

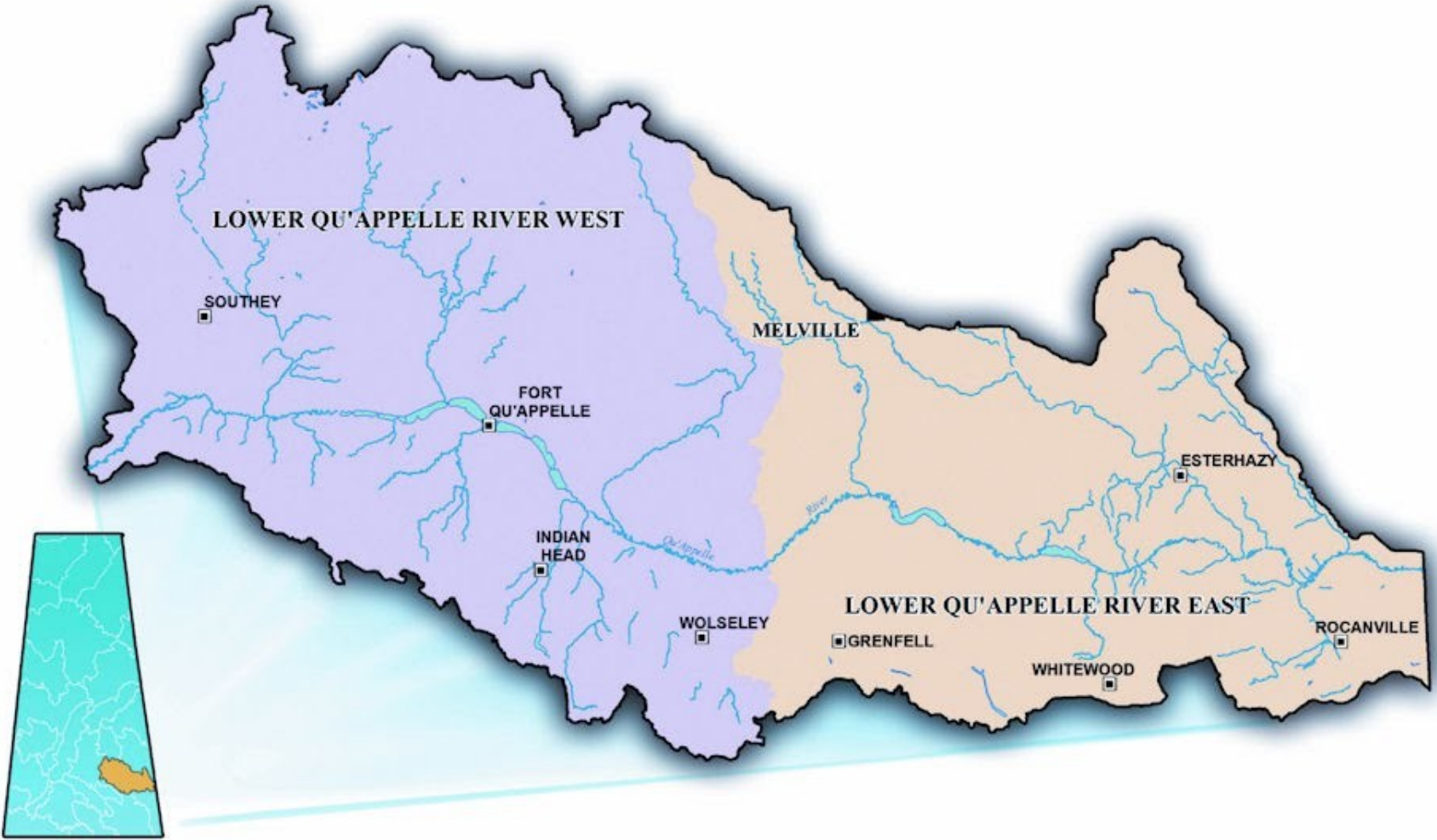




**Lower Qu'Appelle
Watershed
Stewards**



Lower Qu'Appelle Watershed Stewards Inc.



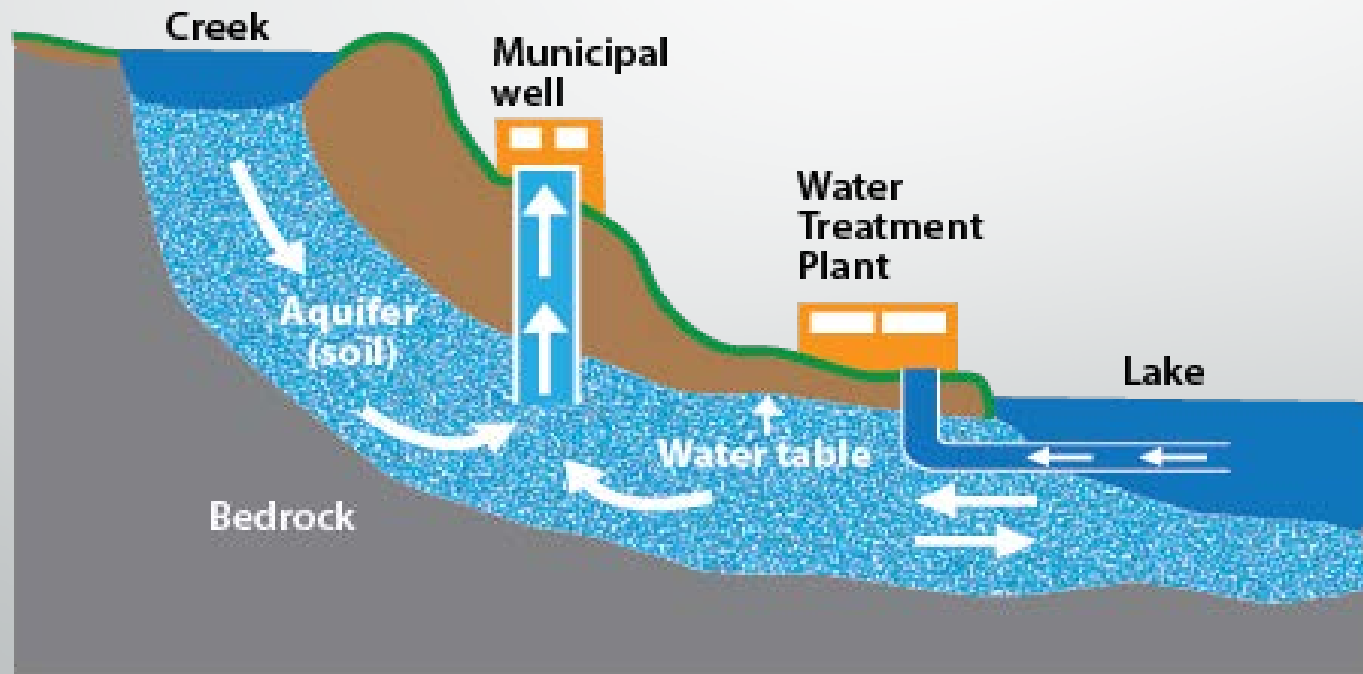


We are blessed....

- To have a good supply of safe, clean drinking water and some of the best water in the world.
- Lakes and rivers cover more than 12% of our province with an abundance of groundwater. BUT that means it's a resource we sometimes take for granted which may lead us to problems.
- Contamination can occur naturally but can occur as a result of accidents, carelessness, forgetfulness or even ignorance.

What is the definition of Source Water?

Source water is the raw, untreated surface or ground water from which drinking water is withdrawn for public drinking water supplies and private wells.



Values and Principles

- Establishing a sustainable balance in water management requires maintaining healthy, natural, ecosystems, disturbing natural water systems as little as possible and reducing pollutants as much as possible.
- To help achieve safe, clean and sustainable drinking water, there are several principles to guide us.



✓ Human Health is our primary concern;

✓ Preventing Risks

.....to drinking water is a high priority;

✓ Openness and Clear Communication

.....will ensure everyone understands and carries out their responsibilities;

✓ Realistic Pricing

.....acknowledges the value of safe drinking water;

✓ Accurate and Timely information

.....about water problems and solutions is essential for waterworks owners, operators, regulators and users; and

✓ All Levels of Governments and Citizens Must Work Together

.....to develop and implement water management solutions.

Source Water Protection and Safe Drinking Water

- LQWS encourages and promotes the benefits of well water quality testing and shock chlorination and also for dugouts that are used for human consumption.
- We promote “best practices” to protect surface water sources.

Water Quality in our Lakes

- Water Quality in the Lower Qu'Appelle Lakes will be able to support various uses, including supporting aquatic life, industry and recreation.
- Notional targets currently set as benchmarks by the Prairie Provinces Water Board, to compare the state of water quality and are challenged by LQWS. Action items were set in place to challenge these targets.
- Another key action was a development of a comprehensive watershed program to inform stakeholders of assessments of changes in water quality over time; and water quality concerns including established and emerging issues.

Water Quantity and Flow

- We have placed a significant value on our lakes and are valued in terms of their economic, recreation, aesthetic and cultural significance.
- Water quantity and flow in our lakes will be able to support industry, recreation and fishing activities under a range of conditions including drought, flood and everything in between.
- Along with WSA, we examine the “loading” of nutrients in the system using water quality, water quantity and flow related parameters to better understand the relationship between nutrients build-up and water flow.
- We will work with MoE to determine fish species to support sustainable populations of the species.

Agriculture

- Incentives and education from the CAP program is used to reduce the impact of agricultural practices. We support the programs that promote “best management practices”. For eg. zero till, forage conversions, pasture management and nutrient management.
- Currently the program is a cost shared program.
- We have in the past worked with producers making them aware of the water quality goals within our watershed. For eg. overwintering sites being properly managed.

Upland Water Management

- Upland water management – drainage of ag lands.
- We've assisted several producers within our watershed to close illegal drainage
- Encourage all producers to retain wetlands.

Wastewater Management

- Wastewater effluent has the potential to influence nutrient and pathogen concentrations in our watershed.
- Wastewater systems include community systems owned by municipalities and First Nations, and private sewage systems.
- Municipal wastewater collection and treatment systems are regulated by WSA. The management of wastewater systems in First Nations communities is shared among Band Councils, Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and Health Canada. Private Sewage Systems are controlled by the Ministry of Health.

Industry

- Agriculture and mining are two important industries present in our watershed and a significant portion of our land base is dedicated to ag production.
- Mining sector is another important economic driver, and supporting existing and proposed mining industry requires a reliable water source.

What do we think when there is a proposed mine?

We panic....

- Where is the water coming from;
- Our community is going to be dusty and dirty;
- What is going to happen to the wildlife and aquatic life;
- Why is our government letting this happen?.

Then we get angry.....

- Well.....they didn't include us, no one asked us if this was ok.
- Governments didn't include us in any sort of negotiations.
- Where is the "Duty to Consult"? That didn't happen!
- Then the letter writing campaigns start, social media, community meetings start up, coffee shop talks initiate new thoughts and anger.



So what is it that we really want?

- We want clear and true communications from all parties involved.
- We want a say in what happens to our environment.
- We want to be educated and kept informed of all activities
- We want TRANSPERANCY!



LQWS wants...

- Source water protection programs source water management, optimized water treatment, and water quality monitoring are essential components to provide safe drinkable water.
- When lakes, rivers, and reservoirs are used as source waters, water supply is the highest priority use of the water body and non-compatible uses should be minimized in the lake and along the shoreline.
- Source water protection programs should identify management strategies that will minimize nutrients, algae, turbidity and organic loading.
- Source water protection should manage watersheds to prevent degradation of water quality from point and non point sources of pollution, chemical spills, wildfires, storm impacts, and emerging contaminants.
- As water users, we need to assess the watershed for potential sources of contamination, impacts from upstream or nearby activities and land uses, emergencies and extreme weather events.
- Finally, water utilities and their customers should help finance the cost of a SWP program.

What else.....

- Fish and Fish Habitat – a study for fish and fish habitat included watercourses and tributaries found within the area and what species are known to habitat near by. Are they common, endangered or on the Species at Risk?
- Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat – does this affect protected wildlife, nesting habitat for migratory birds. (We leave this in the hands of MoE)

Questions we would have

- What mitigation measures are in place for: Direct habitat loss as a result of the projects placement;
- Erosion from construction activities into creeks and tributaries;
- Ground subsidence as a result of solution mining; and
- Site water management (run off, operational discharge).
- Will there be a Environmental Management Protection Plan? A emergency response plan?
- What about Environmental Monitoring? During and after? (Ecological, Groundwater, Surface water, Brine ponds, soil sampling).