

VAID Water System Report for 2024

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING April 26, 2025



Water Quality

A Water Quality Advisory was in effect for most of the year and there were several short-term Boil Water Notices. 2024 brought many challenges with our five-year-old water treatment plant, most of which have been resolved, and plans are in place for the rest.

The Water Quality Advisory was due to temporary Ultraviolet Treatment (UVT) insufficiency. UVT is the final step in water treatment before chlorination. The UVT system was not adequate due to the dissolved solids not being removed by the Ion Exchangers (Ionex), as designed. Replacement of the Ionex media solved this issue. This job was contracted to Aaron Service & Supply and was completed Feb 2025.

Replacement of the chlorine analyser and related devices is planned – we expected it to have been completed by the AGM though this is delayed due to shipping error. This aged equipment caused fluctuations in amount of chlorine added to the water. This will solve the issue that caused two of the Boil Water Notices.

Another issue we had with chlorination was weakened strength of undiluted chlorine received from the supplier. Procedures were put in place to prevent this happening again, such as testing each shipment received and a change of the source. We also added ventilation to our storage container to prevent the possibility of heat damage in summer.

The addition of a sand filtration unit between the self-cleaning filters and the cartridge filters is expected to commence late 2025. This sand filter was donated to VAID from a Vancouver Island location that has since connected to a larger water supply system. It will save us money on treatment consumables such as cartridges, chlorine, salt, and electricity, and extend the life of the new ionex media. Also planned is a new chlorination system, rebuild of Wall St pumphouse, new floating dock in lake, and continued leak detection on private property.

Tolls & Taxes

We kept 2025 increase of Water Tolls and Parcel Taxes for most properties to 6%, which was the minimum required, especially given the inflationary pressures that continued this year. Parcel taxes have always been higher for owners of larger properties; we are gradually closing the gap by keeping the rate increase lower on larger parcels while preparing Revenue Budgets. As we've heard concerns about the fairness of water tolls, VAID will be holding a community engagement session in the next month or two regarding how water tolls can be equitably set.

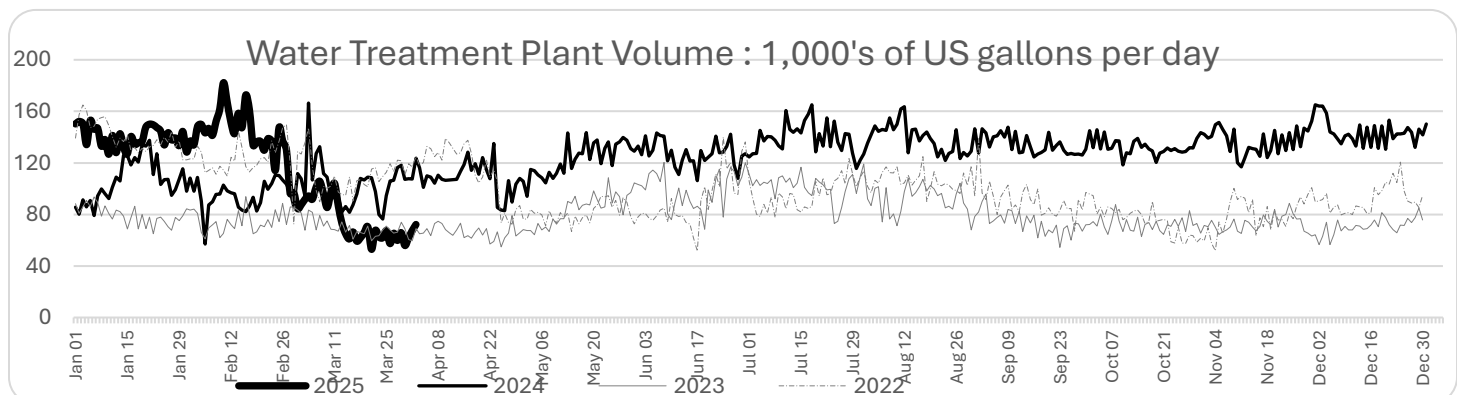
Leaks Status

Leaks continued to increase in 2024 even after the many repairs during the year. We thank every one that reported leaks.

The volume of water treated for 2024 was 172,307 cubic meters compared to 110,187 for 2023 – an increase of 64%. We were concerned that the water treatment plant will not be able to keep up with increased summer use so finding these leaks continued to be our major priority.

Due to the severity of this situation, a leak detection specialist was contracted - Velocity Water Services were here in January 2025 using their industry-leading technologies in acoustic leak detection to locate water leaks. The report can be found online at vananda-id.ca/reports/

Repairs during February and March at the locations identified reduced water consumption by more than half! Average daily amount for November (before any freezing weather) was 518 cubic meters per day, or 137,000 US Gallons. Some days were close to the maximum plant production of 610 cubic meters (160,000 USG). For March (after the repairs), the average daily amount was 242 cubic meters (63,850 USG). Per capita use has dropped from 1,141 (Jan & Feb) to 505 litres per person per day (Mar 13 – Apr 2).



Water processing costs us money - electricity, cartridge filters, filter media, water softener, chlorine, maintenance parts, and labour - and repairing leaks will save money spent on water treatment. The treatment cost savings from these repairs quickly covers the cost of the specialist and the repairs.

Detecting Leaks on Private Property

Even with the recent large drop in water use, the per person usage is still double the Canadian average. We have made significant progress with leak repair on watermain's however we have already found several leaks on private property and suspect there are many more.

To perform the test, VAID's water operators will contact you before they begin. They will use a water pressure gauge at your hose bib or where the waterline enters the house. We ask that you shut off any water using appliances or devices during the test. If a leak is detected, property owners are responsible for repair of water leaks on their property. Our water operators will provide you with information on standards for repairs.

Climate Change & Water Restrictions

Recent summers brought extended dry periods, with lower lake levels. The intake pump is now on a float to ensure that low water levels at the intake well do not impact pump operation.

Our water supply, Priest Lake, has plenty of water. Seasonal water restrictions are put in place to manage the volume of water that is treated, as high usage can max out the plant capacity and decrease water supply for fire protection.

We heard your comments and suggestions, and the Water Conservation Bylaw was changed this year to be clearer about Restrictions.

Restriction details with dates, times, and type of water use can be seen at vananda-id.ca/water-restrictions/

Please ensure your hoses have attachments to restrict full flow and let us know of concerns about excessive water use. Insulate pipes to avoid freezing. Once again, we had several leaks manifest after freezing conditions warmed up. Searching for these leaks used many hours of water operator labor.

To encourage water conservation, we are continuing with our program of offering a discount for drip irrigation parts. This is a method of plant watering that uses much less water than traditional methods. VAID will help you reduce the costs of purchasing a drip irrigation system – please contact us for details.

Mining Concerns

VAID has written a response to Zyrox's application. It will be placed on the VAID website and on VAID's Facebook page.

New Water Connections

3 new connections were completed on Wall St, 2 for the subdivision in progress and one for another property that became part of the District at the same time. With the possibility of 3 more connections in the subdivision; the developer has agreed to pay for the Wall St pumphouse upgrades that are needed to support the extra connections. Another development in progress that water supply has been agreed to is a Bare Land Strata with 12 metered connections and includes a new hydrant. Other potential developments in Van Anda have not yet reached the stage of applying for water.

Employee Changes

We have a new employee who started working for VAID in 2024 after Austin Rycroft resigned. Trevor Morrison (Water Operator) started in April 2024. Marianne Segers continues as Water Operator and Sandra Haszard as Administrator. Joseph Scott's position has changed to Operations Coordinator. Joining us this year is Bernardo Reyes, experienced in many aspects of Water Operations and working as a contract employee. All employees work part time.

Employee Training Completed

The Water Operators and Operations Coordinator completed several EOCP accredited on-line courses from BCSWS, Dragonetti Group, and Interior Health on a variety of topics.

VAID Work Vehicle

VAID has purchased a pickup truck for water operator use. Thanks to the generosity of community members, a good part of the purchase cost was covered. Analysis of expenses show that expenditure will be less than the mileage amount currently being paid to employees. Additionally, regularly used tools, fittings, and supplies can be stocked in the truck for improved work efficiency.

Text Notification System

We have set up a system for notification by text. If you know of anyone who would like to be texted when there are water issues, please let us know.

Meeting Minutes & Monthly Newsletters

Detailed and informational meeting minutes are published on the website about a week after the meeting is held. These can be found at vananda-id.ca/meetings-minutes/ along with meeting dates. We continue to publish monthly newsletters in the Express Lines, on our website, and VAID's Facebook page. You can receive the newsletters by email by subscribing at vananda-id.ca/subscribe/