

St. Marys Water Conservation Pilot Project

What is it?

The St. Marys Water Conservation Pilot Project is a partnership between the Town of St. Marys, the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and the St. Marys Green Committee. The Project provides incentives for homeowners to reduce their water consumption, and increases awareness of the need to conserve our supply of water. Since research shows that 65% of water usage in a home is attributed to toilet flushing (30%) and showering/bathing (35%), the project will focus on reducing water usage in these two areas.

The Project aims to reduce water consumption by at least 30%, in 200 homes that are serviced by municipal water. This will be accomplished by replacing one existing low efficiency (13 L/flush or more) toilet in each home with a high efficiency (4.5 L/flush) single flush toilet. A low flow showerhead, bathroom faucet aerator and a kitchen faucet aerator will also be provided as part of the project. Installation will be completed by contracted plumbers, who will also take away the old toilet, showerhead, and bathroom and kitchen aerators for recycling. Homeowners participating in the program will contribute \$50 toward the project and billed by the Town through their water account.

The project will use the following equipment:

- 4.5 Litre (1.2 gallon) VitrA EverGreen single flush, high efficiency toilet (white only)
- 5.7 L/minute (1.5 gal/minute) Earth Massage chrome showerhead (hand held or fixed)
- 3.8 L/minute (1.0 gal/minute) dual thread aerator
- 5.7 L/minute (1.5 gal/minute) dual-setting kitchen aerator with swivel

Each home's reduction in water consumption will be monitored through water billing information.

Why are we doing it?

The Town of St. Marys relies on groundwater for its municipal water supply. Three wells supply the Town with all of its potable water. Groundwater is not an infinite source of drinking water, and it is vulnerable to contamination. We must protect both the quality and quantity of the water we take from our wells. The Project will result in less residential water use and reduce the stress on our groundwater supply.

Who is Funding the Project?

The project has received funding support from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment's Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program and a grant from The Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation.

How can a homeowner participate in the Project?

A Registration Day will be held on Saturday, May 9th at the Municipal Operations Centre on James St. South between 9:00 am and 11:30 am. Homeowners must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a resident of the Town of St. Marys, residing in a single dwelling home or semi detached dwelling
- The home must have been built before 1996
- Must be replacing a 13 litre or larger toilet
- The home must be within the 2 year time-of-travel of a municipal well head (there will be a map at the registration session for your location) – see explanation below
- The home must be connected to the municipal water supply

What is a Municipal Wellhead Protection Area?

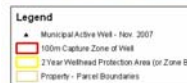
A wellhead is simply the physical structure of the well above ground. A wellhead protection area (WHPA) is the area surrounding the wellhead through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward or reach the well. Wellhead protection is a strategy designed to protect municipal drinking water 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. These zones represent the amount of time it takes for water in the aquifer to reach the well.

The black triangles indicate municipal well locations. The red rings delineate a 100 metre area around each well. The yellow coloured line indicates the amount of time (two years) it takes for water to travel through the ground to the wells.

For more information about the project, contact:

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St. Marys



0 200 400 600 Meters



Thames-Sydenham and Region



UPPER THAMES RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY