

Water for all... for ALWAYS



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This new education program, launched in May 2008, strives to answer Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Town of Olds water and wastewater systems, water conservation, water use, water meters and billing, and other topics about water.

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Where does Olds' water come from?

Olds' water comes from the Red Deer River. In Alberta, there are two major sources of water: surface water and groundwater. Surface water comes from lakes, reservoirs and rivers. Most of Alberta's population gets its water from surface water sources. Groundwater comes from either wells or springs, which are fed by underground water sources called aquifers. The Anthony Henday Water Treatment Plant in Innisfail treats, stores and pumps 27,000,000 litres of water per day to six communities! Check out their website and some neat photos of the process at www.mountainviewwater.com.

How do I know my water is safe to drink?

Alberta's program to protect our drinking water is the best in Canada! Alberta is the only province that requires ALL surface water to be filtered and disinfected before people drink it. The main reason for treating or disinfecting public water supplies is to kill pathogens, which are disease-causing organisms transmitted by water. Alberta Environment regulates public waterworks systems in Alberta and works closely with Alberta Health & Wellness and regional health authorities to ensure Albertans continue to enjoy high-quality drinking water. All waterworks systems, regardless of size, must meet the same treatment design and performance standards, and the same guidelines for drinking-water quality. This means that it doesn't matter if you are in a big city like Calgary, or a small town like Olds - your water is treated to the same high-quality standards. This is unlike the US Environmental Protection Agency, whose requirements are based on the size of the population served by a waterworks system.

How can I help protect our water system?

Properly dispose of the chemicals you use in your home. Every chemical you buy has the potential to pollute the environment if disposed of improperly. Remember, what you pour down your drain or what goes in the sewer may eventually migrate to a drinking water source. On a world-wide basis, Canadians are second only to Americans in the amount of water we use individually, of which at least half is unnecessary and wasteful. Treat the Town's wastewater (sewage) system and our regional water system with respect and care.

Next issue...

How municipalities set water and wastewater rates

For more information visit the **Olds Sustainable Living** page at www.olds.ca

This information was also featured in the 10 June 2008 issue of the Olds Albertan