

## Converting to potable water in the Resort Village of Aquadeo

Table #3 - PARCS Convention 2010 - Members Fair

Our issue came to the forefront about the year 2000 when the Resort Village of Aquadeo was advised that we could no longer draw water from Jackfish Lake for distribution to the cottages throughout the village. The village could only supply potable water to the cottages. In 2003 Sask Environment informed us that our time was running out and we needed to proceed with a potable water distribution system or the water to the cottages would be cut off. We could still draw the water from the lake into the main lines but we could not distribute to the cottages.

A drilling company was hired and about 4 test holes were drilled with no luck. Finally a source was found 1 mile north of the village. The well was drilled, a shaft sunk and we had water (1 mile away). Now all we had to do was get it to the village!

We applied for a grant but did not receive any funding. We went ahead on our own anyway with the money we had in reserves. The water line was trenched from the well head to our maintenance/fire hall. We installed a tank fill and a deep line to the village where we connected to the shallow lines in the village, all on our own dollar. We were pretty excited about our new water supply. We could now take the lines out of the lake, disinfect the main lines and run our new water through the lines. "Not good enough", said SK Environment. It was still non-potable water running through the lines; we needed to build a water treatment plant.

In 2004 we started a long difficult investigation process. After lengthy investigations we went with Mainstream Bio Sand Filtration System because of low maintenance, simplicity of operation, no water waste and less expense to install than most other systems. The big drawback was the size of the building that we would have to build to hold the tanks.

We then put together a business plan, presented it to our local Credit Union and were approved for our loan to build the plant. The next step was the Saskatchewan Municipal Board. What an upsetting experience this was. Our village had absolutely no debt. We had just used our own reserves to put in a well and trench the line to where the treatment plant was to be located. To our surprise we were not approved for the loan to go ahead with the 'compulsory' treatment plant.

Well the residents came up with the money and then the fun really started as we began to deal with Sask Water regarding the size of the treatment plant. Our designers and engineers both recommended 50,000 gallons per day plus 50,000 gallon storage tank. When Sask Water would not accept this, we went to 70,000 gallons per day with a 50,000 gal storage. However, Sask Water insisted on 477 cubic metres (104,940,000 gallons) per day plus a 70,000 gallon storage tank. Today we have potable water running through our summer lines but we have a real problem in the winter trying to maintain chlorine levels because of the size of the plant and the low water usage. The most ironic part of it all is that most people still buy bottled water.

We are left with many questions:

- Why is it, when you are "forced" into building a water treatment plant, the capacity is based on both seasonal and permanent residents but the grants are only based on permanent residents?
- Why is it that when you look on the web site to see who got all the grants – Resort Villages are next to nil on the listings? It is very time consuming to apply for all the available grants and especially "knowing" that you are never going to receive one and when you phone about it, it is always, "there is only so much money to go around".
- Why is there so much bias against cottage owners? It is very upsetting to hear comments such as, "If you have a cottage at the lake, you can afford to pay for it yourself".