

## **Scott Point Waterworks District**

### **Annual General Meeting 2021**

#### **Report of the Chair**

##### **Overview**

The current Provincial Health Orders have required that the Annual General Meeting be postponed until such gatherings are allowed. The trustees have posted all of the documents normally reviewed at the AGM to the website and ask that if residents or owners have any questions to contact the trustees at [trustee@scottpointwaterworks.com](mailto:trustee@scottpointwaterworks.com).

While the Covid pandemic was the big news for the world and has had a large impact on our personal lives, it was a minor issue for the District's operations as our operator was quick to implement protocols to keep workers and residents safe. One thing that was noticed was that water consumption was up in 2020. It would be nice to think it was a result of people escaping the city to the pleasures of Scott Point during the pandemic. But in reality the increase was mainly a result of leaks on aging house infrastructure.

I would like to thank my two other trustees for their hard work and time as we navigated these waters. And I would like to thank our contractors: Jean Eastman our billing administrator, and the operators at North Salt Spring Waterworks for their diligence in dealing with day-to-day issues.

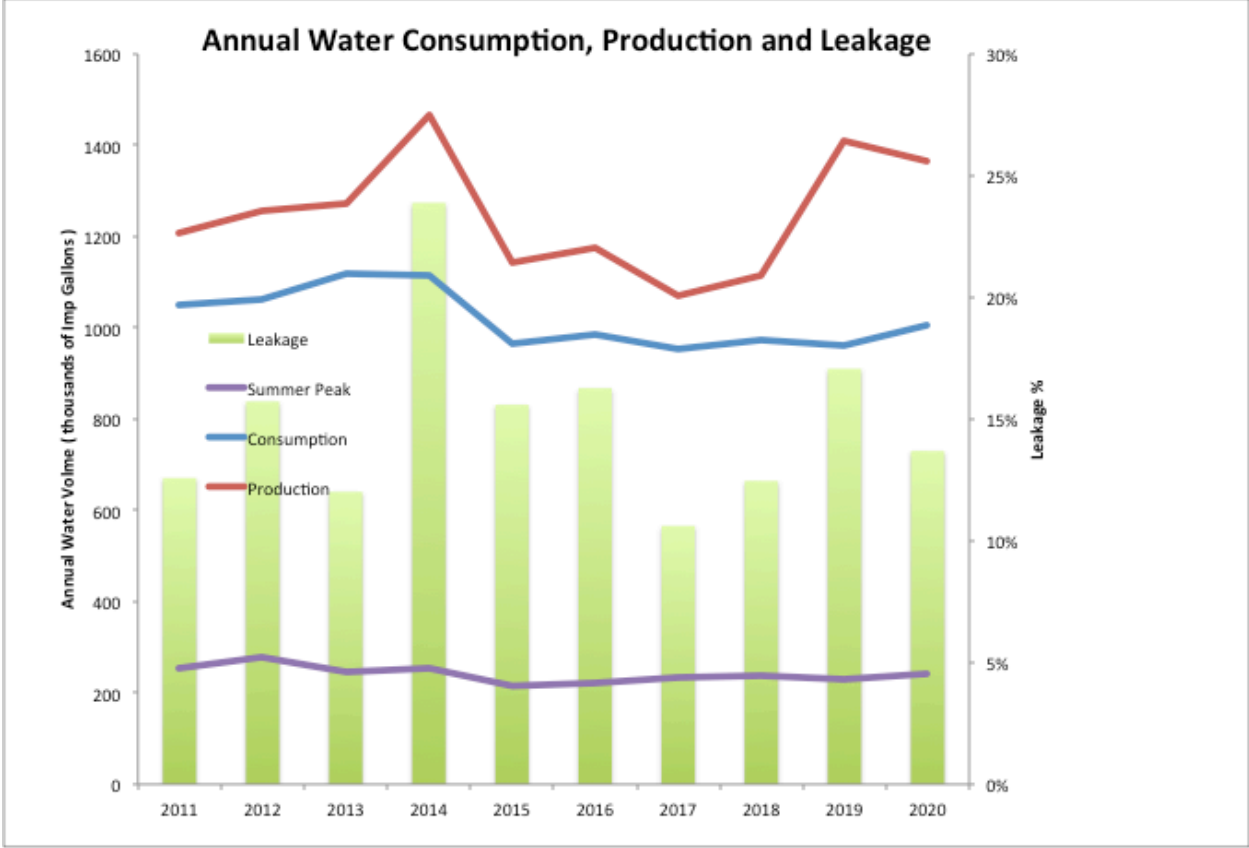
##### **Water Consumption and Leakage**

The total water consumed at properties in 2020 was 1,005,590 gallons, a 40,000 gallon increase from 2019, and 30,000 gallons above the 5 year rolling average. There may have been more gardening, but the increase is mostly the result of leaks at a number of premises. The July/August peak period consumption of 182,290 gallons, was a little below previous year and the 5 year average, mostly because of U.S. owners not being here. Still, compared to most standards, Scott Point residents are very frugal users with daily water use per full time household averaging 59 gallons for 2020, compared to guidelines that indicate households are considered to be conservative users at 130 gallons per day. The average for all premises was a small 45 gallons per day.

The various premises leaks were all found using the monthly meter readings, proving the worth of regularly looking at data for anomalies. Leaks were almost all a result of aging infrastructure at premises and continue to be a concern as the original housing stock passes 40 years of age and we simply do not have enough water resource to sustain big leaks. Residents are reminded that damaged lines to the house, old toilets, old brass fittings and automatic irrigation systems have an increased probability of being a source of leakage.

Total groundwater production was up in 2020 as a result of consumption noted above, and an increase in water used during processing trying to manage water hardness. The leakage rate in 2020 was 13.7%, an improvement over 2019, but still above the 5-year average of

11.5%. The District is increasing its focus on water used in processing and looking for ways to balance the volume of groundwater used against the goal of improving overall water aesthetics.



### Quality

The District is required to publish an annual Water Quality Report for residents. The report for 2020 is posted to the website, along with bacteria and water chemistry test results. All testing indicated that product water after treatment fully met Environment Canada Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality.

The Water Quality Report discusses the historical issues with disinfectant by-products (DBP), particularly tri-halomethanes (THM) in the water. The results of THM testing have improved significantly since the completion of Project Blend and the District is contemplating lifting the permanent advisory.

In 2021, the District adopted a water management plan that follows the federal Multi-Barrier Approach for Ensuring Water Safety. The District’s approach is posted on the website.

Some residents have commented on the impact of high water hardness on scale formation on glass surfaces and heating elements. The District has been investigating methods of reducing this impact without resorting to the introduction of additional salt through standard water softeners. Plans are in place for a trial of a Template Assisted

Crystallization unit at planned upgrades to Well 3 in 2021. If successful, a bigger unit could be deployed at Well 4.

## **Maintenance**

The highlight of 2020 operations was the cleaning of the Reservoir in December. After 8 years of operations, about ¾ inch of accumulated sediment was vacuumed out by divers using stringent disinfection protocols. On Dec 21, an unfortunate coincidence of the Reservoir being off-line and an extended BC Hydro power failure affecting replacement pumps required the Reservoir to be returned to service before quality testing had been confirmed. While the water in the Reservoir was never compromised, until samples had confirmed that no bacteria were present a Boil Water Advisory was issued by hand delivery and email and lifted on Dec 24.

There were no major leaks on the system in 2020. One old air release valve was found to have a slow leak and it and the last of the original air valves were replaced in 2020.

While there were no leaks on the 50 year-old bare copper service lines between the water main and the water meters in 2020, we started a program to pro-actively replace these service lines. The first 4 were completed in November, but not without problems with large boulders encountered under the road bed that will send us back to the drawing board for 2021 plans.

During the replacement of the above service lines, the water main was exposed in a swampy section and some evidence of deterioration of the concrete pipe was noticed. Given that the lifespan of AC Transite pipe is normally 50-70 years, with shorter life associated with wet and acidic ground conditions, the District has concluded that some water main replacement will be required within the timeframe of the 10-Year financial plan. The plan now has provision for replacement of one section in 2027.

There were servicing issues with a number of well and transfer pumps in 2020. Most of these pumps had not been looked at in years and regular maintenance of them has now been added to the work plan.

## **Other Items**

A number of fences, other encroachments, and work around the water main has occurred over the years without the District's permission. To supplement protections for the District in the event that this work impacts the distribution system, Bylaw 117 which contains revisions to the Water Use Regulations was drafted and posted onto the website along with invitations for residents to read and comment. So far no comments have been received and the trustees will be proceeding with approving these revised regulations.

The CRD, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and North Salt Spring Waterworks District commissioned a study to look at how improvement districts on Salt Spring were governed and investigate alternative arrangements that might allow access to federal and provincial infrastructure grants. The study has now been made public and is available at <https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/salt-spring-island-water-optimization> . The trustees are

currently evaluating the report's conclusions and will update ratepayers on possible implications for the District after the next trustee meeting.

### **Enterprise Risk Planning**

The trustees reviewed the requirements of the various Acts and Regulations which apply to the District and concluded that the District operations are in compliance with all relevant requirements.

As part of the budget process for 2021, the trustees reviewed and revised the risk assessment and strategic plan. The resulting priorities guided the re-examination and update of the 10 Year Plan for capital spending and finances was. The revised 10-year plan and strategic plan are available on the website under the Governance tab.

### **2021 Capital and Non-Routine Work**

The focus of extra work for 2021 is the refurbishment of equipment at our Well 3 located along Long Harbour Road. Work includes replacement of 40 year old media, modernization of controls, and reconfiguration of the piping to remove old brass fittings, and installation of additional sediment removal and treatment to reduce the impact of high water hardness on scale formation on glass surfaces and heating elements.

However, an opportunity to trial new technology to replace the RO unit at our Well 1 has arisen that has the promise of improving water quality while reducing the amount of brackish water rejected during processing and using much less electricity. We are proceeding carefully with a possible trial later in 2021. If the trial is successful, permanent installation may require that the above Well 3 work be deferred.