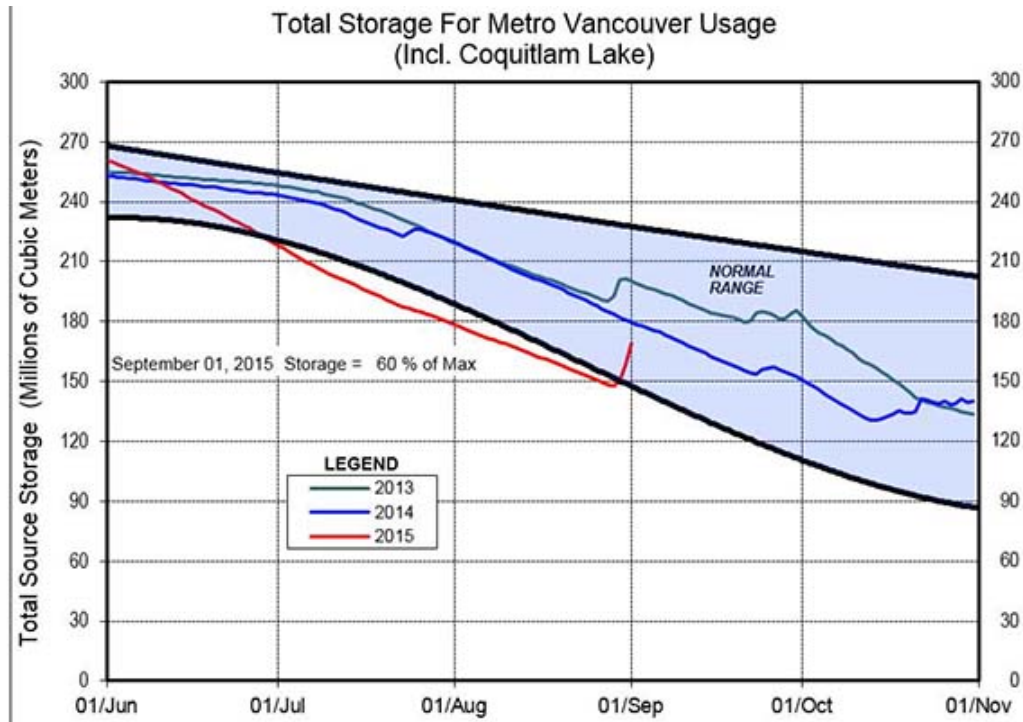


Metro Vancouver reservoirs get boost from weekend storm

But watering restrictions remain in place until at least next week

BY BETHANY LINDSAY AND TIFFANY CRAWFORD, VANCOUVER SUN SEPTEMBER 2, 2015



Metro Vancouver also posts reservoir storage levels June to November, when rainfall is lower and the regional demand for water is higher. The information is updated each Tuesday.

Photograph by: Vancouver Sun, Metro Vancouver

METRO VANCOUVER — Six days of rain and cooler weather have done wonders for Metro Vancouver's water supply, and helped dampen wildfires across the province.

But officials are taking a cautious approach when it comes to protecting the region's newly replenished reservoirs.

Here are five things you need to know about the rainfall and its impact across B.C.

The rain

Downtown Vancouver has received more than 75 mm of precipitation since the rain started falling on Friday, according to Environment Canada. That is nearly double the 41.6 mm that fell between June 1 and Aug. 27.

The downpour has been especially heavy in the North Shore mountains, where two of Metro Vancouver's major reservoirs are located. The West Vancouver weather station, located on the road up to Cypress ski resort, received 128 mm of rain, while the Mount Strachan station at 1,220 metres got 178 mm.

Metro's water supply

Metro's total water supply — including its reserve lakes — is now at 60 per cent of its maximum, up

from 53 per cent a week ago, according to City of North Vancouver Mayor Darrell Mussatto, chair of the region's utilities commission.

"It was a significant amount of rain that fell in the watersheds there," he said. "It's really great news. We really needed to have that."

The water supply is now back within the normal range for this time of year.

Water restrictions

Despite all the rain, Stage 3 water restrictions remain in effect for the region, which means lawn sprinkling and car washing are still banned.

Metro's engineers will need until about next week to determine if the restrictions can be loosened because they need to wait and see how much water flows into creeks and then into the reservoirs, Mussatto said. They are taking a cautious approach because September traditionally does not see a lot of rain, and even October can sometimes be dry.

"We want to make sure we can get well into November without having to stress the reservoirs," Mussatto said.

Impact on wildfires

Just one new wildfire had been discovered by late Wednesday afternoon, and the number of active fires across the province had fallen to 146, according to B.C. Wildfire Service information officer Ryan Turcot.

That count could drop even further if current weather forecasts are correct.

Parched, fire-prone areas of the southern Interior and Boundary regions, along the U.S. border, could see heavy showers by Sunday, but Turcot warned those predictions may change.

Just under 1,800 blazes have burned almost 3,000 square kilometres of bush since the wildfire season began in April. The cost of the fighting the fires has reached \$258.9 million.

To come

There are more showers expected in Metro Vancouver this week, before the weather turns sunny again for the weekend, according to Environment Canada.

The agency says Thursday will have a 60-per-cent chance of rain, with the risk of a thunderstorm in the late morning and afternoon.

The sunny weather is expected to return Friday and continue through the weekend, with temperatures reaching 20 degrees C.

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ticrawford@vancouversun.com

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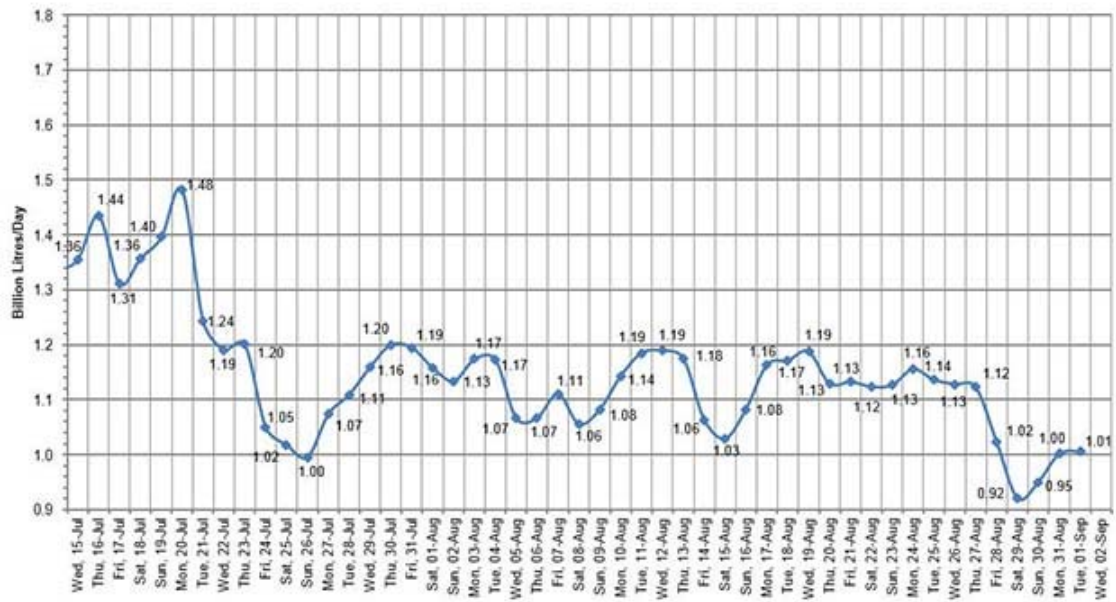
Already within normal range - so why not loosen restrictions? - cjk

should know about. [CLICK HERE](#) or go to vancouversun.com/moretothestory

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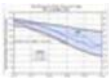
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This year, during Stage 3 of the Water Shortage Response Plan, we will be posting our daily consumption.

Photograph by: Vancouver Sun, Metro Vancouver



COMMENTS to above article



Linda Pinto Sandberg

This is all about behavioral engineering and not water management.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 3 · [Sep 2, 2015 11:41am](#)



[Aron Martens](#) ·

[White Rock, British Columbia](#)

Linda, you hit the nail right on the head!

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Sep 2, 2015 2:41pm](#)



[Glen Clark](#) ·

[The University of British Columbia \(UBC\)](#)

I agree 100% with you. Was it Obama or someone on his team that said, "Never let a good crisis go to waste".

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Sep 2, 2015 3:19pm](#)



[Thomas Beyer](#) ·

[President and Founder](#) at [Prestigious Properties](#)

The MetriVan council should resign !

They should introduce water meters rather than pretending the current unmetered practices are sustainable or green !

The greenest city ? Ha !

20 showers a day plus three baths are ok - FOR FREE - but washing a vehicle once a month is not ?

What is this ? Cuba ? N-Korea ?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · [Sep 2, 2015 12:47pm](#)



David Hadid ·

[Owner](#) at [Self-Employed](#)

How many trees were knocked over in the windstorm because they were dry and snapped?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Sep 2, 2015 1:01pm](#)



[The Baba Tree Basket Company / The Baba Tree Company](#)

David Hadid Or because there were leaves on them which caught the wind like a sail therefore putting more pressure on the branches, trunk and root system. We don't get these winds in the summertime, David.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Sep 2, 2015 1:20pm



[The Baba Tree Basket Company / The Baba Tree Company](#)

Thomas Beyer gets my vote for everything...*sigh*

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Sep 2, 2015 1:23pm



Peter Rabbitt ·

[Vancouver, British Columbia](#)

Since when did people have to "brave" rain?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Sep 2, 2015 11:34am



[Glen Clark](#) ·

[The University of British Columbia \(UBC\)](#)

So if we are still in a water crisis how come yesterday they dumped 7.5 billion liters of water over the dam and into the Capilano River. That is over a weeks consumption of water for the whole GVRD that just went down the river and into the ocean. At least if not more went down the Seymour River as well. I can't wash my car or my patio, but Metro Vancouver is okay with just dumping that much water over the spillways and into the river below.

This data comes right from Metro Vancouvers webpage.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Sep 2, 2015 11:20am



Peter Rabbitt ·

[Vancouver, British Columbia](#)

Do as we say, not as we do.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Sep 2, 2015 11:35am



Kate Baxter ·

[University of Victoria](#)

I went to the website and could not find the story so I went elsewhere and found another site which talked about this. Apparently it has to do with leaves and junk being washed out of the dam from the summer and the 'turbidity of the watery' which apparently effects the appearance and taste of the drinking water. I am not saying that is right just what I found.,

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Sep 2, 2015 12:18pm



[Thomas Beyer](#) ·

[President and Founder](#) at [Prestigious Properties](#)

What are we paying these decision makers here annually to make such dumb decisions ?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Sep 2, 2015 12:48pm

[Show 2 more replies in this thread](#)



David Hadid ·

[Owner](#) at [Self-Employed](#)

City of Vancouver needs to get a grip and stop fear mongering environmental crisis. We live in a rain forest. It's going to rain until next March, just like every year. The decision to maintain level 3 restrictions is a political message -- greenest city, etc. etc.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2 · Sep 2, 2015 11:32am



[Greg Lewis](#) ·

[Garber High School](#)

If you see what's happening in California you would understand that running out of water is real and that we should pay attention after all we live on the same coast

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2 · Sep 2, 2015 11:55am



David Hadid ·

[Owner](#) at [Self-Employed](#)

Greg Lewis Baja Mexico is also on the same coast, and it's a desert. What's your point? Our geology and ecosystem is completely different.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2 · Sep 2, 2015 12:08pm



[Thomas Beyer](#) ·

[President and Founder](#) at [Prestigious Properties](#)

Are we governed by fools ?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 · Sep 2, 2015 12:49pm



[The Baba Tree Basket Company / The Baba Tree Company](#)

David Hadid. I find some of your comments to be quite considered. Other comments, such as the above, suggest that at times you don't know catshit from raspberry jam if you took the seeds out of it.

Yes, we once lived in a rainforest. Now, the climate is changing, no? If you are not willing to acknowledge and accept that, then you are engaging polemic for the sake of it.

Were you born and raised in Vancouver? Do you know what the weather patterns were like in Vancouver 30 years ago? 40 Years ago? 50 years ago?
Things have changed, bud, just like the weather has changed where I currently live in Ghana. It was always bloody hot. Now, it is even hotter.

I sense that this is my last offering to what Germaine Greer refers to as a 'public vomitorium'

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Sep 2, 2015 1:33pm



David Hadid ·

[Owner](#) at [Self-Employed](#)

[The Baba Tree Basket Company / The Baba Tree Company](#) I've lived in Vancouver for over 40 years. It rains every winter. It rains and rains and rains. Will it in 50 years or 20? I don't know. But I will bet you anything you want that it will rain like cats and dogs for months between now and next Spring. So please explain to me in your infinite wisdom why we have dead plants everywhere.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Sep 2, 2015 1:42pm



[Glen Clark](#) ·

[The University of British Columbia \(UBC\)](#)

Thomas Beyer, I was going to add the word idiots as well, but I think those that are governing have their own agenda.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Sep 2, 2015 3:13pm



[Marie C](#)

Start working at home with Google! i think It's by-far the best job I've had. Last Wednesday I got a brand new BMW since getting a check for \$6474this - 4 weeks past. I began this 8-months ago and immediately was bringing home at least \$77 per hour. I want to work through this link, go to tech tab for work detail..

>>>>> tinyurl.com/jobsfb55

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Sep 2, 2015 1:12pm](#)



Lonnie Mountbatten ·

[University of British Columbia](#)

The sprinkling ban should be ammended to allow people to buy permits for watering of new sod. Keep all other level 3 restrictions in place, but allow people to put in sod without having to be concerned about dry weather happening before the roots take. The extra water use for people laying sod wouldn't amount to much, and sod should be layed soon so the roots can take before the fall.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [Sep 2, 2015 12:33pm](#)



Anne Dorsey

Why waste the precious yard space with a useless lawn when you could plant a veggie garden and water it to your heart's content?

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Sep 2, 2015 12:41pm



David Hadid ·

[Owner](#) at [Self-Employed](#)

Allow permits for people who have automated highly efficient trickle water systems. Way more efficient than holding the garden hose. My garden is dying for no reason.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Sep 2, 2015 1:02pm