

# GOAL

Develop and implement an **Integrated Freshwater Management Plan** for Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area that aims to ensure a sustainable supply of freshwater for human use and will protect against over-demand and degradation of the natural systems that depend on it.



Quantify freshwater available on island-scale



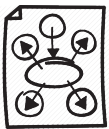
Optimize efficiency of water resource demands



Monitor quality in drinking water lakes



Review policy and incentives that may promote conservation and efficiency recommendations



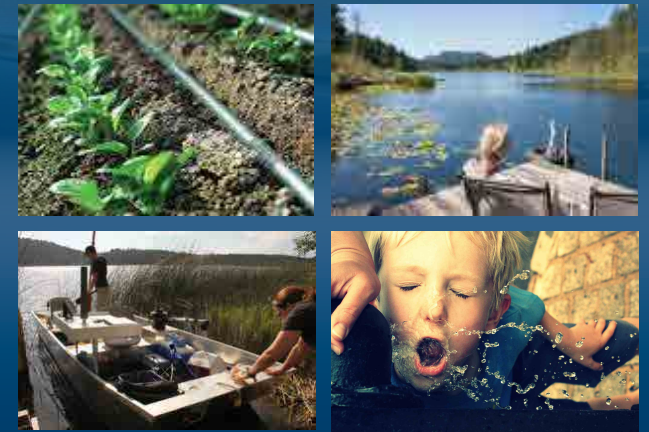
Collaboratively create and implement Integrated Freshwater Management Plan



The Integrated Watershed Management Program was initiated by SSIWPA in recognition of a concern that freshwater sources on Salt Spring Island are stressed, and are at or near the sustainable limits of their capacity.



## Integrated Freshwater Management Program



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## ONGOING IFWM PROGRAM WORK IN 2018-19:

**Nutrient and hydrometric monitoring** in St. Mary, Maxwell, + Cusheon Lake watersheds.

**Data collection** for updated water availability and climate change assessment for Maxwell Lake watershed. - NSSWD

Conservation and Efficiency working group will present it's **assessment of conservation strategies** for Salt Spring Island.

SSIWPA member agency staff will integrate **Aquifer Mapping and Groundwater Budgets, and Agricultural Water Demand Model** project results.

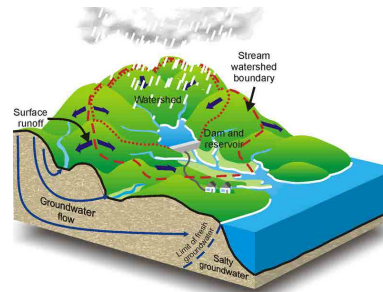
## PROJECTS 2018-2019

New data will be collected and analyzed in these three focus projects:

### Groundwater Wells Monitoring Pilot Project

Groundwater supplies approximately half of the water needs for the Salt Spring Island community and is an ecological component of our watersheds. Long-term monitoring of groundwater levels is integral for watershed protection and management of groundwater resources.

In addition to the three Provincial Groundwater Observation Network locations, the Salt Spring Island Groundwater Wells Monitoring Pilot Project will establish up to twelve automated groundwater monitoring locations across the island in volunteered domestic groundwater wells to measure hourly water table fluctuations and groundwater temperature changes. This year-long pilot project is funded by a Real Estate Foundation of BC Freshwater Sustainability grant and SSIWPA agency contributions. Select wells may convert to long term monitoring sites.



### Groundwater Wells Inventory Project

Prior to the release of the BC Water Sustainability Act on February 29, 2016, domestic groundwater well registration was voluntary and hundreds of drilled wells on Salt Spring are not registered. Islands Trust is coordinating with Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources, and Rural Development to improve the provincial wells registry.

As part of Salt Spring Island Groundwater Wells Inventory Project, Islands Trust collated over 150 professional groundwater reports from subdivision applications from the past 30 years, discovering nearly 400 unregistered groundwater well records. These well records will be included in the provincial wells registry to improve the overall functionality of the registry and to inform groundwater resource management and watershed protection.

### Cusheon Lake Monitoring project

Lake level and outflow to Cusheon Creek will be monitored continuously in 2018-19 fiscal year to provide data for water availability analysis.

Agencies are collaborating to develop an expanded nutrient monitoring program in Cusheon Lake.

