

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, or WHPA, is the area surrounding the wellhead, through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward or reach the well.

The size and shape of a Wellhead Protection Area is determined by a variety of factors, such as the way the land rises or falls, the amount of water being pumped from the well, the type of soil around the well, and the direction and speed that the groundwater travels.

The map below shows the extent of the WHPA for the **Mount Elgin Water Supply System**.

Open Houses

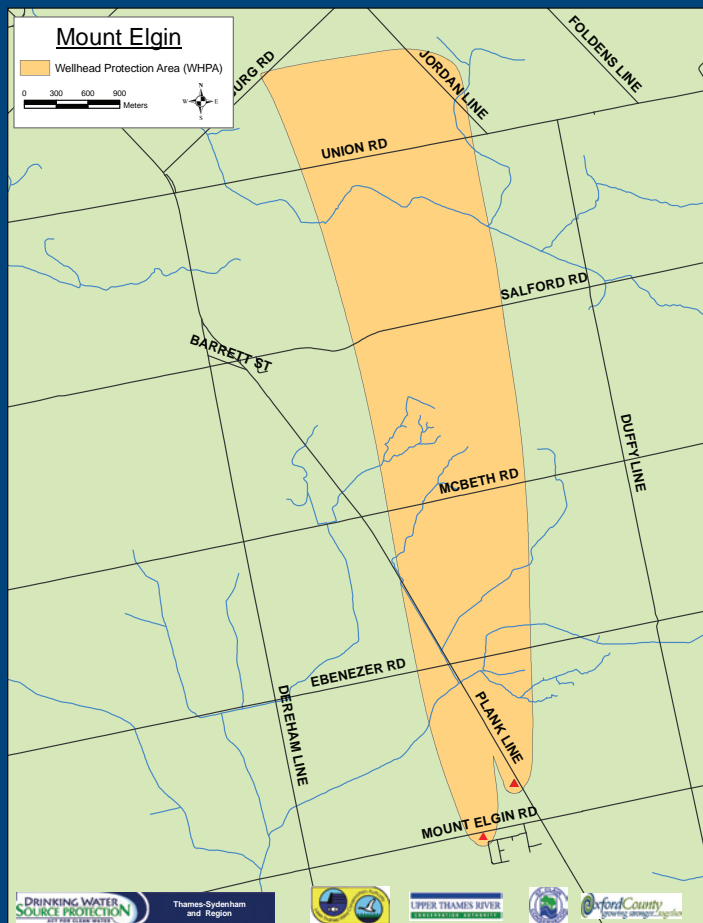
Monday, June 28, 3:00 - 7:00 pm

Mount Elgin & District Community Centre
333204 Plank Line, Mount Elgin

Monday, July 5, 3:00 - 7:00 pm

Woodstock Community Complex, Goff Hall
381 Finkle Street, Woodstock

Plan to attend one of these Open Houses to learn more about your local Wellhead Protection Area, and potential threats to drinking water.



Your municipality relies on a well to supply drinking water for you and/or your neighbours. To protect the health of the people in your community, it is important to protect this water from becoming polluted. That job starts with protecting the land around the well.

The Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee is hosting open houses to present the results of technical studies which identify the areas that need to be protected, any issues related to your local drinking water source, and the types of threats that could affect your drinking water.

The studies are focused on vulnerable areas near municipal wells (Wellhead Protection Areas or WHPAs). These are areas where particular care must be taken in the use and storage of materials that could contaminate water. Activities on properties in these vulnerable areas are being evaluated and ranked according to rules developed by the Ontario government. Potential threats to water will be categorized based on the level of risk: low, moderate or significant.

The **Mount Elgin Water Supply System** has one well that provides drinking water to 369 people. A second well is planned for the community. The rated capacity of the existing well is 328 m³/day. The red triangles on the map show the location of the wells (existing and future). The coloured area shows the extent of the Wellhead Protection Area.

What is a Drinking Water Threat?

Ontario's Ministry of the Environment defines a drinking water threat as 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 a source of drinking water."

Possible drinking water threats include:

- Waste disposal sites
- Systems that collect, store, transmit, treat or dispose of sewage
- Application, handling and storage of agricultural source material (manure), non-agricultural source material (bio-solids), commercial fertilizer, pesticide or road salt
- Snow storage
- Handling and storage of fuel, dense non-aqueous phase liquids, or organic solvents
- Management of runoff that contains aircraft de-icing chemicals
- Livestock grazing or pasturing land, outdoor confinement areas or farm-animal yards

The study of the **Mount Elgin Wellhead Protection Area** identified locations where potential significant threats could occur.



What is a Drinking Water Issue?

A drinking water quality issue is a substance or disease-causing organism that is causing the quality of raw (untreated) water used for drinking to deteriorate. An issue may also be identified when levels of those substances or organisms show a trend that may result in deteriorated water quality.

Identifying issues involves reviewing raw (untreated) water quality data, considering the ability of the existing water treatment system to deal with any potential problems, and discussing the conditions with the authority operating the system. The Safe Drinking Water Act identifies what substances (parameters) are reviewed.

If an issue is identified, the activities that contribute to this issue become a significant risk and must be dealt with through the Source Protection Plan.

In the **Mount Elgin Water Supply System**, no drinking water quality issues in raw (untreated) water resulting from land use activities were identified.



What are the benefits of protecting drinking water wellheads?

- Ensuring a long-term supply of safe, clean water
- Not having to drill new wells when old ones become contaminated
- Avoiding the need to clean up contaminated groundwater
- Reducing the cost of water treatment
- Ensuring a positive climate for economic growth

For more information, contact your local Conservation Authority or visit our website

For more information on your municipal water system



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www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca

www.county.oxford.on.ca

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