

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 into the well.

So what does this mean?

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. Pollutants spilled or dumped on the earth's surface can seep into the ground and eventually make their way into the well. Once that happens, the well may have to be closed down, or the water may have to undergo additional treatment in order to be used. It can be costly and time-consuming to clean up polluted groundwater or to find new sources of clean water.

Right now, technical studies are being done to learn where the water comes from that supplies those wells, and what activities on the ground's surface may pose a potential threat to the quality of the water in the ground.

This work is being done by the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee in order to develop the scientific foundation for a Drinking Water Source Protection Plan. By protecting the sources of our water, we can help ensure that we have enough safe, clean drinking water for us and for future generations.

Open House

Tuesday, September 29, 3:00 - 7:00 pm

**Stratford Rotary Complex,
Tim Taylor Lounge**

353 McCarthy Road, Stratford

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



Shakespeare

Municipal drinking water in the community of Shakespeare is provided by a bedrock well. This well pumps an average of 60 m³/day. The municipal water use is 80% residential, and 20% commercial/ industrial.

The amount of land involved in 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, the type of soil surrounding the well, and the direction and speed that the groundwater travels.

The black triangle on the map shows the location of the well. The coloured area shows the extent of the preliminary wellhead protection area.

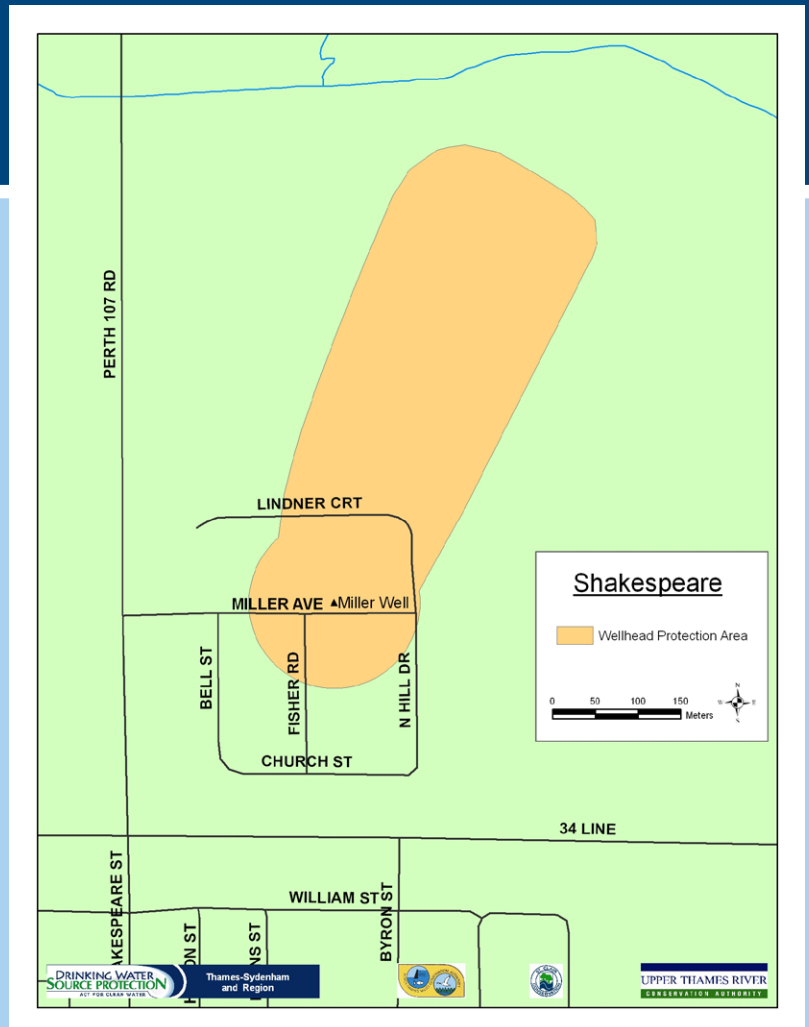
A **wellhead protection area** includes different zones (not shown separately on this map) that indicate the length of time it takes for water to travel through the ground to the well.

100 metre area - the area where the risk to the well is highest, and the greatest care should be taken in handling any potential contaminant

2 year time of travel zone - bacteria and viruses from human and animal waste are a concern, as are hazardous chemicals

5 year time of travel zone - biological contaminants are less of a concern, but chemical pollutants remain a concern

25 year time of travel zone - the most persistent and hazardous pollutants remain a concern



What are potential sources of contamination in wellhead protection areas?

Pollutants from a variety of activities can seep into the ground and move toward a well:

- chemical storage
- storage and spreading of road salt
- use and spilling of fertilizers and pesticides
- accidental spill of hazardous materials

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



519-354-7310



519-245-3710



519-451-2800



Made possible through the support of the Government of Ontario.

www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca