

The Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program Grants for Landowners to Protect Municipal Drinking Water Sources

Landowners with property near municipal wells and surface water intakes can help protect those sources of drinking water supplies. In order to help landowners take action, the provincial government has created the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program. The program provides grants to help pay for projects that protect municipal water supplies from contamination. Landowners can apply for grants for four types of projects.

What kinds of projects are eligible for grants?

Well decommissioning and upgrading

Private wells - particularly those that are old or abandoned - can provide a pathway for pollutants to travel down into the groundwater. Grants are available to decommission old wells, to upgrade wells that are still in use, or to connect to a municipal drinking water service line and decommission the old well. The program will cover up to 80% of the cost to a maximum of \$4,000.

Septic system inspections, upgrades and repairs

Poorly maintained or inadequate septic systems can contaminate groundwater. The program will cover up to 80% of the cost of an eligible project, to a maximum of \$7,000. If you have an advanced septic system, the program will increase this coverage to a maximum of \$15,000.

Runoff and erosion protection

Runoff from rural properties can contaminate waterways. Grants are available for up to 70% of the cost depending on the eligible best management practice. In some cases, these grants can be stacked with grants from other programs to cover up to 100% of the cost.

Best Management Practice	Amount of Funding Covered
Soil erosion & salinity control planning	25% up to \$2,000
Manure land application	70% up to \$10,000
Erosion control (riparian and non-riparian)	50% up to \$20,000
Riparian area management	50% up to \$20,000
Riparian health assessment	25% up to \$1,000
Land management for soils at risk	50% up to \$5,000
Cover crops	70% up to \$5,000
Nutrient management planning	25% up to \$2,000
Farmyard & horticultural facilities runoff control	50% up to \$20,000

Pollution prevention reviews

A chemical spill or other mishap on the property of a business or commercial operation can result in pollutants contaminating surface water or groundwater. Pollution prevention audits that identify threats to sources of municipal drinking water are available to small- and medium-sized businesses. The program will pay 100% of the cost up to a maximum of \$12,000. The audits are handled by an independent consulting firm and the results are confidential.

What properties are eligible?

To be eligible, the property must be located within one of the following areas:

- the 100-metre radius of a municipal wellhead
- the 200-metre radius of a surface water intake
- the two-year time-of-travel area around a municipal wellhead, approved by the local municipality
- the intake protection zone-one (IPZ-1) around a surface water intake, approved by the local municipality

Go to www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca or contact your local Conservation Authority to find out if your property is eligible. See the reverse for information on Intake Protection Zones and Wellhead Protection Areas.

Who do I contact for more information?

The program is being administered by the three Conservation Authorities in the Thames-Sydenham and Region. Contact your local Conservation Authority to learn more about grant rates and project eligibility.

- **St. Clair Region Conservation Authority** - Steve Shaw
519-245-3710 ext. 13, sshaw@scrca.on.ca
- **Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority** - Jack Robertson
519-354-7310 ext. 225, jack.robertson@ltvca.ca
- **Upper Thames River Conservation Authority** - Brad Glasman
519-451-2800 ext. 251, glasmanb@thamesriver.on.ca

Ask how grants can be combined with grants from other local, provincial or federal programs, such as the Clean Water Program, to reduce the landowner's cost.

www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca



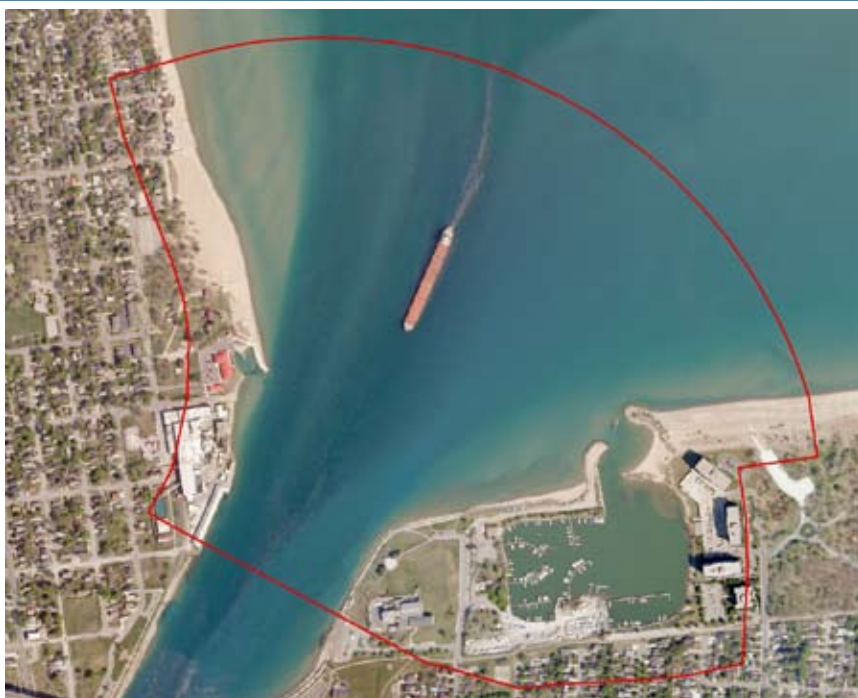
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Intake Protection Zones

In the south and west part of the Thames-Sydenham & Region, the main sources of municipal drinking water are intakes on Lakes Erie, Huron and St. Clair, and along the Thames River downstream of the City of London. A key concern in managing these intakes is protecting them from contamination. If a spill takes place close to an intake, there is a risk that the water plant operator may not have sufficient time to shut down the intake. To guard against that possibility, source protection plans require the development of “intake protection zones.”

An intake protection zone (IPZ) is the land and water around a surface water intake where it is desirable to regulate or monitor threats to drinking water. Generally, the closer you are to the intake, the more vulnerable the intake is to contamination. The area very close to the intake is called Intake Protection Zone 1 (IPZ 1, indicated on map at right by red line). This area is typically a 1 km radius around an intake on the Great Lakes, or 1 km upstream from an intake on a river, plus a setback along the shore.



Intake Protection Zone 1: Sarnia

Legend

Intake Protection Zone 1

Grants are available through the Drinking Water Stewardship Program for landowners within an IPZ 1 to take action to reduce possible threats to municipal drinking water sources.

Municipal Wellhead Protection Areas

A wellhead is simply the physical structure of the well above the ground. A wellhead protection area (WHPA) is the area surrounding the wellhead through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward or reach the well. Wellhead protection is a strategy designed to protect municipal drinking water supplies by managing the land surface around a well where activities might affect the quality of the water.

The amount of land involved in a WHPA 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 aquifer, the type of soil surrounding the well, and the direction and speed that the groundwater travels. Studies have been undertaken to define these areas and map out “time of travel zones” around municipal wells. The zones represent the amount of time it takes for water in the aquifer to reach the well.

Grants are available through the Drinking Water Stewardship Program for landowners within the two-year time of travel zone to take action to reduce possible threats to municipal drinking water sources.

The black triangles indicate municipal well locations. The red ring delineates a 100 metre area around the wells. The yellow area indicates the two year time of travel zone.

Landowners within the two year time of travel zones (yellow area) are eligible for grants to take action to reduce possible threats to municipal drinking water sources.

