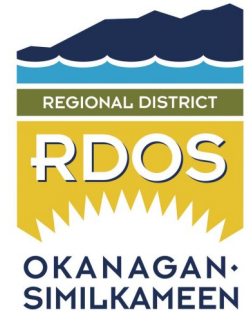


Faulder Water Update

Informing the Community



Addressing Resident's Questions and Concerns

The following are answers to the most common questions and concerns that have been raised by residents.

1) What is happening, or going to happen to the water system?

The RDOS has been actively looking into a practical remedy for the water supply; for now and into the future. Due to the requirements of the grant funds, the Province has requested an independent review to ascertain aquifer sustainability. Once that has been accomplished, RDOS will have viable options for the system upgrade. Results and cost options will be provided to residents when available. Request for Proposals have been received for the aquifer review. Lastly, the **grants** already procured for Faulder have been extended, and have not been rescinded.

2) A Summerland connection

It would be an extremely costly venture and require agreements from Summerland, CPR, the RDOS, and the Penticton Indian Band. The current demands on the Summerland system, may preclude the District of Summerland and RDOS from proceeding with that option.

3) The uranium update

RDOS has received proposals for the removal of uranium down to a level below Canadian Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality. This would be a self contained package plant situated on site in an enclosed container at an estimated installation price of \$130,000 with an annual maintenance cost of \$7,500. The uranium residual would be contained in canisters for safe removal and disposal.

4) Why isn't the bigger pump being put in?

Due to the current situation the well casing will not allow the larger capacity pump to be re-instated. The work required to accommodate the higher capacity pump is not overly expensive but, will require the shut down of the well for up to a week. If a new well is required, this effort will be lost.

5) Why water bills have not been reduced after the loan was paid off?

The loan was retired in late 2011. Residents understand the water system requires upgrading for the removal of uranium, and well remediation. These upgrades will require 'reserves' and probable loan to supplement the grant funding. The loan portion of the water bills has been redirected to a reserve account. An up-to-date balance of funds in the reserve account will be provided to residents when the options for the system and financial encumbrances of the work are known.

Currently water rates are: \$1810/yr. and the loan portion going into the reserve account is \$330/yr. per property. Options will be presented, discussed and residents asked for their input, prior to any decision making.

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Spring 2013

Important Numbers

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Director Michael Brydon:
Cell 250.809.2563
mbrydon@rdos.bc.ca

Water General:
250.490.4135

Water Quality:
250.490.4106

**After Hours Water
Emergency:**
250.490.4141

IHA:
250.770.5540

Illegal Dumping:
1.866.566.3867

**RDOS Water
Conservation
Ambassador:**
250-492-0237 x 4110
&

**WildSafeBC
Community Coordinator:**
250.492.0237 x4110 or
cell 250.488.0285

Operation of the Faulder Well Water System



The British Columbia Drinking Water Protection Act and supporting Regulation sets the standards for Operators of drinking water systems to ensure the safe supply of drinking water. Two important areas covered by this legislation are the physical operation and design of a water system and monitoring of the water quality.

As the operator of the Faulder water system the Regional District is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the system. All Operators employed by the RDOS are certified through the BC Environmental Operators Certification Program (EOCP). Operators are required to maintain a level of continued education in order to remain current with industry standards. Operation tasks include, but are not limited to regular system checks, water quality monitoring, well level monitoring, valve maintenance, repair of water services and mains, leak detection, 24 on call stand-by for water emergencies and cleaning of the reservoir.

Water Quality Monitoring

A Water Quality Monitoring Program is required by the Interior Health Authority (IHA) as part of the Permit to Operate that IHA issues to the RDOS for the water system. This Program outlines the requirements and frequencies for the monitoring of water quality.

Bacteriological (Total coliforms and E.coli) tests are conducted biweekly on the well water and distribution waters. Monthly reports are submitted summarizing these results. Annually a comprehensive analysis is performed that covers a wide variety of physical and chemical parameters which are compared to the Canadian Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality.

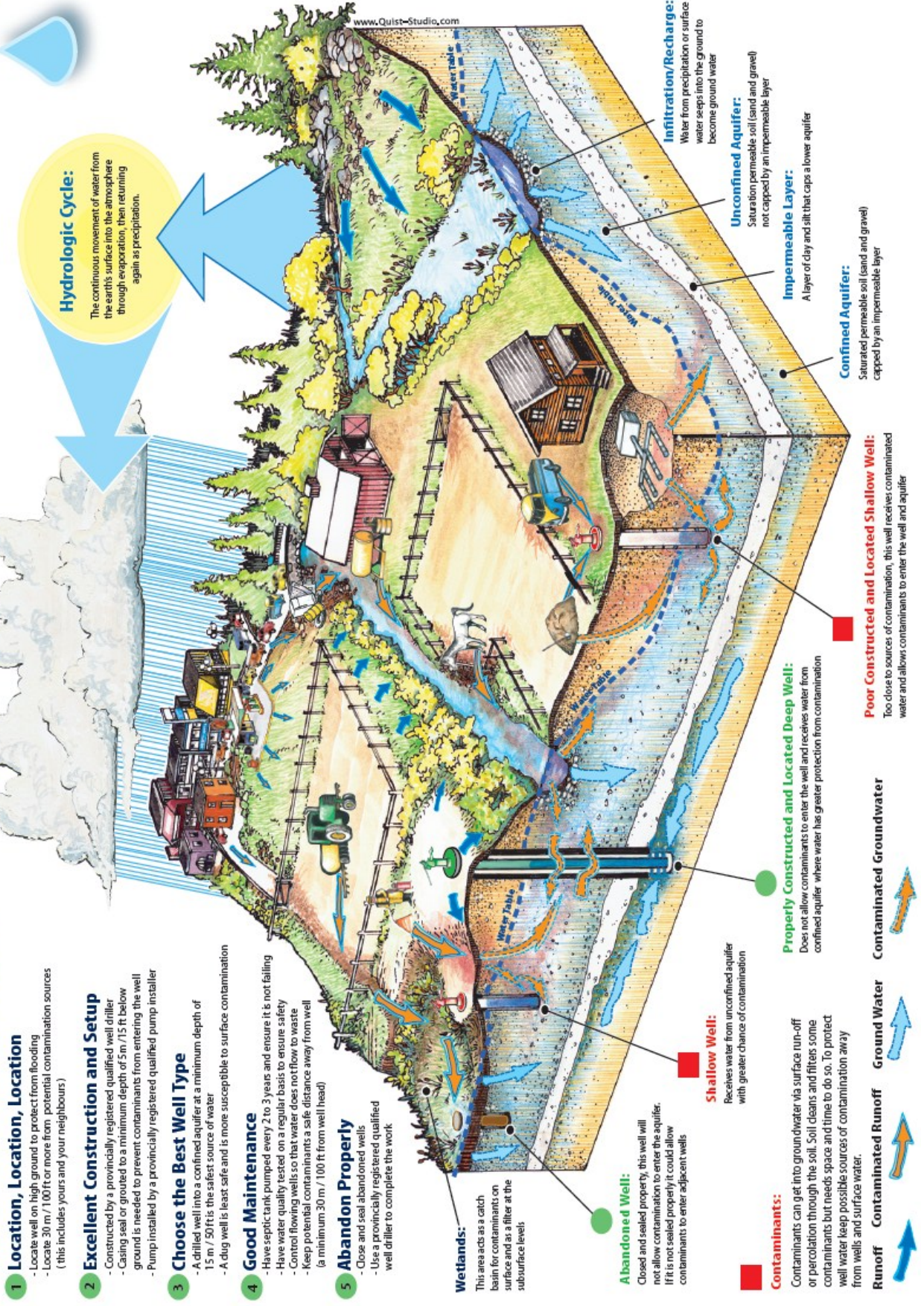
Living in a Groundwater Protection Area

Historically groundwater has been viewed as being separated from surface water. This is not the case and is being proved and studied more and more in recent years. Surface water from rivers, streams, lake and precipitation recharge of the groundwater aquifers. Just as surface watersheds, ground water requires protection to ensure a safe reliable source is maintained. Activities affecting the flow and quality of surface waters can affect that of groundwater therefore residents in areas such as Faulder are in what are termed as ground water protection zones. Residents should be cognisant of activities in and around their community that could affect the ground water quality. This can range from diversion of runoff waters, improperly maintained septic systems and the illegal dumping of waste products or chemicals.



Well Protection and Ground Water Stewardship for Rural Areas

Well Protection Steps...



- 1 Location, Location, Location**
 - Locate well on high ground to protect from flooding
 - Locate 30 m / 100ft or more from potential contamination sources (this includes yours and your neighbours)
- 2 Excellent Construction and Setup**
 - Constructed by a provincially registered qualified well driller
 - Casing seal or grouted to a minimum depth of 5m / 15ft below ground is needed to prevent contaminants from entering the well
 - Pump installed by a provincially registered qualified pump installer
- 3 Choose the Best Well Type**
 - A drilled well into a confined aquifer at a minimum depth of 15 m / 50ft is the safest source of water
 - A dug well is least safe and is more susceptible to surface contamination
- 4 Good Maintenance**
 - Have septic tank pumped every 2 to 3 years and ensure it is not failing
 - Have water quality tested on a regular basis to ensure safety
 - Control flowing wells so that water does not flow to waste
 - Keep potential contaminants a safe distance away from well (a minimum 30 m / 100 ft from well head)
- 5 Abandon Properly**
 - Close and seal abandoned wells
 - Use a provincially registered qualified well driller to complete the work

Larger PDF version of this poster available at:
http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/plan_protect_sustain/groundwater/wells/rural.html

Message from Water Conservation Ambassador - Zoë Kirk

This newsletter is intended to provide homeowners and residents of Faulder an update on current water issues in your community and to outline events and innovative water related conservation programs. *See below for upcoming events*



Zoe on the left congratulates Bonnie Kier of Naramata who won a low flow and energy savings kit from FortisBC at the local August Faire

The 2013 Conservation Program

The Water Conservation Ambassador Program is jointly funded by the RDOS and the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB). The program covers all areas in the region that fall within the Okanagan Basin.

Make Water Work is an OBWB valley-wide campaign to address the need for our water to be used mindfully, more than once or more efficiently.

Contests and information at: www.makewaterwork.ca/

Upcoming Events: TBA

For Faulder residents, these workshops will take place at the Summerland Ornamental Gardens at the Pacific Argi Research Station

- Slow-It Spread-It Sink-It Workshop: Using rain as a resource
- Rain Barrel Making Workshop
- Xeriscape doesn't mean Zeroscape
- Residential irrigation 'tips and tricks'

Watch for flyers in the mail or go to: <http://www.summerlandornamentalgardens.org/>

Request for Suggestions:

As Water Conservation Ambassador, I am always looking for ways to assist home and landowners to better utilize their water. If residents have any suggestions for workshop, or ways we can work together to raise awareness around water usage, I would like to hear about it.

Please feel free to contact me at: zkirk@rdos.bc.ca, 250-492-0237 x 4110 or cell # 250-488-0285

Ms Zoë Kirk

RDOS Water Conservation Ambassador

Water Conservation Links

OBWB—www.obwb.ca

WaterWise— okwaterwise.ca

BC Groundwater Association— www.bcgwa.org

BCWWA— bcwwa.org

RDOS: <http://www.rdos.bc.ca/departments/public-works/water-systems/water-conservation/>

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