

A Reminder of Our Past

A collection of artifacts is displayed inside and outside of the Nixon Development Center.

24-Inch Tin Main

The 24-inch transmission main was installed by the Portland Water Company in 1879 and fully deactivated by 1991. It was commonly known as the 'tin main' because the cement-lined, cement-covered steel main was only 1/8 inch thick and extremely pliable like a tin can. The 24-inch 'tin main' was built to increase supply and provide redundancy to the original 20-inch main.



RECEPTION

For all you history buffs this is your opportunity to view the collection and talk with our archive experts.

WHEN: Monday, November 3, 2008

TIME: 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: Jeff P. Nixon Development Center
225 Douglass Street, Portland

Light refreshments will be served.

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



*A Century
of Experience*

The Rest of the Story



PORTLAND WATER DISTRICT

A Century of Experience

The Rest Of The Story

This year the Portland Water District celebrated a *Century of Experience* by leading customers on a journey back in time – through bill inserts, a newspaper supplement, public presentations, and a collection of artifacts. The first bill insert described the events that lead up to the creation of the Portland Water District, including the devastating Great Fire of 1866. This insert takes you through the growth of your water – and wastewater – services as Greater Portland grew, technology improved, and the environment became a significant concern.



For more information be sure to attend our reception on November 3 or visit us online at www.pwd.org

1907 Fed up with their private water company, Portland citizens formed a public, non-profit entity to supply their water. In 1907 the Portland Water District was chartered by the state.

1908 The Portland Water District paid \$1.68 million in addition to accepting over \$2.1 million in debt for 200 miles of mains, 400 water hydrants and 12,000 customers. Those customers were using 8.5 million gallons of water a day and the system's capacity was only 9 million gallons a day. There was little reserve for fighting fires.

1912 The Portland Water District's first priority was to increase supply. By 1912, a \$1 million project to install a 42-inch main from Sebago Lake to Portland had increased capacity to 23 million gallons – nearly three times greater than what customers were using.



As the Water District continued to grow, it took steps to ensure that the water it was sending through the expanding system was safe through its watershed protection program and disinfection.

1914 Chlorine was first added to disinfect the water in 1914.



Expansion

Larger intakes were constructed at Sebago Lake – the current 60-inch pipe was installed in 1952, increasing capacity to about 75 million gallons a day. Feeder lines to Falmouth and Westbrook were added in 1954, and a line to provide water south of Portland was installed in 1967.



Wastewater

In the 1970s the District stepped up to treat the area's wastewater as public health concerns grew and laws to clean up rivers, lakes and ocean water were adopted. The District's first wastewater treatment plant was completed in 1978 to serve Gorham and Westbrook. It was followed a year later by the East End plant to serve Portland – Maine's largest wastewater treatment facility. The Portland Water District also operates treatment plants in Cape Elizabeth and on Peaks Island in Casco Bay.



1994 As new regulations emerged and methods of treating water improved, the Sebago Lake Water Treatment Facility was built and primary disinfection was switched to ozone.

The Portland Water District is dedicated to making sure the entire cycle of water used in Greater Portland is clean and healthy. We are proud of our history of delivering quality services and meeting the needs of our customers. That tradition ensues as we continue to research and study ways to further improve public health and the quality of life in our community.