

From: Klaus and Betty
Sent: April-27-10 11:39 PM
To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX
Subject: INPUT TO WATER ACT

Hello Mr.Penner,

Our concern in Maple Ridge has to do with the protection of our groundwater source, the Grant Hill Aquifer. There are 450 households dependent on this water source, some 115 of those are in the ALR. Our local government has placed a high priority for development by placing the upper portion which includes our remaining treed watershed in the Urban Reserve. There has been nothing forthcoming from our local government, that this vulnerable bedrock aquifer will be protected. There has also been no solutions put forward to the community to assure us that when the groundwater source becomes affected by urbanization, that city water will be brought in to mitigate the impact caused by these developments. Everyone in power has chosen to ignore our concerns and continue to keep this area in the Urban Reserve. The Ministry of Environment has for 5 years, been monitoring our wells and we have as a community organized a water monitoring group, been keeping records of quality and quantity of wells throughout the Grant Hill Aquifer for the past 5 years.

I would like not only stronger language in the protection of our natural resource, but language that will legislate protection of drinking water sources such as ours. We attended the meeting held in Abbotsford last year when your new booklet and the living water idea was presented. I hope that is new act will not only protect groundwater from large extractions, but protect drinking water quality and quantity affected by urbanization. This aquifer was identified in the early 1990's and it is not acceptable for the residents to have to fight to protect their essential right to clean drinking water, quantity levels that will enable farming to take place in the ALR lands and levels which will allow for normal household use and function.

The province owns a quarter section of land in the Grant Hill Aquifer beside the Municipally owned lands at the top of our treed watershed. I would like to ask the Province to seriously consider protecting our aquifer by putting the quarter section of land owned by the Province into Conservation Protection. I would ask that the Province set the role model for this as we as citizens have been working hard over the past 5 years through aquifer protection signage, teaching the citizens how to keep their wells and septic clean, holding a hazardous waste collection day and holding many evening sessions with speakers from the province and Fraser Health to provide educational talks for our community. We have asked our local government to include the protection of our aquifer in our OCP, but it remains in the Urban Reserve.

I would like direction from the Province and assistance with this request. We have worked with Bob Brown in the Ministry of Environment, Mike Simpson MOE, Gwynn Graham Environment Canada, Tony Pellett ALC.
Thank you for your consideration and I would ask that you reply to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Betty von Hardenberg
TAPS Thornhill Aquifer Protection Study