

How You Can Help

The Community can be a huge contributor to helping keep the water clean! Everything that goes onto the ground or down your sink and toilet or septic system could affect your local water source.

Please help protect your drinking water. Here are some ways you can help to protect your local supply of clean, safe water:



- Never dump these things on the ground, down the sink, or in the toilet; Paints; thinners; furniture strippers; coolants; cleaners; glues; adhesives; gasoline; oil; diesel; heating fuel; de-greasers; resins; creosote; etc. If it's something you don't want in your drinking water than please don't put it on the ground. Dispose of it properly at approved hazardous waste sites.
- Have your septic system inspected and pumped every three to five years.
- Protect and maintain your private well. Wells provide pathways for contaminants to enter groundwater. If you own a well you no longer use, have it properly decommissioned by a licensed well technician and if you have a well, be sure it is sealed properly.



How You Can Help Continued....

- Report any abandoned or unsealed wells.
- Prevent spills and contain spills. Report all spills.
- Fill or work on any motorized equipment on concrete pads . Maintain all motorize equipment ensuring there are no leaks and store them on concrete or asphalt. Store all related petrochemical products in appropriate sealed containers.
- Take used engine oil to recycling facilities.
- If you can reduce quantities of, or find alternatives to, harmful chemicals, please do. If you apply pesticides or fertilizers or nutrients make sure you follow best practices and apply them at times when rain is at a minimum to avoid leaching of materials deep within the soil or contamination of wells within the area.
- Do not stockpile livestock manure, store it within a containment system and remove it periodically from the area for cleaning.



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RDOS

Public Works Department

Protecting Faulder's Community Water Supply

What Homeowners Need To Know



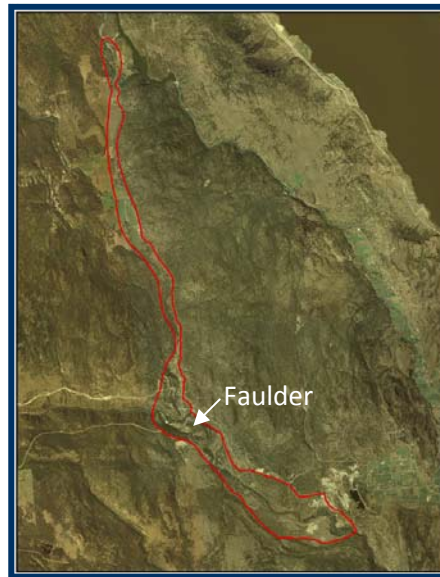
The Faulder Water System

The Faulder Community relies on groundwater from the Meadow Valley Aquifer for their drinking water supply. The Meadow Valley Aquifer (outlined in red) extends from the south near the town of Summerland to the north near Acland Springs. The aquifer is semi-confined/ confined and consists mainly of sand and gravel. It is recharged partially by Darke Creek and is situated within the Darke Creek and Trout Creek watersheds.

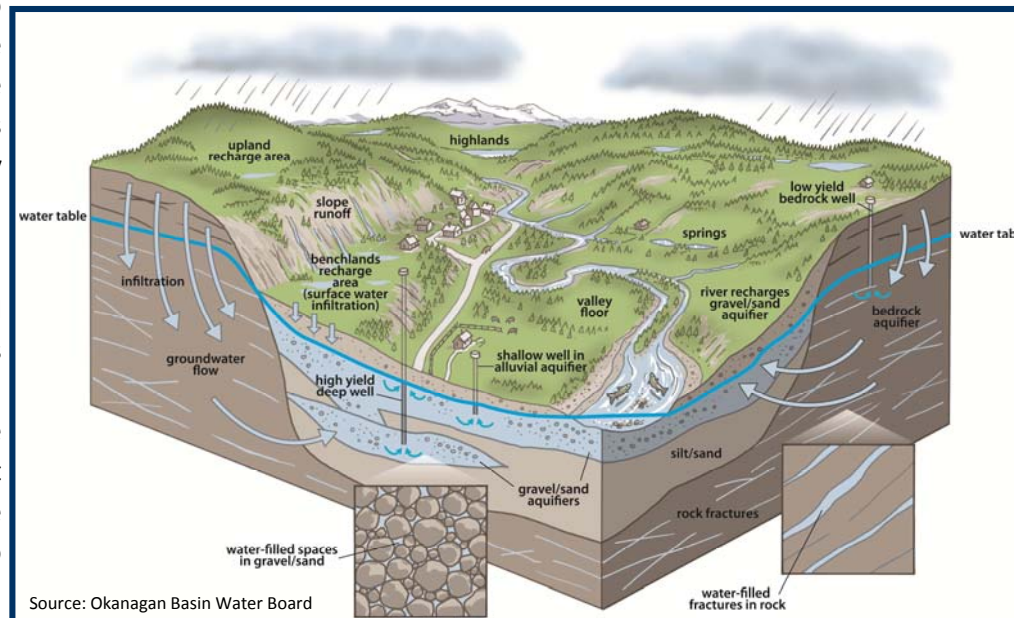
In 2015, a new Faulder Community Well was drilled into the Meadow Valley Aquifer to replace the existing well that supplied domestic water to an estimated 215 residents (79 connections) which use the water system. The well was drilled to 94.18 m (309 feet) below the drilling pad surface and connected to the existing water system. The upgraded water system, including the new uranium treatment system, is expected to be operational February 2016.

Knowing that the aquifer is situated directly below residential, agricultural and hobby farm properties, it is important to understand how certain activities can pose a threat to the Community's water source and what the property owner's within the Meadow Valley Aquifer can do to protect their water source.

The Meadow Valley Aquifer



A Sample Aquifer Diagram



Source: Okanagan Basin Water Board

Why Aquifers Need to be Protected?

Aquifers are below ground areas that capture water (rain, melting snow, or surface water) that has infiltrated the ground. A well can become polluted when substances that are harmful to human health infiltrate the ground and contaminate the aquifer.

If an aquifer becomes contaminated it can take many years or even decades before the water is safe for drinking again. There are methods that can possibly remove contaminants from an aquifer, however, locating and treating contamination is often costly and not always effective. The best contamination prevention is knowledge and preventative measures.

Activities That May Pose a Threat to Your Drinking Water

These are some activities that could pollute your aquifer:

- Septic systems
- Fuel oil (including home heating oil)
- Liquid fuel such as gasoline
- Chemicals (toxic chemicals such as organic solvents and dense non water soluble liquids)
- Commercial fertilizer
- Pesticides
- Nutrients (manure, bio-solids, grazing)
- Agricultural runoff
- Illegal dumping disposal sites
- Road salt and snow storage
- Others...