



WATER DEPARTMENT  
91 GRAPEVINE RD.  
WENHAM, MA 01984

Wenham's municipal wells and all the private wells in the Ipswich River basin draw water from the same groundwater source; the "same bucket" so to speak. All withdrawals within the basin reduce the amount of groundwater discharge to the river. Therefore, we all share the resource and the responsibility to conserve that resource when it is limited.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (*MassDEP*) has the authority to impose water consumption regulations, and it does this by mandating the Wenham Water Department, as it does other community water departments, when to enact water bans and the extent of the restrictions. Concern over water levels in the Ipswich River prompted the *MassDEP* to classify the Ipswich River as a "High Stress Basin." This determination means that ALL water used in the basin must follow local watering restrictions, as the Water Management Act of 1986 has classified all water as belonging to all citizens.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008, the Town voted to amend Chapter XXI (Water Use Restrictions) of the Town Bylaws to include private wells which includes fines for any violations. When the Wenham Water Department issues a water ban, water from both the town wells and any private wells are included in the ban.