

Who is LSAF?

The Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation, also known as LSAF, was formed in 2011 by a task force from the Langley Agricultural Advisory Committee who realized a need for more educational information to be readily available for those living in agricultural areas.

The community-based foundation is made up of nine directors who have a sincere interest in the agricultural community and who realize the importance of protecting and sustaining our farmlands.

The LSAF Mission Statement reads 'to enhance agricultural viability in the Township of Langley through farmland preservation, land stewardship and sustainable farming'.

Educational projects planned by LSAF include workshops for farmers and general information will be added to our website on an on-going basis.

For now, keep our environment in mind and follow the lead of the children below - conserve our water - it is our most precious commodity.



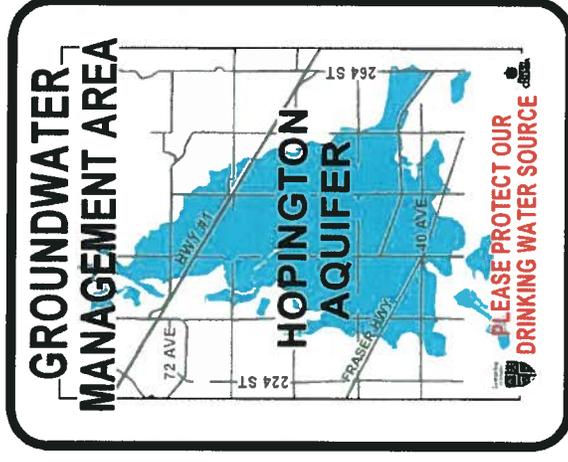
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**YOU live on the
Hopington Aquifer!
Please read this very
important information**



If you are receiving this brochure, chances are that you reside over the aquifer. And what does that mean, you may ask? It means that you do not receive your water from Metro Vancouver, but instead from the very fragile multi-leveled aquifer that your land sits upon.

This brochure sponsored by a community grant from the Township of Langley

We urge you to read this brochure carefully and would be happy to answer any questions, should you wish to contact us.

What is an Aquifer?

In easy terms, an aquifer is a body of saturated rock through which water can easily move, thus providing water in a usable quantity to wells, springs and streams. Think of it as a giant bowl of water beneath the ground; wells are pumping from the aquifer and the rains recharge the supply. Aquifers are natural filters that trap sediment and other particles, providing natural purification of the groundwater flowing through them.

Thousands of people in British Columbia rely on aquifer groundwater to meet their needs for both community and domestic water supplies, as well as for industrial and agricultural purposes.

For many users, especially those over the Hopington Aquifer in Langley, groundwater is the only source of water readily available. The groundwater's subsurface location offers a degree of natural protection from contamination and storage for future water use.

However, in order to sustain the water supply needed on a daily basis, the aquifer must be protected and allowed to recharge. Development impedes the aquifer's capabilities to recharge, as rain cannot permeate concrete or asphalt! Ongoing consideration to development over an aquifer is of great importance, especially in agricultural areas where farmers depend on their water supply to raise crops and livestock. Without those farmers, where do you suppose your food would come from?

Possible contamination must also be considered as this can occur through faulty septic tanks, excessive fertilizers, gasoline stations etc. Limiting use of chemicals and pesticides over the aquifer is crucial.

The Lower Mainland of British Columbia is a natural rain forest - but the water must always be protected as life cannot exist without it.

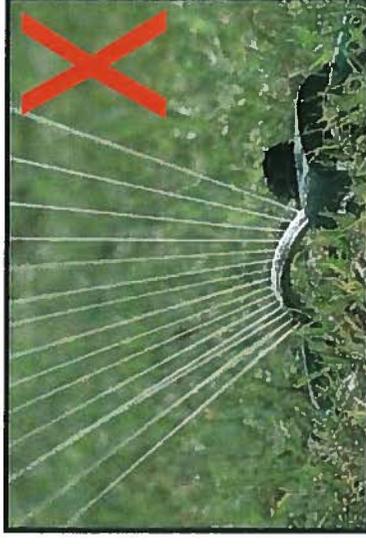
What this means to YOU

One of the more important aspects of living responsibly on an aquifer is how you manage your water, especially during the summer months.

Think ahead - when planning your landscape, choose drought-tolerant plant materials. There is a wide variety of perennials, trees and shrubs that are designed for 'xeriscaping' - that is landscaping with the least amount of water required. The LSAF website will be compiling a list of drought-tolerant materials to help you in designing a truly water-wise garden.



Also keep in mind that lawns do not need to be watered constantly - grass will naturally go dormant when not watered, but will return once the fall rains begin. Don't use overhead or in-ground sprinklers - instead use a watering can or watering wand to selectively take care of those plants that need it.



If you wash your car, go to a local carwash that uses Metro Vancouver water - don't waste your precious aquifer water just so that your car shines a little brighter!

And remember that the aquifer recharges during our rainy season, so consider that when you are thinking of putting in that asphalt or concrete driveway - the water can only recharge if it can GET through the soil, so consider gravel as an environmentally friendly alternative.