

Attention Private Well-Users

Recently, Bowen Island Municipality has received reports of wells running dry in the community. You can take steps to protect your water supply and to deal with a dry well. Below are some suggestions for private well-users to avoid unpleasant surprises and have peace of mind:

- Check your water level, if you haven't already
- Consider speaking to a qualified local water technician about installing a well depth monitor to notify you when your well reaches a lower-than-normal level
- Work with one of the local water companies or a group of neighbours to coordinate tanker truck deliveries or create communal pump and storage systems
- Consider purchasing a storage tank that will work in coordination with the natural recharge capacity of your well and will help to protect you from sudden water outages
- Remember that water quality and characteristics can be affected when the water table changes drastically, this may be a first indicator that water levels are low
- Talk to neighbours, especially if you are on a shared well or a shared aquifer, to agree on water conservation strategies and share updates on the level of the well
- Learn more tips about being "Wellsmart" at www.rdnwellsmart.ca or look in the Bowen Phone Book under "Water Systems"

Remember: conserve water or have none. See some suggestions from the Living Water Smart BC website below:

Saving Water Inside

- Think 'water efficiency' next time you buy products like washing machines, dishwashers, fridges, irrigation systems, shower heads, taps and toilets
- Don't use your toilet as a waste basket and remember you don't have to flush every time!
- Turning off the tap when you brush your teeth or wash vegetables will save up to 20 litres a minute
- Leaks and dripping taps are a waste of water

Saving Water Outside

- Garden watering is the biggest water use in the average home – over one-third of water use occurs outdoors
- Watering twice a week for less than an hour should be more than enough
- Collect rainwater for watering the garden and water the roots of your plants, instead of the leaves, with an efficient method like drip irrigation

Ways to Protect Water Quality

- Share your smart water choices with friends and neighbours
- Don't throw chemicals or toxic solids down the sink, toilet or storm drains -they pollute the environment and cause water quality issues that are costly to fix
- Buy low phosphate or phosphate free detergents – look at the labels at the store to work out which one is best for your needs
- Reduce or eliminate the use of fertilizers and pesticides and avoid applying them close to a well
- Take paints, oils, batteries and other hazardous materials to the nearest recycling or collection facility
- If you are on a septic system, ensure that it is regularly maintained
- Check out www.waterbucket.ca or Go Blue www.goblue.org for more tips and tools to save water at home, at work and in your community

Reference: http://www.livingwatersmart.ca/get_involved/easyactions.html

Bowen Island Municipality has all necessary procedures in place for our municipal water systems. Private wells and water systems, however, are outside municipal jurisdiction and are the responsibility of the Province. Currently there are minimal provincial regulations for wells. In 2016, the Water Sustainability Act will come into effect to enable better management of groundwater resources across the Province.