



qathet
REGIONAL DISTRICT

Savary Island Groundwater Assessment 2024

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Assessment of Groundwater Resources on Savary Island project and why is it being done?

The qathet Regional District (qRD) wants to improve the understanding of groundwater resources on Savary Island. The last island-wide water study was completed in 1996, nearly thirty years ago. The qRD wants to understand how issues related to water will influence planning, development and quality of life on the island now and in the future. The current study will build on previous work and provide an update on aquifer conditions. The results of the groundwater resource assessment are intended to assist with land use planning and updating the Savary Island Community Plan. Engagement with the community and identification of practical actions that can help protect water resources on Savary Island are also important outcomes of the project.

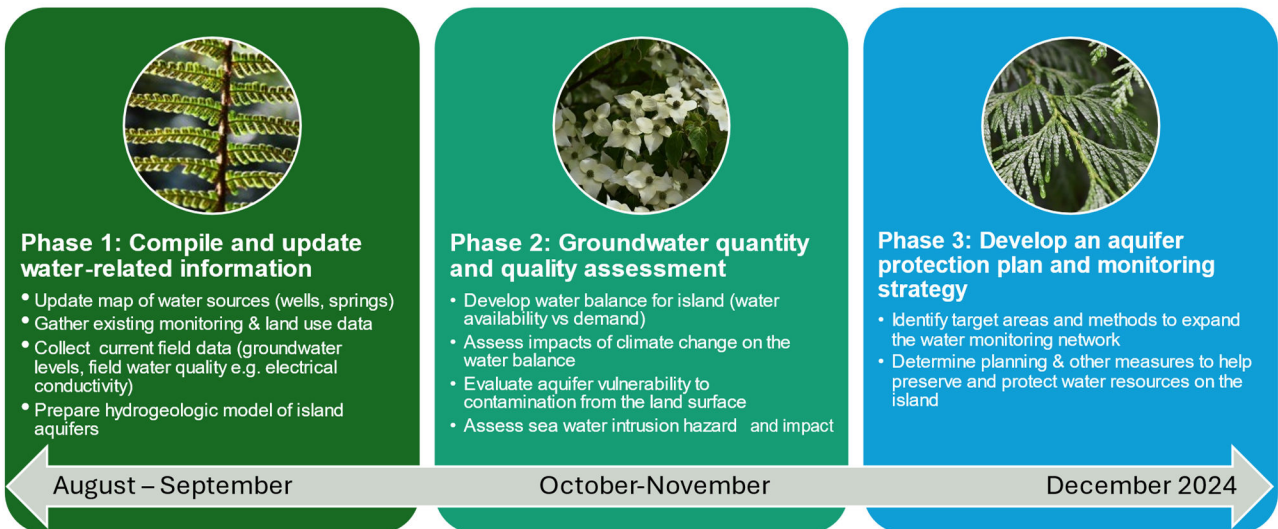
Photo: Lotus Johnson 2021



2. What will the Savary Island groundwater resource assessment project involve:

The project scope and timeline are shown below.

Project scope & timeline



The project will not include drilling of new wells.

3. What is the source of funding for the project?

The project is being funded by the qathet Regional District.

4. Should I register my well in the Groundwater and Wells and Aquifers database.

The provincial [Groundwater Wells and Aquifers \(GWELLS\)](#) database records the locations and construction information for wells in BC. The database is an essential resource to understand the locations and sources of groundwater used by individuals and communities.

In 2016, when the *Water Sustainability Act* came into effect, driller submission of construction records for new and altered wells became mandatory. Before this, submission was voluntary.



If an older domestic well is not in the GWELLS database, [a registration form](#) can be submitted by the well owner to the province, using information on its location, depth and other characteristics.

For volunteers participating in the field component of the Savary Island project, information gathered may also be useful to assist with submitting a well registration.

For more information on well registration see: [Domestic Well Registration - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

5. *How do I know what kind of well I have?*

The pictures below show different types of wells. Your well may look slightly different than this.

Types of wells



Excavated (dug) wells are typically larger in diameter and shallow, with sides made of cement or wood cribbing



Drilled wells for household use are usually 6 inches in diameter with a steel casing and are usually deeper than dug or driven wells



Sand point (driven) wells are constructed using a cylindrical pipe with a screened/perforated section and pointed end that is hammered into the ground. They are usually shallower than drilled wells, with a smaller diameter steel casing (e.g. 2 inches)

6. *What are the requirements for groundwater licensing?*

The Savary Island study will provide information to participants to understand regulatory requirements.



Under the *Water Sustainability Act*, a groundwater license is required for use of groundwater for non-domestic purposes, such as for municipal water supply systems, commercial and industrial use, and agricultural irrigation.

A groundwater license is not required for domestic purposes, such as water used in a private household or dwelling, watering of a household garden up to 1000 m² or 0.25 acres in area, fire prevention, and water used for domestic pets or poultry kept for household use.

Licensing groundwater is important to protect aquifers, streams, and water users, including businesses that require water for their operations. A license indicates the source, amount and timing of when water can be used. The effects of groundwater pumping on others, including domestic users, and on hydraulically connected streams are considered in water licence decisions, and influence conditions included in the license.

For more information see [Requirements for Groundwater Users - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](http://www.gov.bc.ca)

7. Where can I find out more about wells and groundwater protection

Links to recommended resources

[Groundwater Wells and Aquifers Database](#)

[Qualified Well Driller and Well Pump Installer Registry](#)

[Information for well owners \(BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship\)](#)

[Well Water Testing Guidance \(BC Ministry of Health\)](#)

[Groundwater Level Interactive Website \(Provincial Observation Well Monitoring Network\)](#)

[BC Groundwater Association Groundwater Protection Regulation Handbook \(2017\)](#)

[iMap BC Mapping Tool](#)



8. How can I find out more about the project?

See the latest news posted on the qRD project website qathet.ca/savarygroundwater and signup for email updates.

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