

FLOAT PLANE BAN

A former WPS board member, and past president, has been instrumental in the ongoing process to protect Island lakes from float plane activity. After a float plane landed on Cusheon Lake in early August, Wayne Hewitt pursued the issue through Transport Canada, the Ministry of the Environment and the RCMP. His research and hard work activated Transport Canada to formally state that the island's Schedule 2 and 3 lakes are off limits to float planes (on the water they are classified as motorized vessels) and this information will be published in upcoming editions of the Water Aerodrome Supplement and Transport Canada's Aeronautical Information Manual. At the Water Council meeting of Sept 25, Corporal Martin Beardsmore of the local RCMP said that "from this point forward we are treating this as an offence under federal regulations." He advised that anyone observing float planes on restricted waters should report the details including the serial number to the RCMP who will subsequently contact the pilot.

WPS LANDS ASSESSMENT

The WPS owns 272 acres of land on the west side of St. Mary's lake and is under covenant to Salt Spring Island Conservancy and the Land Conservancy of B.C. A requirement of the covenant agreement was a comprehensive baseline report (2005) describing the ecology of the site and a monitoring assessment by a professional biologist every two years.

Carrina Maslovat, R.P.Bio, a resident of Salt Spring, completed a 20 page report July 20/09. Her recommendations included:

- ongoing removal of scotch broom,
- closing trails that have high erosion potential,
- continued communication with adjacent land owners, particularly off Cormorant, to reduce incursions onto WPS lands,
- no new trails be created through watershed lands.

Interested folks may read the report by contacting one of the Board members. *Rick Laing*

DIRECTORS AND VOLUNTEERS CLEARING BROOM -



*... on
St Mary Lake
Watershed
Land.*

*(from left)
Rick Laing,
Tom Wright
Alf Morgan,
Fred Powell
& Rodney
Polden*

**"WPS
donates
\$1000.00
towards the
St Mary Lake
management
plans!"**

See p. 3

RAIN WATER MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

An interesting development in water run-off management techniques is the use of grass paving, landscape swales, green roofs and rainwater harvesting. Rain Gardens: Managing Water Sustainably in the Garden and Designed Landscape by Nigel Dunnett, is a wonderful book that illustrates the changing attitudes towards water.

One of the issues related to climate change is the reality of exceptionally hot and dry summers and more severe storms resulting in flooding events. Slowing run-off, recharging local aquifers and visually enjoying the presence of water are goals we can accomplish in our own gardens and in the community at large.

A combination of grass paving and a greenroof can be seen at the award winning Burnside Gorge Community Centre, 471 Cecelia St., Victoria.

For an average house of 1500 sq ft roof area (building footprint plus the overhangs) the potential rainwater available for collection is 25,000 imp gal/year. There are several catchment containers used on Salt Spring including plastic, steel and concrete cisterns, with varying characteristics regarding size, price and adaptability for the specific location. Once the initial investment is made, there are many advantages for the homeowner apart from conserving lake or groundwater supplies.

Rick Laing

www.rainwaterconnection.com

KNOWING ABOUT WATER: FAST AND SLOW CYCLES

Part 2 of a series by Tom Wright

In Part 1 we saw that water is extremely stable and present in enormous quantities, but is so chemically active that most of it is too salty to drink. Luckily for us several water cycles combine to provide a continually renewing source of fresh water.

Most important is the worldwide sun-driven cycle which lifts water vapour from the surface of oceans, rivers, lakes and plants into the atmosphere. At any given time there are 13,000 cubic kilometres of fresh water hanging in Earth's atmosphere, an amount over six times greater than the flow of all the rivers of the world combined. Invisible water vapour soon condenses into the bright droplets which form the towering clouds which are so familiar to us. In an average of only twelve days the droplets have combined into larger drops, which then fall back to earth as rain, hail or snow, a fresh water bonanza.

Three quarters of the rainfall worldwide, however, falls back into the salt sea, and some of the remainder falls into uninhabited regions

such as mountains and icecaps. To make use of what's left we must move quickly, for already the water quality is deteriorating due to dust, smoke and chemicals, and most of the water we can see is already running down the rivers to the sea, a journey usually measured in only days.

Water which trickles underground can remain there for decades, centuries or even thousands of years, if we don't pump it out first for our own use.

If only rain would fall in the 'right' places there would be plenty for all, but unfortunately many parts of the world get hardly any, and people there can die of thirst.

The arid American southwest pumps water from falling aquifers to fill swimming pools, keep golf courses green, and otherwise satisfy an ever-growing population, all at a quite unsustainable rate.

Even in more fortunate Canada some regions such as the Okanagan and our own Gulf Islands are in water deficit for significant parts of the year. Just ask your neighbour whose well has run dry!

Tom Wright

CHANGES INTRODUCED BY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS: Sharing Benefits, Impacts, and Lessons Learned

Background

Beginning in 2002, the CRD began to actively recruit Salt Spring Water and Improvement Districts into its Environmental Services Division. Ratepayer referenda were held to transfer ownership of local services to the CRD in exchange for leveraged access to potential federal/provincial infrastructure funding.

CRD Environmental Services now operates 6 water systems in the Salt Spring Electoral Area. These systems are Beddis, Cedar Lane, Cedars of Tuam, Fernwood, Fulford and Highland water services.

CRD Environmental is responsible for water supply, treatment and delivery in each service area. CRD also manages local service committees who establish policies for the operation of the service and recommended user fees, levels of taxes, and other charges for the service to the CRD board.



Proposal

The CRD's strategy of acquiring and merging SSI water systems is on-going and has enabled important changes in the cost, value, and accountability of water system. While significant, the benefits and impacts of these changes are poorly understood and the shift in water system stewardship rarely discussed.

It is proposed that the Water Council coordinate a panel of speakers from the six CRD water services. The purpose of the panel will be to share information about the benefits, impacts, and lessons learned from their relationship with the CRD. Panel members would address questions such as:

1. What infrastructure improvements have been enabled?
2. What conservation methods have been introduced?
3. How have costs of service changed?
4. How has the governance and decision-making changed?
5. What key lessons have been learned from this experience?
6. How can other SSI water services benefit from your experiences?

Wayne Taylor

ST MARY LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

WPS has donated \$1000 for the printing of the St Mary's Lake Management Plan as we did last year for the Cusheon Watershed Management Plan.

Islanders are very fortunate to have well qualified and dedicated volunteers who spend countless hours working on these Plans to restore and protect the water quality of island lakes.

St Mary Lake , Cusheon Lake and Weston Lake are suscepti-

ble to algal blooms caused by high levels of nutrients mostly accumulated in lake bottom sediments.

Phosphorus pollution in the lakes is caused by soil disturbance due to vegetation or tree removal, septic fields, fertilizers and animal wastes, phosphates in dishwasher detergents and surface runoff from streams and watershed lands.

Both Salt Spring Water

Council and the Salt Spring Conservancy have produced excellent brochures on the topic of the damage to the lakes and how we can help to restore them.

Information on caring for septic systems and water conservation may be visited at -

crd.bc.ca/wastewater/septic

Rick Laing

WHO ARE WE?

The **SSI Water Preservation Society** was founded in 1981 and owns 272 acres of St Mary's Lake watershed and 20 acres of Maxwell Lake watershed.

We are a volunteer, non-profit group that promotes the protection of the sources of potable water on SSI and the increase of public awareness of the value of water resources.

Memberships and donations are essential to our survival (although we would last longer than the 3 days humans can survive without water) so please keep the cheques flowing!

Our website is where pertinent information regarding our history, purposes, bylaws etc are found. Volunteers are always appreciated: or fundraising, writing brief articles, annual broom cutting and serving on the Board.



OUR EXECUTIVE

President	Ron Hall
Vice President	Rick Laing
Secretary	Eileen Wttewaall
Treasurer	Wayne Taylor
Member at Large	Penny Polden
Member at large	Rodney Polden
Member-at-Large	Tom Wright
Newsletter Editor	Rick Laing
Newsletter Design	Judi Francis

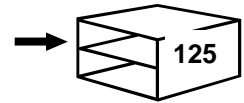
CONTACT US

Email: ssiwps@hotmail.com

Website: www.ssiwaterpreservationsociety.ca

Memberships: Individual \$10, Family \$20

COUNTRY GROCER TAPES - "A drop is a drop is a drop!" was the title of a front page article in the Vancouver Sun many years ago. And by gum it works! It all adds up! Please deposit your tapes in box **#125**. *Thanks!*



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