

# Devon Canada Devon Water Bulletin

June 2009

## Why a Devon Water Bulletin?

Water has become a very topical issue in the province. Significant demand for fresh water due to population growth, agricultural and industrial development, coupled with recent droughts, has raised concerns. Devon Canada was quick to recognize the need for good water management. In 2003, a Devon Corporate Policy on Water Management was instituted to help protect this valuable resource. Devon is committed to the principles of minimization of use, conservation, and recycling in all aspects of operations.

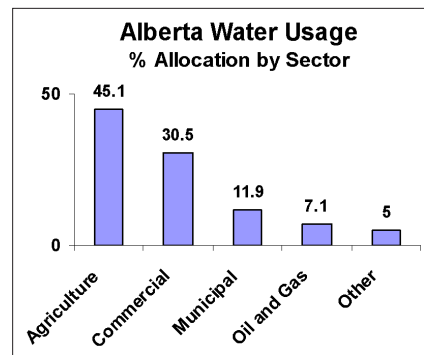
## How much do we use?

The purpose of this water bulletin is to raise awareness of what Devon is doing with respect with water. The first question often asked is "How much water does Devon use?" Our average usage over the last three years was 1.95 million m<sup>3</sup> of fresh water (1 m<sup>3</sup> = 1 000 L). This is certainly a lot of water in terms of swimming pools filled! However, in terms of river volumes, this equates to about 14 minutes of the current flow of the Peace River.

Overall, the oil industry is a relatively small water user in the province. Just 7.1 % of all the water allocated in the province goes to the oil industry. Less than half that amount is actually used.

## Why do we use water?

About 90% of Devon's fresh water use is for downhole injection to enable oil recovery. Our Swan Hills operation is the largest user. Water in Swan Hills is provided by a storage reservoir that collects surface run off. A concern is that downhole injection removes water from the active hydrologic cycle. Where feasible, Devon uses saline



water for injection purposes. For example, Jackfish uses 100% saline water for steam injection. Overall, downhole injection by the oil industry accounts for a relatively small percentage (0.5%) of fresh water allocations in the province.

## Water Use Reduction

Since 2001, Devon's fresh water use has declined by over 40%. This reduction is due to the fact that maturing oilfields require

less water for oil recovery. It is also due to initiatives in the field that have lowered our use (see future edition of this bulletin).

## Devon's Water Task Group

In addition to water usage, there are a range of water issues that are being managed through the efforts of Devon's Water Task Group. Brent Moore (Environment Advisor) is working with Apu Sharma (Exploitation Engineer) under the direction of Kevin Stashin (VP Exploitation), Dave Karg (Team Lead Environment), and Colin McGovern (Manager EHS).

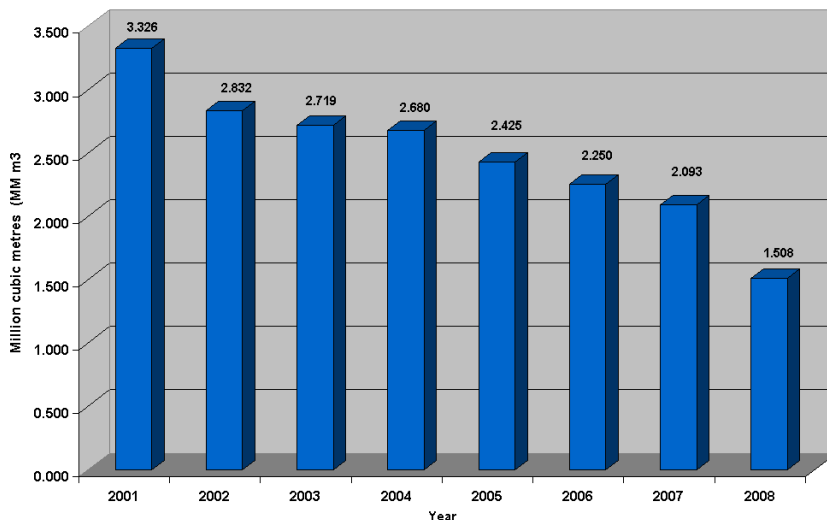
## Water for Life

An ongoing focus of the Water Task Group has been to ensure that Devon remains in compliance with all the goals and targets of the Alberta Water For Life Strategy. The three goals of the strategy are: a safe and secure drinking water supply; healthy aquatic ecosystems; and reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy. A critical goal is a 30% increase in water use efficiency by 2015. Based on our data to date, Devon is well on its way to meeting that target!



L-R: Apu Sharma, Dave Karg, Brent Moore, Colin McGovern. Missing - Kevin Stashin

Devon Canada Water Use: 2001-2008



Devon's fresh water use has declined by over 40% since 2001. The large decline in 2008 was mainly due to a temporary reduction in fresh water injection at Swan Hills.

## In the coming months, look for water bulletins on these topics:

- Industry initiatives to conserve water
- Understanding water use from the Athabasca River Basin
- The new Wetland policy - its impact to industry and Devon

**If you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please contact Brent Moore at 780 980 3078**