

Scott Point Waterworks District

Annual General Meeting 2023

Report of the Chair

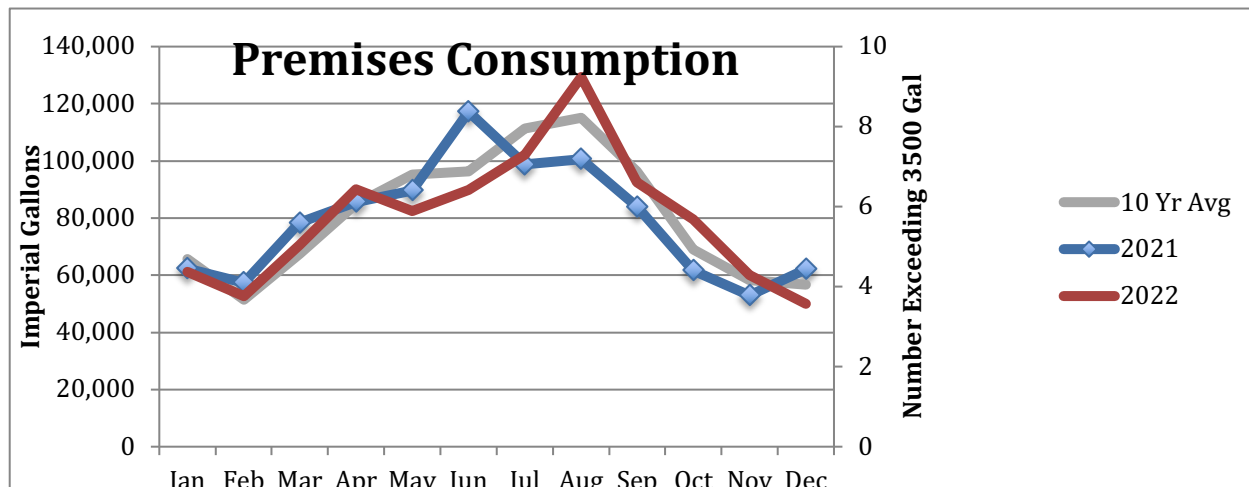
Overview

It was another busy year in terms of getting work done, but there were no incidents that caused disruptions to service or more than minor inconveniences to residents.

I would like to thank my two other trustees for their hard work and time as we navigated these waters, Tim Slaney and Peter Reiner. 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

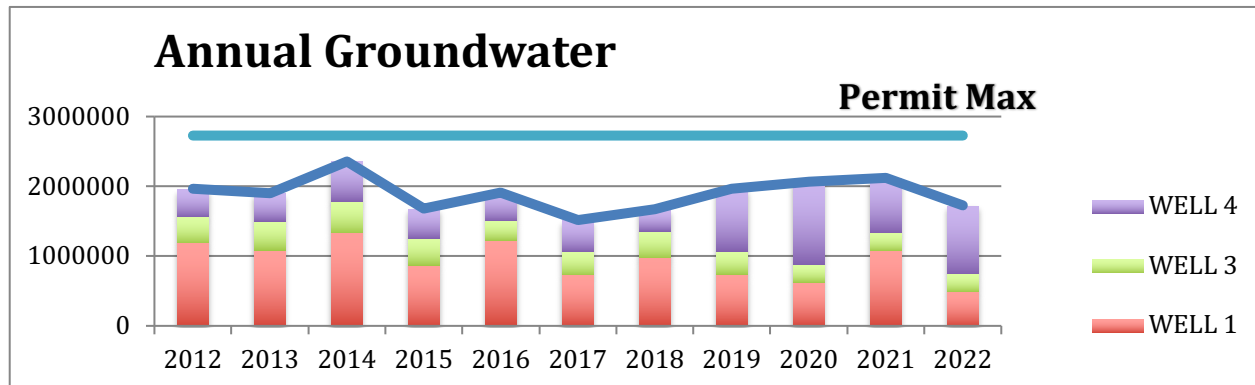
The total water consumed at properties in 2022 was 960,091 gallons, 10,000 gallons more than 2021, but a little less than 99% of the 10-year rolling average. This is consistent performance and reflects only a couple of leaks at individual premises. The July/August peak period consumption of 231,564 gallons also up from 2022 and 2% higher than the 10-year average. Daily water use per full time household averaged 59 gallons for 2022, a little lower than 2021 and reflects the conservative use of water by most residents on Scott Point. Although a few more premises had above average consumption in 2022, there were more premises using evening less. Premises using more than 3500 gallons in a one-month period are notified in case there is a leak.



There were a few leaks at premises, and all were all found using the monthly meter readings, proving the worth of regularly looking at data for anomalies. These 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 the source of leakage.

Total groundwater extracted was 1.72 million gallons in 2022, down almost 400,000 gallons from 2021; and 17,000 gallons less than the 10 year average. While residential consumption was down, groundwater production was down significantly as the RO membranes were performing better (except when RO unit was off-line) and much less water was used during processing.



The leakage rate in the District's system in 2022 was 10.1%, an improvement over 2021, and slightly below the 10-year average of 10.2%. This indicates that the water main continues to have service life, although replacement needs to be considered in the medium term.

Quality

The District is required to publish an annual Water Quality Report for residents. The report for 2022 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 issue of 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 has lifted the permanent advisory.

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

Some residents have commented on the impact of water hardness on scale formation on glass surfaces and heating elements. The District has decided that to reduce this effect and to lower the amount of groundwater used during processing, it would be prudent to improve the efficiency of the current RO and then re-process Well 4 water (which is mostly the source of hard water) through the Well 1 RO plant.

We have also had some issues dealing with the pre-treatment of water to remove manganese from groundwater before RO processing. The District changed out the filter media from Greensand to Filox which has significantly more removal capacity. However the jury is still out on whether we have solved manganese issues and the District has continued to rely on the RO to remove manganese to below the specified MAC. While effective, this does lead to premature fouling of the RO membranes necessitating more regular cleaning.

Maintenance

As in 2021, the big item in 2022 operations was the replacement of the RO membranes. This was a costly and unbudgeted amount of work. While the plan includes replacement every 5 years, these membranes were only 1 year old and fouled with manganese. To keep the manganese from getting past primary filtration in future, alterations were made to media used to remove manganese and iron from the water prior to the RO. Since these alterations, RO performance has been as expected. There were also problems with the chlorine injection pump at Well 3, which was replaced with a spare, and sediment was vacuumed from the bottom of the 2 intermediate tanks at the Well 1 location.

There were no leaks or repairs to the water main.

In 2020, we started a program to pro-actively replace old service lines, connections, and eventually meters. In 2022, two more meters sitting perpetually underwater were extended above the water table. In 2023 the District plans to lift 4 more meters above the water table and begin replacing meters that are 30+ years old. New meters will register volumes in metric units and a prescribed conversion from cubic meters to imperial gallons is now incorporated into the water toll bylaw.

Other Items

A number of fences, other encroachments, and work over the water main has occurred over the years without the District's permission. To supplement protections for the District in the event that homeowner work impacts the distribution system, revisions to Bylaw 117 Water Use Regulations were approved to protect the District from the costs of damage to the system caused by work, and the cost of removing encroachments should maintenance activities require it.

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. Community discussions have been going on for more than 1 year, but it does not appear that NSSWD and CRD can agree on how to proceed.

A long, skinny peninsula in a Mediterranean climate, surrounded by ocean is not a great place to rely on precipitation for our water supply. But we do! We do receive adequate rainfall each year, but lack the geology to store it. If all residents are careful, there is adequate groundwater to meet residents' needs each year. BUT if you plan to garden or use lots of water for things other than basic household uses, PLEASE install a rainwater capture system.

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 2023, 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.