

STAFF REPORT: Engineering and Public Works Department



REPORT TO: Infrastructure and Recreation Committee
MEETING DATE: April 14, 2009
REPORT NO.: EPW.09.032
**SUBJECT: Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship
 Program – Intake Protection**
**PREPARED BY: John Caswell – Manager of Water and
 Wastewater Services**

A. Recommendations

THAT Council endorses the Intake Protection Zone 1 for the Thornbury municipal water intake as outlined in Report EPW.09.032; and

FURTHER THAT the endorsement is specifically limited to the express purpose of determining eligibility of properties to receive grants under the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program.

B. Background

The Drinking Water Source Protection Program is a provincial initiative spearheaded by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) with the goal of protecting groundwater and surface water sources on science based information. The Clean Water Act, 2006 and its associated regulations provide guidelines on the development of Source Protection Plans by stakeholder committees. The Clean Water Act, 2006 was proclaimed into law on July 3, 2007 and is now in force.

Source Protection Planning will be facilitated by Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities and their umbrella organization, Conservation Ontario.

Over a three year time period, the Ministry of the Environment will make funding available to property owners under the *Clean Water Act, 2006* for stewardship activities near municipal drinking water intakes and wellheads. A total of \$21 million in funding will be made available to partnering Conservation Authorities through to spring of 2011.

Surface Water Vulnerability technical studies (MOE Draft Guidance Module 4) and a preliminary threats inventory (part of MOE Draft Guidance Module 5) for ten Great Lakes intakes in eastern Lake Huron and western Georgian Bay, and one inland intake, were initiated on behalf of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority and its Source Protection area partners in June of 2006. The Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority administered the project and Stantec Consulting Ltd. and a team of specialist consultants executed the studies. The studies were undertaken using readily available existing data on regional and local environments, and individual water treatment plants (WTPs) to address the provisions of the Ontario Clean Water Act (Government of Ontario, 2006).

Properties within the Town of The Blue Mountains identified in Attachment #1 fall within the Intake Protection Zone and may be eligible for this water source protection funding. Specifically, this funding will be available under the following four programs:

Program	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling
Decommissioning abandoned wells and upgrading of existing wells	80%	\$4,000
Septic systems inspections and upgrades	80%	\$7,000
Runoff and erosion protection, manure management, barn improvement	25% - 70%	\$1,000 - \$60,000
Pollution prevention reviews aimed at better management of materials storage, handling and disposal	100%	\$12,000

In their letter of December 18, 2008, the Drinking Water Source Protection Program, operating under the auspices of Saugeen Conservation, Grey Sauble Conservation and the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula, requested Council consider a resolution endorsing the Thornbury Intake Protection Zone 1, as outlined in Attachment #1. Without this endorsement, the Ministry of Environment guidelines stipulate that the eligible area will remain at a 200 metre radius of the intake. The sole purpose of this resolution is to grant the right to property owners within the intake zone to received program grants. It does not put the municipality under any obligation regarding funding or land use planning. The Drinking Water Source Protection Committee is holding public meetings to receive comments and input from stakeholders.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

In supporting this program, Council would be addressing Strategic Plan Goal #3 – 'Preserving and enhancing natural and environmental features, and cultural heritage of the community.

D. Environmental Impacts

The Blue Mountains residents who are eligible under this program would assist both the Town and the Province in protecting our municipal drinking water source.

E. Budget Impact

Minimal staff time to attend meetings as required.

F. Attachments

Attachment #1 – Drinking Water Source Protection Letter to Council, December 18, 2008 with enclosures

Respectfully submitted,

John Caswell
Manager , Water and Wastewater Services

Reg Russwurm
Director, Engineering and Public Works

For more information, please contact:

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(519)599-3131 ext. 226



December 18, 2008

Mayor and Council
The Blue Mountains
26 Bridge Street
P.O. Box 310
Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

Dear Mayor and Council:

**Re: Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program
Properties Eligible for Funding**

The Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP) provides funding to landowners for stewardship activities near municipal drinking water intakes and wellheads. These projects complement the local Source Protection efforts by supporting actions that help protect municipal sources of drinking water. Staff with the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region administer the program with funding provided by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE).

The cooperation and support of your council is being sought in order to expand the reach of the ODWSP. The Intake Protection Zone 1 will be used to determine eligibility for the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program only in the event that municipal council passes a resolution adopting this zone for the express purpose of the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program. Without a council resolution, the MOE guidelines stipulate that the eligible area remain at the 200 metre radius circle.

A map of the Thornbury intake is attached to this letter so that council may see the extent of the area in relation to the intake location. Please note that the location of the zones are not yet finalized and may be subject to revision as a result of further technical review.

Appearing below is a suggested wording of a resolution for council's consideration.

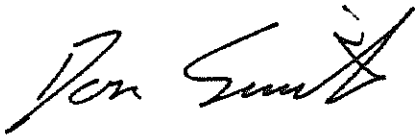
“THAT The Blue Mountains endorses the Intake Protection Zone 1 for the Thornbury municipal intake as delineated on the map attached hereto as Schedule A and

FURTHER THAT the endorsement is specifically limited to the express purpose of determining eligibility of properties to receive grants under the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program.”

Municipal support of this program and the expanded area will provide greater opportunities to protect municipal wells and offer access to Provincial financial support for local landowners. Background information about the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program is attached.

Drinking Water Source Protection staff will be pleased to answer any questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact Don Smith, Project Manager, at 519-470-3000 ext 101 if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" at the end.

Don Smith,
Project Manager
Drinking Water Source Protection

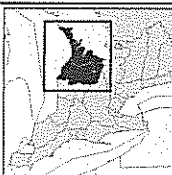
Encl.: Intake Map
ODWSP Background Information



◆ Wellhead

□ Intake Protection Zone 1

DRINKING WATER
SOURCE PROTECTION
ACT FOR CLEAR WATER



1:7,500

Base mapping produced under license with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
© Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2005

Other dataset sources...

Projection: UTM NAD 83 Zone 17

Date: November 7, 2008

Disclaimer: This map has been compiled from various sources and is intended for illustrative purposes only. It should not be used as a precise indicator of routes nor as a guide to navigation.

Location Map: Draft Two Year Time-of-Travel Zone for purpose of identifying properties eligible under the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program.

DRAFT

Thornbury Intake



Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region

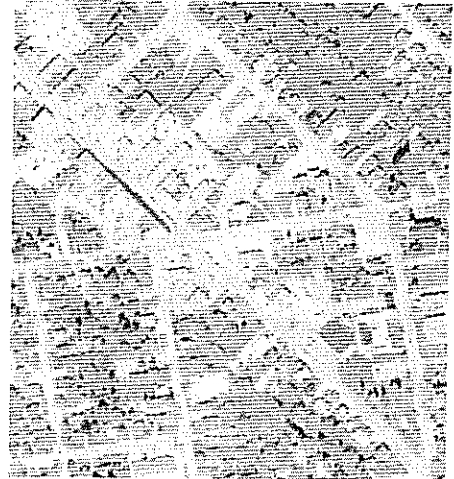
Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program Funding

Early Actions funding to protect municipal drinking water sources:

Landowners near wells and intakes for municipal drinking water systems may be eligible for funding to undertake early actions to protect sources of drinking water.

Specifically, this funding will be available for the following four priorities:

- decommissioning abandoned or unused wells and maintenance of existing wells
- septic system inspections and upgrades
- runoff and erosion protection; and
- pollution prevention audits aimed at better management of materials storage, handling, and disposal



ELIGIBILITY

- where maps have been approved in official plans or by municipal councils, all or part of the property must be within:
 - Wellhead Protection Area Two-year Time-of-travel Zone for a municipal drinking water well
 - Intake Protection Zone 1 for a municipal drinking water intake

otherwise all or part of the property must be within 100 metres of a municipal drinking water well or 200 metres of a municipal drinking water intake

- the property owner or in some cases the leasee of land may apply
- applications must be approved and work concluded by September 30, 2009
- new projects, as well as projects where work was started after Sept. 19, 2006, are eligible
- in no instances are total funds from this and other grant programs to exceed 100% of the project cost

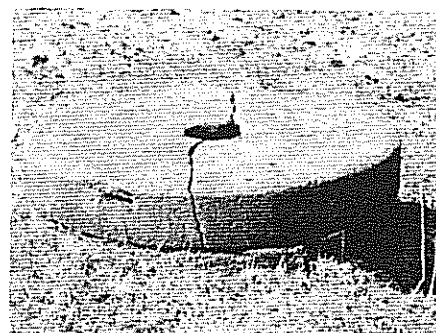
PROGRAM DETAILS

Decommissioning abandoned wells and upgrading of existing wells

Decommissioning abandoned or unused wells, including the testing, monitoring, and technical work on water wells, and upgrading drinking water wells, may prevent these wells and poorly maintained wellheads from becoming pollutant pathways to municipal drinking water sources.

Grant rate: 80%

Grant ceiling: \$4,000



Septic systems inspections and upgrades

The septic program will provide funding for the repair, upgrade, or replacement of faulty or malfunctioning septic systems.

Grant rate: 80%

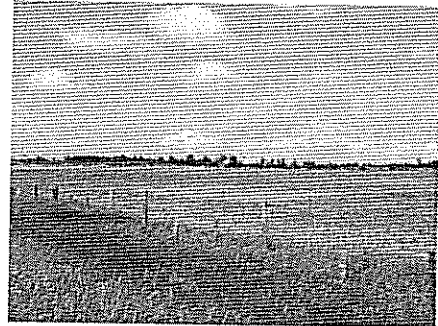
Grant ceiling: \$7,000 (or \$15,000 for advanced septic systems)

Runoff and erosion protection, manure management, barn improvement

The purpose of the overland runoff protection program is to protect municipal drinking water sources from runoff contamination and soil erosion through properly restoring buffer strips and riparian zones. Manure storage, manure application, nutrient management planning and barn improvements are also eligible for funding.

Grant rate: 25% to 70% depending on project type

Grant ceiling: \$1,000 to \$60,000 depending on project type



Pollution prevention reviews aimed at better management of materials storage, handling, and disposal

Pollution prevention reviews will be made available to small and medium-sized businesses that manufacture, handle, store, and dispose of materials into water, land, or air, and will identify threats to sources of municipal drinking water.

Grant rate: 100%

Grant ceiling: \$12,000 (exceptional circumstances may be considered)

- consultant will be retained and paid directly by Source Protection Authority

About the funding:

Clean Water Act funding will be provided by the Ministry of the Environment to partnering Conservation Authorities under the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program. A total of \$21 million will be made available over three years through to spring of 2011. Of the \$7 million available in 2008-2009, \$5.0 million will support early actions by property owners to protect municipal drinking water sources, namely municipal wellheads and municipal surface water intakes. Special projects funding of \$1.5 million will support innovative approaches to the protection of drinking water sources. The other \$0.5 million will provide education about source protection and early actions.

Links:

Clean Water Act -- Ministry of the Environment www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/water
Conservation Authorities -- Conservation Ontario www.conservationontario.ca

For further information, to discuss a project or to access application forms, contact:

Drinking Water Source Protection

519-470-3000 Toll-free 877-470-3005 Fax 519-470-3001

mail@waterprotection.ca www.waterprotection.ca

Office: Grey Sauble Conservation – lower level
237897 Inglis Falls Rd. RR 4
Owen Sound, ON N4K 5N6



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