

KENTVILLE WATER COMMISSION



Our Mission

We are committed to providing high quality water and service to our valued customers. Up to 1.2 mil gallons of ground water is treated and balanced each day to some 2700 customers, one quarter of who are in the County of Kings.

Committee

The Commission is comprised of a Chairman (mayor), three Town Councilors, a County Councilor, a member of the Kentville volunteer Fire department, and a citizen appointee.

Quality and Testing

The water which is provided is treated and balanced to provide good quality, medium soft water, with low levels of chlorine and fluoride. Water Commission operators test on a daily basis from several locations within the serviced area. Weekly, samples from several locations are tested at the Valley Regional Hospital for the presence or absence of bacteria. Annually the source supplies are analyzed by an independent laboratory.

History

The Kentville water utility has been in existence since 1886. It has operated as a separate Commission since the Water Commission Act was proclaimed on April 13, 1962. The sole water source for Kentville at that time was McGee Lake.

A reservoir near Chester Avenue was built in 1913 and in the 1920's a new 8" transmission line was installed from the dam. In 1939 a new 12" transmission line and the filtration plant were added to the system. An additional reservoir was built in 1952. Facilities for chlorination and fluoridation were added in 1956.

Industrial Estates installed a water system to supply water to the Annapolis Valley Industrial Park. It consisted of two drilled wells and a high level reservoir. In 1979 Industrial Estates turned over the complete ownership and operation of their water system to the Kentville Water Commission and eventually this system was connected to the Formex (Weavexx) transmission line and the Town system. In 1992 the Commission installed a designated transmission line to connect the two Mitchell Avenue wells directly to the Industrial Park reservoir.

The Stead water system was first constructed in 1969. In 1989, through an agreement with the County of Kings, the Kentville Water Commission took over the ownership and operation of the Stead Subdivision water system, which included a well and a pump house on Mee Road and the Belcher Street reservoir. This system was then connected to the Kentville water system.

A new distribution main was installed along Chester Avenue/Trunk 12 in 1998 in order to supply its customers in this area with treated water rather than the raw water they previously received. The new distribution main was installed as far south on trunk 12 as Ward Ave.

In 1998 after several years of drought conditions the Kentville Water Commission decided to complete a water study, the results of which suggested that alternate sources of water should be identified. An underground aquifer was located in the west end of Kentville.

In 1999 the Commission, after approval from the Nova Scotia Utility & Review Board, proceeded with studies and called tenders for the construction of the new Kentville Water System.

The new well water system would provide us with the quantity not available from McGee Lake, eliminate the need to replace the aging transmission lines from McGee Lake, improve the quality of the water by eliminating the presence of THM (trihalomethane) and reduce the amount of chemicals needed for both filtration and treatment. THM levels dropped from approximately 55 ug/L to 5ug/L well below the acceptable limit of 100 ug/L.

In order to address safety concerns, the two open reservoirs were replaced with two completely enclosed glass lined steel reservoirs. The new reservoir on Prospect Avenue was located at a higher elevation in order to service land which was previously unserviceable within the Town of Kentville.

The new Kentville Water System was completed at a cost of \$4.5 million dollars and in July of 2002 all customers were being supplied with water from the new west end well field.

As a requirement of the Department of Environment and Labour Water Assessment the Commission is required to have a backup water supply. The Commission

continues to hold the water withdrawal rights to the water in McGee Lake and Mill Brook.

As it has in the past, each year the Commission upgrades portions of its distribution mains and services.