

Your property is in a Wellhead Protection Area

What is a Wellhead Protection Area?

A wellhead is simply the physical structure of a well above the ground. A wellhead protection area is the area surrounding the wellhead, through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward or reach the well. The various zones that make up a wellhead protection area are based on how long it would take a contaminant to get to the well.

Highgate Water Supply System

The Highgate water supply system consists of two wells that serve approximately 500 residents in the hamlet of Highgate. The system capacity is 527 m³/day.



Open House

Wednesday, November 18, 2009
3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Rudy Brown Building
Room 110 - Syngenta Classroom
University of Guelph - Ridgetown Campus
Ridgetown, On

Plan to attend this Open House to learn more about your local Wellhead Protection Area and see detailed maps showing what properties are within the zone.

What is a Drinking Water Threat?

A drinking water threat is an "activity or condition that adversely affects or has the potential to adversely affect the quality or quantity of any water that is or may be used as source of drinking water". As part of the study of the Highgate Well Head Protection Area, locations where potential significant threats could occur were enumerated. The table below indicates the number of locations where potential significant threats could occur. Note that numbers are yet to be determined for the activities pertaining to the application of agricultural and non-agricultural source material to land, and the application of commercial fertilizer to land and road salt.

Highgate Water Treatment Plant	Number of possible locations of Significant Threats
Well Head Protection Area-A	42
Well Head Protection Area-B, C and D	0

What is a Drinking Water Issue?

Under the Clean Water Act, drinking water quality issues must be identified. A drinking water quality issue is a physical, chemical, radioactive or microbial (eg. bacteria) parameter or other pathogenic (disease causing) organisms shown to deteriorate, or trending towards a deterioration, of raw (untreated) water quality for the purposes of drinking. The parameters which can be considered are identified in the Safe Drinking Water Act. The area and the activity contributing to a drinking water quality issue must also be identified. Identifying issues is a key step in the overall process of protecting drinking water quality. Should an issue be identified, the activities that contribute to this issue become a significant risk and must be dealt with through the source protection plan. Identifying issues involves a review of raw (untreated) water quality data, consideration of existing water treatment plant capabilities to deal with any potential problems and discussions with the plant operating authority. At the Highgate Water Treatment Plant, no drinking water quality issues (for untreated water) as a result of land use activities were identified.

