“From snowy caps to Love-land taps.” Yes, it’s a bit corny, but the slogan is as accurate today as it was decades ago when it was coined by the City’s Water Division. Loveland’s primary water source is snow pack from the Big Thompson and Colorado River basins on both sides of the Continental Divide west of the city.

The Water Division’s responsibility is to keep quality water flowing into the community. Constant attention is required to environmental, engineering and financial considerations.

The water folks are taking care of business, for today’s water meets the City’s requirements for both quantity and quality, and at very low cost to customers.

The physical source of Loveland’s water is both obvious and remarkable. Much of the city’s supply comes from the snow pack on the eastern side of the mountains west of the city. It flows into the Big Thompson River where it then meets the Thompson Treatment Plant and then enters pipelines for use in Loveland.

However, except for the big clue provided by the large brown pipe above Hwy. 34 at the mouth of the Big Thompson Canyon, many area folks don’t realize that about half of Loveland’s water comes from the Western Slope. It flows through pipes and tunnels from beyond Rocky Mountain National Park into the Big Thompson River here on the eastern side of the Continental Divide.

The Colorado-Big Thompson (C-BT) Project began in 1957, capturing water from mountain run-off in Lake Granby. The water flows through the mountains in a large tunnel to the eastern side, supplying Loveland and many other municipalities and suburbs from Wellington to Broomfield and benifiting communities as far east as Sterling and Julesburg.

Loveland’s share of the C-BT Project is only three percent. It should be remembered that the physical existence of water and the rights of ownership are not at all the same. For example, Loveland doesn’t own and can’t use all the water in the Big Thompson River. And the water in Lake Loveland belongs to Greetly.

Acquiring water rights for the growing community of Loveland is a continuing process that City water staffs take pride in.

Since its origin in the 1920s, the City’s Water Treatment Plant along the Big Thompson River and northwest of Devil’s Backbone has been supplying quality drinking water to Loveland. Today the plant can provide up to 30 million gallons a day of low cost, high quality water for the community.

Quality, efficiency and safety are the objectives the plant achieves on a daily basis. Loveland’s water quality meets or exceeds numerous tests and requirements as it flows down into town through hundreds of miles of pipelines to homeowner’s faucets. Ensuring the safety of operated personnel and maintaining among the very lowest usage fees of consumers from other cities and states.

Significant water-use restrictions in Loveland since 1981. (Restrictions existed briefly in 2003, then quickly rescinded.) Levels of water supply resulting from winter mountain snow and seasonal local precipitation have varied, yet thanks to wiser use by Loveland residents, restrictions and “water cops” have been unnecessary and will not be needed this summer.

Expansion of the Green Ridge Glade Reservoir, the Water Treatment Plant and construction of three large water tanks around town have also smoothed supply, but smart use by Loveland’s water customers deserves the most credit.

Summer irrigation of lawns and gardens caused the greatest increase in demand. During an average day in the winter, Loveland consumes about 6 million gallons a day. Thursday, May 25th plans for further capacity increases, up to about 38 million gallons a day in 2025, after which a second treatment plant could be construct-

The increases have been and would continue to be funded primarily through fees paid as new development occurs.

The actual treatment of the raw water is a three-stage process that takes a few hours at the plant. A sedimentation stage settles out the larger particles, followed by a filtration stage that removes the smaller, microscopic-size impurities. Lastly, a disinfection process using chlorine kills all pathogens, resulting in clean, good-tasting water for our homes and businesses.

The City’s water staff happily point out that the fact that Loveland’s supply begins with clean, Rocky Mountain water helps make the quality and taste the envy of consumers from other cities and states. And the 500 ft. elevation difference from the plant to town means that gravity, not pumps, provides the delivery.

Top 10 Water Saving Tips
1. Water lawn only when needed. (Saves 750-1,500 gals/month)
2. Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints (Saves 600-900 gals/month)
3. Don’t leave the hose running when washing the car (Saves 150 gallons/wash)
4. Install a water-saving shower head or flow restrictors (Saves 500-800 gals/month)
5. Run only full loads in clothes washer, dishwasher (Saves 300-800 gals/month)
6. Don’t use toilet as ashtray or wastebasket (Saves 400-600 gals/month)
7. Don’t use clothes washer fills or hose restrictions (Saves 500-900 gals/month)
8. Don’t leave water dripping from taps (Saves 200-300 gals/month)
9. Capture and reuse tap water while waiting for hot water (Saves 200-300 gals/month)
10. Sprinkle the lawn, not the driveway (Saves 500-900 gals/month)