

APPENDIX
Municipality of the District of Argyle
Drought Situational Report
May 14, 2021
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We cannot say that 2016 was the first occurrence of lack of rainfall which caused peoples' wells to go dry. Many of us who are older can remember that during many summer months where we had cause to conserve water as there was little rain and wells would go down. At that time, many wells were not dug as deep as they are now and there were very few drilled wells. People managed without support from the Municipality.

In 2016, 2018 and 2020, there have been considerably more wells which went dry and people's response to this situation was to reach out to the Municipalities for assistance. Our reaction at that time, which we thought was correct, was to try to support this situation (our residents) by providing drinking water and making non-potable water more accessible.

In 2016 and 2018 we approached schools, and some opened up during the summer to allow people to shower. The Mariner's Centre also opened its doors for people to shower. We approached fish plants to provide residents with tanks for non-potable water and the Municipality also purchased a few 1000 litre tanks for residents who could not fend for themselves. The East Pubnico fire hall installed a washer for people to use. Some local fire departments, not all, also took it upon themselves to use their equipment to bring non-potable water to residents in need.

We approached the Province and they delivered drinking water to this area which was further distributed at local fire halls. In 2018, TIR brought a tanker to the Wedgeport Fire Hall with non-potable water for the community.

The Municipality was able to make an agreement with the owners of a well in West Pubnico which continues to be a valuable source of water to residents. The Municipality bought a pump to place in the well as well as paid for electrical hook ups for that pump.

The Municipality put out surveys during both those years and both surveys indicated by August a severe lack of water in their wells.

The Municipality has gone from asking retailers to provide bottled water from their establishments with the cost of the water covered by the Municipality in 2016, to the use of coupons in 2020 whereby retailers would provide drinking water to residents then bill the

Municipality. We have asked the fire departments to distribute water at their fire halls on a weekly basis and have provided both drinking water and non-drinking water at the Mariner's centre in 2018 and 2020. Both the fire departments and Ground Search and Rescue were involved in distribution of potable and non-potable water at the Mariner's Centre.

The above have been short term solutions to a problem which appears to be long term due to climate change and volunteers have been tasked to assist during these responses.

It is evident from talking to the volunteers who have assisted in this response as well as looking at the list of people who have picked up water that there have been many people taking advantage of free water.

From the last report in 2021 that the total cost of drinking water was well over \$50,000 covered both by the Municipality and the Province.

The cost of bulk water taken from the Mariner's Centre in 2021 cost the Municipality over \$1100.

To support Ground Search and Rescue last summer, the organization was paid \$100/day when they were on site at the Mariner's Centre to distribute drinking water and the total cost to this organization was \$4100.

This is to say that the costs to the Municipality is high and it is not helping to solve people's problems as their wells go dry. They still have to transport water. What some families require is support for an on-site solution to this drought problem.

We understand that there are some families who are going to need extra support, and this will be done through agencies who already serve these families. We will continue to work with Home Care, VON, and the Seniors' Safety Program to name a few. We will provide as much information on water conservation, water security and testing as possible in order for people to take ownership of this problem.