

WELLINGTON Source Water PROTECTION

wellingtonwater.ca

FACT SHEET 1



ABOUT WELLINGTON SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

The source of your water

Drinking water sources or source water includes untreated water from ground water, streams or lakes. This water is used to supply both private wells and municipal drinking water systems.

To ensure that drinking water is as clean and as safe as possible, it is important to prevent contamination at the source. Pollutants in source water put stress on the natural environment and require expensive treatment to remove. It is less expensive to prevent pollutants from entering our drinking water than treating them, also some pollutants cannot be removed from the water. Without source water protection, a new source may have to be found, adding to the cost of the water system in our communities. It is also important to make sure there is enough water for private and municipal drinking water systems.

In order to prevent similar tragedies to that of the E-coli breakout in Walkerton, Ontario, the *Clean Water Act* was passed in 2006. As a result of the *Clean Water Act*, all communities in Ontario are required to develop Source Water Protection Plans to protect their municipal sources of drinking water. The Source Water Protection Plans have been developed on a watershed basis by Source Protection Committees. These committees have been appointed



by the provincial government to guide the development of the Source Water Protection Plans and are comprised of municipalities, farmers, businesses, industry, residents and members of the public.

OUR GOAL: SAFE WATER

The goal of Wellington Source Water Protection is to work together with residents, business owners and farmers within vulnerable source water areas to protect our drinking water sources and ensure our drinking water remains safe for everyone to consume.

Your Wellington County source water team

Wellington County falls within 5 Source Protection Plans; Grand River, Maitland Valley, Saugeen Valley, Credit-Toronto Region and Area - Central Lake Ontario and Halton-Hamilton, each with a unique approach to Source Water Protection

Wellington Source Water Protection is a partnership between the municipalities of Wellington County to protect our drinking water sources. These municipalities include: the County of Wellington, Township of Centre Wellington, Town of Erin, Guelph-Eramosa Township, Township of Mapleton, Town of Minto, Township of

FACT SHEET 1

ABOUT WELLINGTON SOURCE WATER PROTECTION



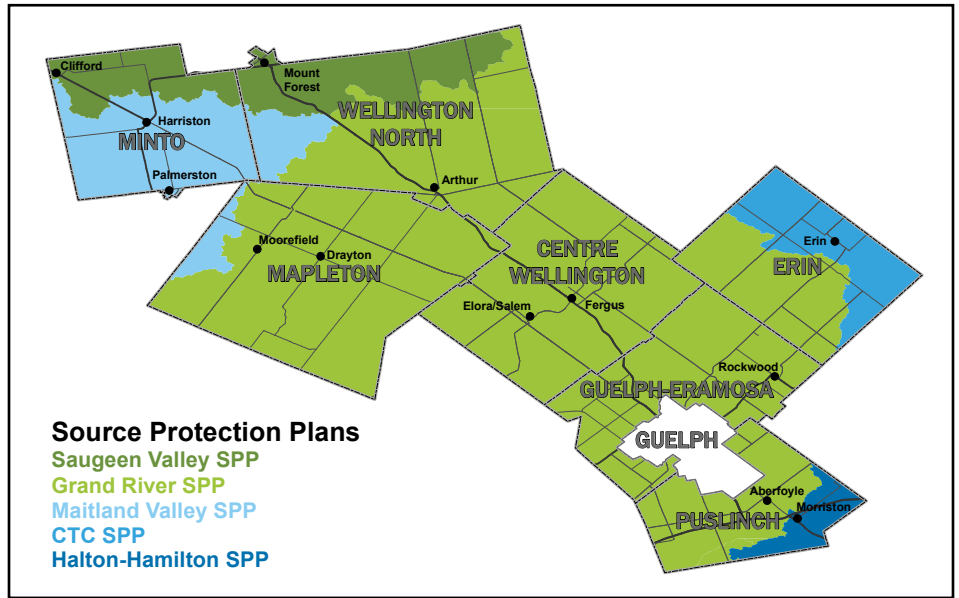
Puslinch and the Township of Wellington North.

Wellington Source Water Protection provides a one window approach to County residents for source protection to ensure consistency, as much as possible, in implementing the Source Protection Plans. The Risk Management Official is a shared position that serves all eight municipalities. This position works with municipal staff to review development applications, negotiate risk management plans, provide education, conduct inspections and administer the program. As required, Risk Management Inspectors may be appointed by individual municipalities to assist in delivering the program.

Take care in vulnerable areas

Municipal wells and other highly vulnerable areas need special attention when it comes to protecting source water.

Wellhead protection areas: A wellhead protection area is the area around a municipal well where land use activities



have the potential to affect the quality and quantity of water that flows into the well. The faster that water is able to flow through the ground to an aquifer, the more vulnerable it is to contamination. The Source Water Protection Plans for Wellington County rates the vulnerability of aquifers from low vulnerability at 2 up to highly vulnerable at 10.

Surface water intake zones: Surface water is water that is visible on the landscape, such as our rivers, streams, and lakes. An intake pipe transports water directly from the surface

water source to a water treatment system. Protecting the land and water surrounding and upstream of this intake pipe is an important part of maintaining a safe water supply system.

For more information, contact:

Wellington Source Water Protection,
 7444 Wellington Road 21, Elora, ON
 Tel: 1-844-383-9800
 Email: sourcewater@centrewellington.ca
 Website: www.wellingtonwater.ca
 Or your local municipal office



Our water. My responsibility.

