

August 23, 2023



Lions Bay, the water supply situation is starting to concern your Public Works team. Harvey Creek is flowing at around 400 gallons per minute (GPM), a decline of 61% over the last 30 days. Data for Magnesia Creek is obscured by its treatment plant having a large amount of water in its 600 meter long 8" supply line relative to its 100,000 imperial gallon tank's fill cycle, but manual measurements we're now taking every morning indicate Mag Ck. is producing about 200 GPM, half of what we usually see in mid-August. It's likely that the mid-May hot spell depleted the snowpack early, plus we have had even less rain this dry season than usual, so to maintain fire reserve while meeting the Village's use of safe drinking water, we are continually tweaking the plants beyond what their designers intended. For example, by changing which residences are supplied by which plant, and by tuning tank fill cycles to utilise the intake pipes as raw water buffers to capture as much as we can as the creeks flow past.

We're doing everything humanly possible with our supply. But demand has not dropped enough in response to the move to Level 2 conservation on July 29. In the last seven days we consumed an average of 549,500 gallons per day, about 380 GPM, as much as 20 percent more than mid-Augusts of years past. Public Works is now making one last community appeal before we have to set onerous Level 3 conservation. Please adhere to Level 2 requirements: even-number addresses water lawns on Mondays only, odd-number on Thursdays only. No soaker hoses. No washing or pressure washing of hard surfaces, including siding, windows, cars and boats, at all. Beyond scrupulous use outdoors, please look to use indoors too. If a toilet tank fills intermittently please fix it this week, or shut off the wall valve between use. Try military showers. Halve the depth of the bath. Do only full laundry and dishwasher loads. Please think

every time you open that tap: the water that comes out of it is currently extra precious.

Level 3 mandates no outdoor use at all. Please don't make us go there. Green lawns and thriving plants are giveaways, and nobody here at the Yard wants to be issuing bylaw violation tickets to residents who understandably don't want to watch their gardens die.

As always, comments, suggestions and observations are welcomed atworks@lionsbay.ca.

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