

Trustee Chair's Report Summer General Meeting 2019

Since my report to the Annual General Meeting in April, your trustees and staff have been active in addressing the issues facing the SSID, and continue to work to carry out our mandate to provide good drinking water to lot owners.

However, we are not getting much help from the provincial government. In June, the Provincial Health Officer published her latest report, in which she noted that Source Protection Plans such as the one we attempted to set up with a bylaw are not legally binding, and water suppliers do not have control over land use decisions within their watersheds.

The report also contains a total of 32 recommendations related to water systems and their operation, including two related to small water systems within improvement districts, supporting their conversion by regional districts and funding to do so. Present government policy is that Improvement Districts are not really a form of government, as they only provide a limited service, and need to be dissolved.

On Monday of this week [July 29], the trustees met with our new Drinking Water Officer Mike Nguyen, and Darren Molder, Senior Drinking Water Officer for the Sunshine Coast. The trustees wanted to further enhance the relationship with the Vancouver Coastal Health officials, and were successful in doing so.

They are now assisting us in putting together information relating to septic system filing and maintenance plans as well as nitrate reduction procedures that we will place on our website special page so that lot owners will be more aware of their septic responsibilities.

Our concern which is a result of the septic systems in the Improvement District, is the increased nitrate results in our wells. Each year they increase during the summer with increased use of the water and waste water systems. In the winter, the nitrate readings decrease with the lower number of lot owners in the subdivision. The maximum allowable concentration (MAC) is 10mg/L. Lot owners can help by making sure their septic system is working properly and is pumped out when needed.

We approached the lot owners across Vancouver Boulevard and on the north side of Savary Island Lane with a request to sample their water to test it for nitrate content. Four lots were tested and their results ranged from 0.46 mg/L to 1.46mg/L, compared to our results for the same time period of 2.18 on well-2 and 3.79 on well-1.

We continue to work with the Provincial Government to learn more about the water situation and aquifers on the island. We have an observation well on Lot-129 which is monitored by the government and provides us with information on water levels in the aquifer. A government

technician is coming to Savary in August [now moved to October] to establish another observation well on the Nature Trust property near the airport. We will be able to compare the results of these two observation wells to enhance our knowledge of the aquifer. There is also a project underway this summer to map Savary using remote sensing technology to give better information on what lies below the surface.

In closing, I would like to take the opportunity to publicly acknowledge the service of two of our employees Brian Voth and Martha Allen, who worked part time for us for 10 years, and are retiring. I would also like to welcome their replacements Ruth White, Glen Moore, and Ruth Sutherland.

And finally, thanks to the efforts of our Administrator Janine Reimer and our Operator Courtney Robertson, our system is operating very efficiently.

Thank you.

Dale Gregory,
Chair of the Trustees