rain went a long way to
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alleviate this concern. However it is important to note that our aquifer has limited capacity and once filled, can accept no more. This means that at all times, we all need to be conscious of water usage and continue to make every drop count.

Currently incinerator fires and back yard burns are banned province wide to protect air quality and the safety of fire fighters who respond to wildfires. People should check the Salt Spring Fire/Rescue website at <https://saltspringfire.com> before burning.

On the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM there is a General Mobile Radio Service test on GMRS UHF channel 22 (462.750 MHz) so people with radios can transmit and test their equipment and its readability by other pods. Residents should wait until “Scott Point” is called by the net control before broadcasting.

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 expressed their views to the CRD consultant. A report on options is expected later this year.

There have been news reports on the presence of lead in drinking water. This is not a big issue for residents, as the District did not use lead pipe in any of its installations; and the age of local 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.

WATER DEPOSITS ON DISHES

Since the completion of Project Blend, some residents have noticed an increase of lime-scale on glasses and shower stalls or other household areas where water is allowed to evaporate. The lime-scale is simple calcium carbonate, a natural substance in water that is a result of increased water hardness due to higher reliance on our Wells 3 and 4 and can be cleaned with vinegar or CLR. We can currently control the lime-scale deposition by increasing the percentage of Well 4 water re-processed through the Reverse Osmosis plant at Well 1. But this increases the processing waste and we are conscious of using our limited groundwater resource wisely. The Trustees are examining other processing options to reduce the deposition of lime-scale.

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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 more difficult.

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 full cost of all water used.