

A close-up photograph of a young child with blonde hair, smiling slightly, holding a clear glass filled with water. The child's hands are visible, gripping the glass. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the child's face and hair. The lighting is warm and natural, highlighting the texture of the child's skin and the clarity of the water.

South Berwick Water District
WATER QUALITY REPORT

2009



IN MEMORIAM

Michael R. Nadeau

Superintendent, 1988-2009

As this 2009 Annual Water Quality Report was being finalized, Michael R. Nadeau, District Superintendent for 21 years, passed away suddenly on July 1, 2009. Mike was a superintendent of extraordinary vision and innovation. His 21 years of leadership saw the birth of the modern South Berwick Water District. He was instrumental in the design and construction of a number of our modern facilities, obtained many research grants partnering the District with both universities and the American Water Works Association, and was recognized within the industry as a visionary leader. He was also instrumental in the foundation of the Southern Maine Regional Water Council and served as its founding President, along with the founding of the KEYS Group. His loss to the District and community is significant, but his legacy to the District and to the industry will long survive him.

WELCOME

Welcome to the 14th annual Water Quality Report for customers of the South Berwick Water District. It summarizes 2008 activities and offers information about your water service.

The District is a quasi-municipal utility providing public with clean, safe drinking water and fire protection services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to the citizens of South Berwick and Berwick, Maine.

The mission of the South Berwick Water District is to protect public health, safety, and the environment by providing the highest quality water for domestic use and fire protection while emphasizing customer service, innovation, and cost control.

YOUR WATER SUPPLY

The South Berwick Water District uses ground water for its supply. The well supplies consist of a combination of well points (7), a Gravel Packed Well (1), and Bedrock Wells (8) located in four separate well fields throughout the Towns of South Berwick and Berwick. A new bedrock site located off Rt. 4 has been identified and the land has been purchased. The site is currently under development for future use. The total combined capacity of the current supply is 1.0 million gallons a day.

TREATMENT

With the exception of the Willow Drive supply, the District uses sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) for disinfection and does not treat its well supplies. In the case of Willow Drive, the District employs an iron and manganese removal plant (Pureflow Filtration) using a proprietary filter media which also removes arsenic. Aeration is also employed to remove dissolved nitrogen and some radon.

STORAGE

The Powder House Hill Reservoir is a 1.0 million gallon reservoir located on Powder House Hill in South Berwick. The reservoir is constructed with two buried concrete chambers. Each chamber has a volume of 500,000 gallons. The chambers are designed to operate separately or as a single unit. The reservoir has an overall elevation of 297.67' USGS. This elevation provides system average pressure of 75-80 psi, with lows in mid-30 psi and highs of 135 psi.

In case of emergencies, such as power outage, the reservoir currently has enough storage capacity to provide drinking water and fire protection during those emergencies. Once a stand-by generator has been installed at the Willow Drive Treatment Plant along with the existing stand-by generator at Junction Road, the District will have the capacity to supply our customers water and meet maximum demands with limited reliance on the storage reservoir.

2008 IN REVIEW

Highlights of 2008 include the replacement of approximately 1,000 feet of water-main on Railroad Avenue in conjunction with the Town's road improvement program. We have continued our Geographical Information System (GIS) Program, and when completed in the future, it will provide a detailed mapping and information system that will be shared with the Town, Sewer District, and other entities. The SBWD continues its meter change-out program to new radio-read technology that should be completed over the next several years. The District also continues to look for ways to further protect its water supplies as well as develop and secure future water supplies.

HYDRANT SNOW CLEARING

We would like to thank all those individuals who keep the hydrants in front of their homes clear from snow. The Water District and Fire Department are forever grateful.

KEYS METER/BILLING STUDY

The Kittery Water District (whose service includes Eliot), the York Water District, and the South Berwick Water District are known collectively as the KEYS Group, and have been working cooperatively since 2005 to identify and implement ways to improve efficiency of services to achieve the highest quality services at the lowest possible cost for customers.

A study was completed 2008, and the KEYS Group will proceed, where determined appropriate, with immediate short and long-term goals in the areas found to be effective in significantly reducing costs. The KEYS Group strongly believes that implementing a sound comprehensive plan will result in purchasing and operational efficiencies that will almost certainly provide some measure of cost savings.

SOUTHERN MAINE REGIONAL WATER COUNCIL

The SMRWC was formed to promote regional cooperation between member utilities, to improve customer service, and to lower the cost of water for the customer base served by the public water systems in southern Maine. SMRWC member utilities include: Kennebunk-Kennebunkport-Wells Water District, Portland Water District, Biddeford-Saco Water Company, Sanford Water District, Kittery Water District, York Water District, and the South Berwick Water District.



John Leach is to the far right. Supt. Nadeau, who was instrumental in acquiring the grant, was unable to attend the meeting with the Governor.