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Town of Gibsons Releases Update to Aquifer Mapping Study

June 7, 2022 – The Town of Gibsons today released an update to the Aquifer Mapping Study, which was first undertaken from 2009 to 2013. The new report integrates all hydrogeological data collected by the Town since 2013, updates the related geological and numerical groundwater model, and assesses the long-term sustainable supply from the Gibsons Aquifer under various demand and climate conditions.

Key findings in the report, which was prepared by Waterline Resources, include:

- Since 2013, considerable progress has been made in better understanding the movement and cycling of water in the Gibsons Aquifer, due to the Town’s successful implementation of a comprehensive groundwater monitoring program;
- The Gibsons Aquifer appears to comprise three separate “lobes” which are hydraulically disconnected from each other beneath the ground, but which share a common recharge area;
- Predictive modeling indicates the Gibsons Aquifer can meet future demand as the Town’s population grows to approximately 10,000 at full buildout.

“This update provides all stakeholders – the Town, community members, local governments and the Province – with valuable new information that can guide responsible decision-making about our most precious resource,” said Mayor Bill Beamish. *“It also provides clear direction for actions we can take today, to protect the aquifer in perpetuity.”*

Waterline’s recommendations for future initiatives include: assessing the artesian overflow from Town Wells #1 and #4 that occurs when these wells are not pumping; installing two shallow monitoring wells in Lower Gibsons; and collaborating closely with the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD), Ministry of Forests and other stakeholders to proactively monitor the Aquifer and protect shared watersheds.

“As the SCRD continues work on the Church Road Well Field project, we look forward to continued collaboration with the Town of Gibsons to better understand the Gibsons Aquifer,” said Darnelda Siegers, SCRD Board Chair. *“The aquifer has significant importance for the future of water supply on the Sunshine Coast and this study will ensure we make the right decisions so it is protected for generations to come.”*

More information on the Aquifer Mapping Study:

gibsons.ca/aquifer-mapping.

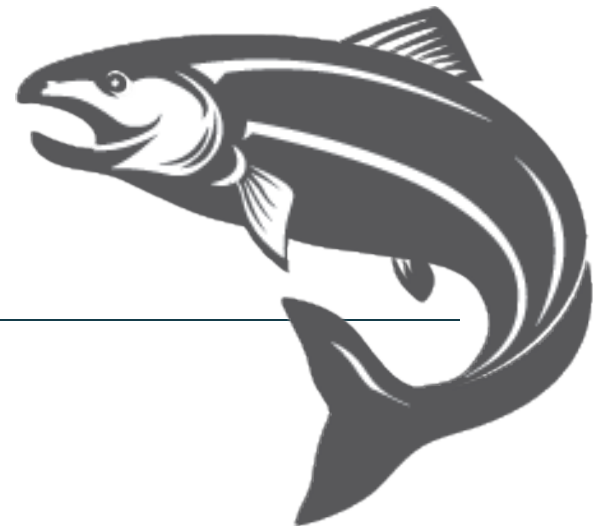
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“Nature is our most valuable asset”