



A Century of Experience



Prehistory Mid-1800s

In the early years, wells and networks of cisterns (water reservoirs) and log pipes brought water to customers. During times of drought people often talked about the need for a better source of water and a system of delivery. Then the rain would fall and the discussion faded.



The Great Portland Fire - 1866

The Great Portland Fire left 10,000 of Portland's 13,000 residents homeless, 2,000 buildings destroyed and 200 acres leveled.



The Portland Water Company - 1869

The debate about whether or not a public water system was too expensive died in the rubble of the Great Portland Fire and the Portland Water Company began work on a 20 inch conduit to deliver Sebago Lake water to the area. Water was delivered to the first customer in 1869.



The Beginning Of The Portland Water District - 1908

Between 1903 - 1907 the people of Portland became more concerned and vocal over high water rates and the secrecy around the Portland Water Company's finances. They alluded to corruption and mismanagement and advocated for citizen control of the water supply. In 1907, the Governor approved An Act To Incorporate The Portland Water District. The following year, the Portland Water District took over the water system assets and began serving customers.



A Century of Experience

The Portland Water District has reached an impressive milestone – 2008 marks 100 years of service. Over the years our products have expanded and our service area has grown. But our mission has remained the same - protect public health by delivering safe water to our customers and the environment.

We will be celebrating our centennial with various events and publications throughout the year, including this bill insert Timeline Series. For more information, visit us online at www.pwd.org



Portland Water District
225 Douglass Street
P.O. Box 3553
Portland, Maine 04104-3553
207.761.8310
Customerhelp@pwd.org