

## **New Printed and Online Groundwater Resources Now Available to Residents**

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is pleased to announce the release of *Groundwater Connections*, an educational booklet about groundwater in our region. The booklet is being mailed to approximately 36,000 households in the RDN, focusing on residents who rely on groundwater for their drinking water supply. *Groundwater Connections* will help residents better understand the factors they should consider when using and stewarding our vital groundwater resources.

The *Groundwater Connections* publication includes:

- An introduction to concepts and terms about groundwater, highlighting where groundwater is connected to various activities and processes, both human and natural
- A snapshot of groundwater level trends across the region and summaries of groundwater monitoring programs
- Four local groundwater connection examples about:
  - groundwater/surface water connectivity
  - saltwater intrusion in a coastal aquifer
  - how groundwater levels are responding to a changing climate
  - the relationship between water use and aquifer recovery
- A range of water-smart activities that residents can do to protect this shared resource

In addition to *Groundwater Connections*, an RDN Get Involved webpage has been developed to provide an interactive, online portal where residents can explore the available resources, share their groundwater knowledge or concerns and ask questions. The webpage expands on the information in *Groundwater Connections* and will be updated with links, reports and events as information becomes available.

### **Groundwater in the RDN**

Groundwater services are provided to residents across the RDN. The RDN, District of Lantzville, City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach, and four improvement districts: Deep Bay Improvement District, Bowser Waterworks, Qualicum Bay Horne Lake Waterworks and North Cedar Improvement District, own and operate water service areas. EPCOR, a private water system, provides groundwater for residents in French Creek. Snaw-naw-as First Nation and Stz'uminus First Nation operate water supply systems that rely on groundwater from regional aquifers. Many residents across the RDN's electoral areas maintain and rely on private domestic wells for their drinking water.

To view and download *Groundwater Connections* and to view the online resources, visit the Get Involved project page at [getinvolved.rdn.ca/groundwater-connections](http://getinvolved.rdn.ca/groundwater-connections).

**Get Involved RDN!**

Residents are also invited to learn more about groundwater in our region during **Water to Earth Month**, an annual series of events between World Water Day, which was on March 22, and Earth Day, on April 22.

### Quote

“*Groundwater Connections* recognizes that groundwater connects our communities and that our actions can affect the quantity and quality of groundwater,” said Vanessa Craig, RDN Chair. “We invite residents to visit the new webpage to view the *Groundwater Connections* booklet and to learn other information about groundwater. Together, we can help protect and use this essential resource responsibly.”

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**Get Involved RDN!**