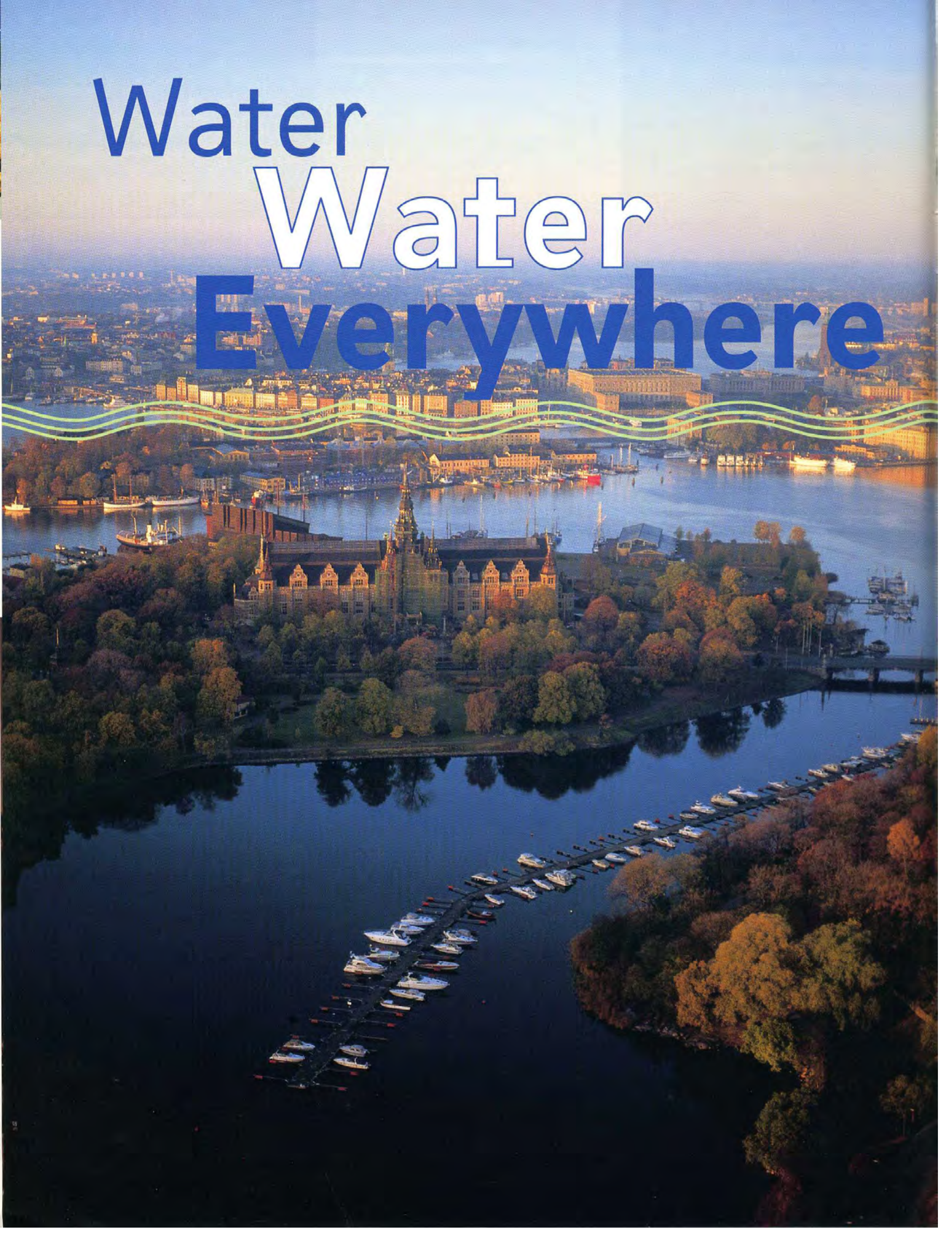


Water Water Everywhere



& fit for all to drink!

By Jan-Christer Tholin

the waters of Stockholm play a major role in the life of the Swedish capital and are a source of pride and enjoyment for its residents.

In the summer, Stockholmers swim in sparkling waters just walking distance from the main shopping areas and fish for salmon between the Royal palace and the Parliament buildings in the city center.

Hundreds of family boats cruise through the city's waterways on the inland journey into Lake Mälaren, passing sandy beaches and charming waterside communities.

On the outward journey to the Baltic Sea, it's easy to find an anchorage all to yourself on one of the 30,000 islands in the marvelous Stockholm Archipelago.

In winter, colorfully dressed skaters glide around the frozen waterways, walkers crunch along between the islands, and patient fishermen maintain vigils at holes drilled through the ice.

The History of the Stockholm Water Company

After Stockholm was founded in the 13th century, the discharge of raw sewage, partly treated wastewater, storm water, and other pollutants over hundreds of years brought increasing contamination to the city's waters.

Despite its growing problems with water pollution, Stockholm did not get a waterworks until 1861 with the establishment of the Stockholm Water Company. The company was located in an area far enough from the city center and its unpleasant open sewers and drains so that it could provide clean, uncontaminated water suitable for drinking. The first major wastewater treatment plant opened in 1934.

Today Stockholm is one of Europe's cleanest cities in terms of air, water, and the general environment, thanks to an effective commitment to the development of better water and wastewater systems over the past 30 years. But not everyone realizes that fact, says Sven-Erik Skogsfors, managing director of the Stockholm Water Company.

"Tourists often call us to ask if the water is safe to drink," says Skogsfors. "When they hear that it's perfectly safe, they say they're surprised because it doesn't taste of chlorine."

Stockholm Water produces drinking water, treats wastewater, and is responsible for maintaining 4,200 kilometers (about 2,600 miles) of pipes in the water and wastewater network, as well as for the restoration and conservation of lakes and other inland waters.

Its mission long has been to make Stockholm an "ecologically balanced" city and all of its activities are based on the principle that water is a loan from nature and should, after use, be returned without harming the environment.

Lake Mälaren supplies the raw water for Stockholm. Stockholm Water has two waterworks that produce and distribute 131 million cubic meters of drinking water per year to 1.1 million consumers. It also operates three wastewater treatment plants, which treat 150 million cubic meters of wastewater from 900,000 people annually.

Stockholmers have grown used to enjoying the clear, clean, and healthy waters of their city. And to make sure that their children and grandchildren can do the same, Stockholm Water staff plan to continue borrowing water from nature, using it, and then returning it—treated and purified—to the Baltic Sea.



In fact, water is everywhere. And its presence is the reason for one of the city's great annual celebrations—the week-long Stockholm Water Festival, which attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors every August. It is a colorful and exciting extravaganza of fun and entertainment in celebration of the clean and pleasant waters that contribute so much to the city's environment.

Sweden has for many years been a world leader in promoting serious study of water resources, pollution, and water treatment. Nowhere is this more evident than in the Swedish capital of Stockholm. A commitment to reducing pollution, and innovative and effective water management, wastewater treatment, and water conservation has made Stockholm one of Europe's cleanest cities in terms of water. Since the early 1970s, the condition of lakes and waterways in and around Stockholm has been monitored carefully. Samples are taken 10 times a year to



check temperature, depth-visibility, pH levels, oxygen conditions, and for the presence of phosphorus, nitrogen, chlorophyll, bacteria, and toxic materials. The result of all this effort is that the water that surrounds Stockholm is clean and safe.

In 1990 the success of Stockholm's water-cleansing efforts led to the creation of the Stockholm Water Foundation. The foundation's first act was to initiate the Stockholm Water Prize, which was first awarded in 1991. The Water Prize serves to recognize and honor outstanding achievements in science, engineering, technology, education, or public policy related to the protection of the world's water resources. The award is open to individuals, institutions, organizations, and companies. In 1995 a companion award was initiated. Called the Stockholm Junior Water Prize, it honors outstanding water science research projects under-

Clockwise, from far left: banquet and awards ceremony honoring the 1998 Stockholm Water Prize recipient, Gedeon Dagan, a professor at Tel Aviv University; Dagan and King Carl XVI Gustaf; the Royal Palace in Stockholm reflects in the city's clear, clean, and healthy waters.

taken by a person, or a group of people, younger than 20.

In early 1997 the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) was formed within the Stockholm Water Company to facilitate research, raise awareness, and stimulate action on world water issues.

SIWI works closely with universities, technical societies, and scientific institutions worldwide.

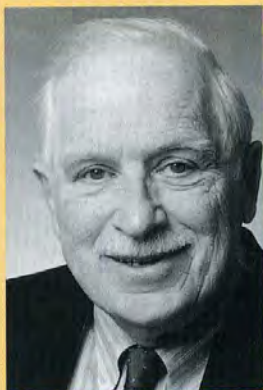
The Stockholm Water Foundation recently commissioned SIWI to administer the Stockholm Water Prize and the Stockholm Junior Water Prize. SIWI also administers the Stockholm Water Symposium, which is convened annually by the Stockholm Water Company to bring together delegates from around the world to seek a comprehensive understanding of the complex relationship between humans and Earth's water resources. The fourth component of SIWI's

The Winners of the Stockholm Water Prize

1991— David W. Schindler, the Killam Memorial Professor of Ecology at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, for his research into excess nitrification and acidification of freshwater lakes

1992— The Department of Environmental Engineering at the Technical University of Denmark, under the leadership of Poul Harremoës, Denmark, for research within water purification, contaminated ground water, and tools and techniques to protect it

1993— Madhav Atmaram Chitale, India, for his achievements in the fields of water conservation and public education programs in Southeast Asia



The 1999 recipients of the Stockholm Water Prize: James J. Morgan, left, and Werner Stumm.



1994— Takeshi Kubo, Japan, for his bridge-building work between nations in Asia and Europe in water environment affairs

1995— WaterAid, a London-based charity, under the leadership of Jon Lane, Great Britain, for bringing water and sanitation facilities to more than 3 million people in the world's poorest countries

1996— Jorg Imberger, professor and director of the Centre for Water Research at the University of Western Australia, for his contributions to the understanding of mixing and transport in lakes, estuaries, and coastal seas, and their influence on water quality

1997— Peter S. Eagleson, professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, for his achievements in developing models of dynamic hydrology and eco-hydrology

1998— Gedeon Dagan, professor at Tel Aviv University, for having established the basis of a new field within geohydrology where contaminant spreading in the subsurface environment is determined in such a way that it accounts for heterogeneity and for biochemical processes

1999— Werner Stumm, Professor Emeritus at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, and James J. Morgan, professor of environmental engineering sciences at California Institute of Technology, for their outstanding contributions to aquatic chemistry and for the development of techniques for treating drinking water and wastewater

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mandate is to direct the Stockholm Water Initiative, which seeks to put into practice the theories that come out of the symposium and to influence decision-makers.

All of these water-related activities take place in early August during what is commonly called World Water Week. The prizes, the symposium, and the Stockholm Water Festival (see Insider's Sweden on page 14 of this issue) all combine to focus attention on the growing need to protect the endangered resource of pure, fresh water, and to protect the oceans from further pollution.

The Stockholm Water Prize can rightly be considered the world's top honor in the field of water protection. It encourages global sharing of information so that water expertise is not confined to particular countries or regions, but instead is available to protect water resources in developing countries as well as in the industrialized world. The prize sum of \$150,000 is generated by the interest on contributions made to the foundation by a number of environmentally concerned companies and organizations worldwide.

Both the Water Prize and the Junior Water Prize enjoy the support of the Swedish Royal Family. King Carl XVI Gustaf is the



Stockholm Water Prize winners receive this beautiful Orrefors crystal sculpture.

patron of the Stockholm Water Prize and presents the Orrefors crystal sculpture to the prize winners each August. Crown Princess Victoria presents the Stockholm Junior Water Prize.

The winner of the Stockholm Water Prize was announced on March 22 in connection with the United Nations World Day for Water. The prize this year will be shared by Professors Werner Stumm of Switzerland and James J. Morgan of the United States. Stumm, 74, is Professor Emeritus at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich.

Morgan, 66, is professor of environmental engineering sciences at California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. They received the award for their outstanding contributions to aquatic chemistry and for the development of techniques for treating drinking water and wastewater. The professors have worked together since 1960. The prize presentation ceremony will take place in Stockholm's City Hall on August 12.

For more information about SIWI and its program, write to Stockholm International Water Institute, SE-106 36 Stockholm, Sweden, or visit its web site at www.siwi.org. **S&A**

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