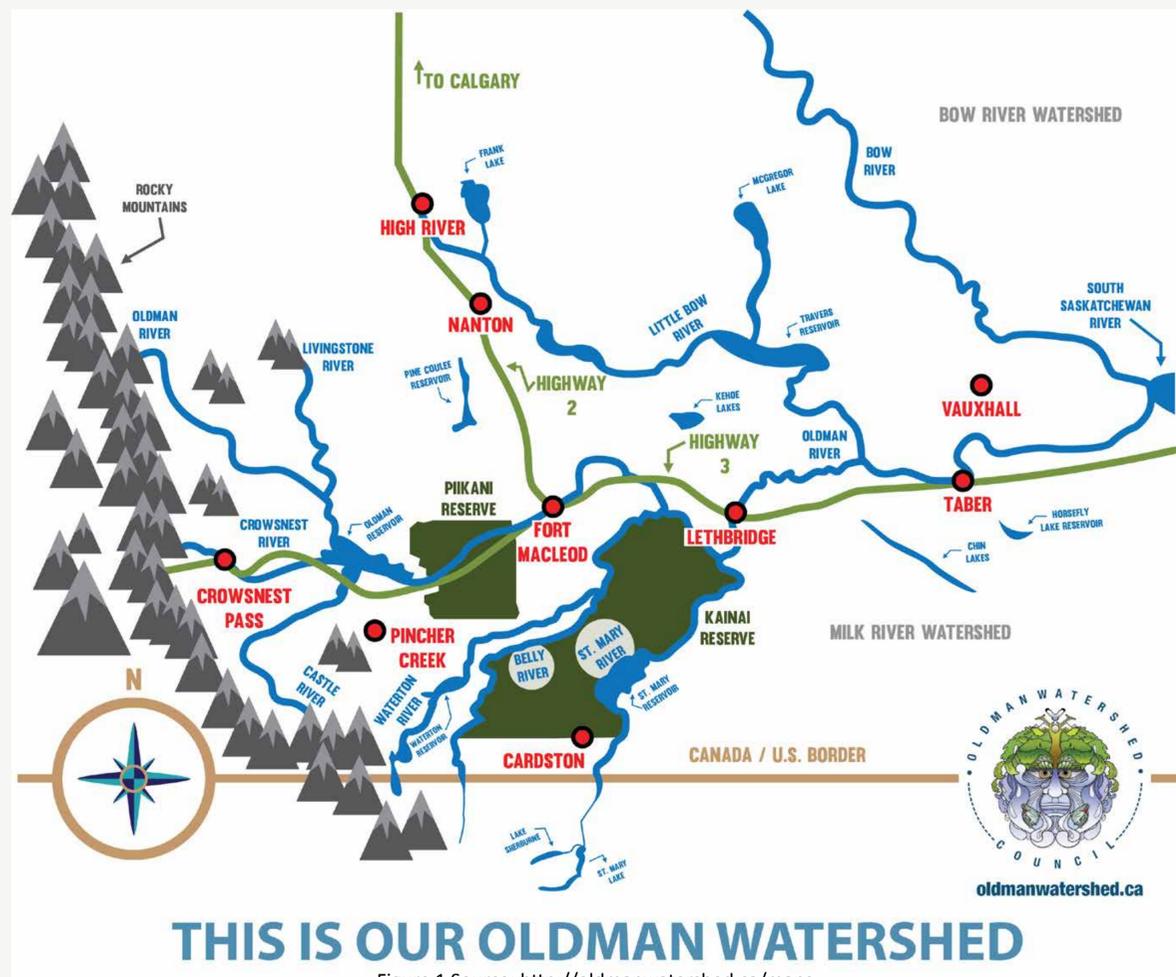


# Water Meters

## BENEFITS

### Promote environmental stewardship

- The Crowsnest Pass is located at the headwaters of the Oldman Basin on the east side of the Continental Divide at the British Columbia/Alberta border and utilizes mainly groundwater as a source for consumption water.
- Residents directly downstream from the Crowsnest Pass, along with communities as far east as Saskatchewan and south into Montana depend on the water that flows into the basin for consumption and irrigation (Oldman Watershed Council, n.d., para. 1&3).
- There is a level of social responsibility for all communities within this region to promote water conservation efforts by any means possible.



### Improve utility account maintenance

- To obtain accurate records of water consumption
  - In the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass, there are many different residents that make up the community and the flat-rate services that fit the average user may not accurately reflect the actual water consumption for these users. For example, seniors and seasonal residents, who make up a substantial portion of the population, often times use very little water and would likely pay less on a user-pay system. Alternatively, larger families and commercial users would be more appropriately billed for their level of use. Water meters would ensure that all users are paying for their services on a scaled and more accurate level.

### Increase efficiencies in water and wastewater management

- Locate leaks and infrastructure failures more quickly
  - Water meters have the potential to detect failures in the system when the amount pumped from the ground sources do not equal what is being delivered to the customer, potentially fixing the problems before they cause failures on a much larger scale.
- Universal community water metering will likely be a requirement in the near future in order to obtain Provincial and Federal grants for water capital projects
  - The Municipality has been a recipient of funding from Alberta Transportation via the Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership, which encourages water conservation through consumption-based rate structures. In this particular case, rather than seeing additional funding, "municipalities could be subject to a 10 percent reduction in grants if they have no metering in place" (Alberta Transportation, n.d.).