

# 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.

*Posted 15 August 2008*

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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](http://www.mountainviewwater.com).

## ***How do I know Olds' 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 smaller 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.

## ***WOW! Water Meter Replacement Program now at 70%***

To date, approximately 70% of water meters have been replaced. Remember, each month we send out 3600+ utilities bills, so this means that over 2500 of these bills are based on actual reads using existing and new technology! Starting in January 2009, Town of Olds Operations staff will be able to read ALL meters remotely using radio technology, getting actual reads for all the town's meters every month...no more estimates! We'll continue to keep you posted on the progress of this exciting initiative.

For more information visit the **Olds Sustainable Living** page at [www.olds.ca](http://www.olds.ca)

*This information was also featured in the 19 August 2008 issue of the Olds Albertan*