



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Brazeau County Hosts Working Well Workshop November 29th

BRAZEAU COUNTY, November 15, 2018 — If you'd like to find out if your groundwater is at risk and learn what you can do to protect your well, **attend a free water well management workshop** being hosted by Brazeau County, and presented by the Working Well Program, with technical expertise from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Health Services and licensed water well drillers on **Thursday, November 29, 2018** at the Brazeau County office, 7401 Twp Rd 494.

This hands-on, informative workshop is designed to help water well owners better understand and manage their precious groundwater supplies.

Have you had your well water tested in the last two years? Have old unused wells on your property been properly sealed and decommissioned? Have you ever shock chlorinated your well? Do you know the age and depth of your well, or how it was constructed? According to Alberta water specialist Ken Williamson, if you answered no to any of these questions, your groundwater supply could be at risk. Despite the fact that 450,000 Albertans rely on groundwater for household use, few know that proper water well construction, siting, and maintenance can help protect your well from contamination.

It is also important to regularly test and document the quality and quantity of water from your well. By keeping good records you can see how water quality and well performance has changed over time. Proper well maintenance and operation can save you costly repairs and ensure your well water yields are sustained over many years.

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For more information or to register for this upcoming workshop please contact:

Nancy Chambers

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Backgrounder

A misunderstood resource

Despite its importance, many Albertans give little thought to groundwater and where it comes from. It is a common belief that groundwater comes from fast flowing underground rivers and lakes. This is not true. Groundwater is the water that fills the cracks and spaces between soil particles, sand grains and rock. An aquifer is simply a water-bearing zone in the ground where there are interconnected cracks and spaces (e.g. sand, gravel or fractured shale) that allow groundwater to move freely.

It is also a little known fact that groundwater and surface water are connected. In some areas groundwater can be a source of recharge for streams, lakes and dugouts. In other areas water from rivers, lakes, snowmelt and rain seeps into the ground, where it trickles downward until it reaches the water table. The water table is the point at which the ground is completely saturated with water. Below the water table, the spaces between every grain of soil and rock are completely filled with water.

Water, the great 'dissolver'

Water is the world's greatest solvent: it tries to dissolve everything it comes in contact with. This means manure, pesticides and fertilizers over-applied to lawns and fields can be carried by rain or snowmelt seeping down through the soil to the water table. Sewage from poorly maintained septic systems or spilled and improperly disposed-of chemicals can similarly seep into groundwater.

If you have highly permeable soils on your land, such as sand or gravel, your groundwater could be at higher risk, because these soils are poor filters. Having abandoned, poorly constructed or infrequently maintained wells on your property is even more risky because such structures could be draining surface water and everything it carries directly into your aquifer. The water well management workshop offers all the information you need to protect and maintain your well.

Celebrating 10 years of Working Well

This year marks the 10th year the Working Well program partners have been bringing water well management workshops and information resources to Albertans. Since its launch in 2008, Working Well has become a very successful and in-demand program for rural Albertans, providing them with the information and resources they need to manage their water wells and protect Alberta's groundwater resources. Over the past 10 years, the Working Well program has delivered 254 workshops to more than 6,900 people in 172 different communities across Alberta.

The success of this program is due to the hard work and dedication of a collaborative team of committed employees from Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Health, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Health Services and individuals from the Alberta Water Well Drilling Association, as well as the support of rural municipalities and other organizations from across the province.

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For more information about the Working Well Program contact:

Alberta Environment and Parks Information Centre
Call Toll Free Alberta: 310-3773 Outside Alberta: 1 780 944-0313 Toll Free: 1 877 944-0313
Email: AEP.Info-Centre@gov.ab.ca Web: <http://workingwell.alberta.ca>

For more information on water well maintenance contact:

Ag-Info Centre
Toll free in Alberta: 780-310-FARM (3276)

