



New funding for you to help protect drinking water

Funding is now available for well and septic upgrades, confidential pollution prevention reviews for businesses, run-off and erosion control projects and more

Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP)

Financial assistance for eligible landowners to undertake voluntary best management practices in their homes, farms or businesses

Who is eligible?

Home owners, farmers or business owners are eligible if they have:

- Property that is within, or extends into, a 100-metre radius of a municipal well;
- Property within one kilometre of a municipal surface water intake, or;
- Property within anticipated two-year time-of-travel lines of a municipal well (in approved municipalities).

To find out if you are eligible phone Derek Matheson, Source Protection Technician, at **519-335-3557** or e-mail info@sourcewaterinfo.on.ca

What projects are funded and why?

Well Decommissioning and Upgrades

Wells that are not properly capped or sealed provide a potential pathway for contaminants to enter underground aquifers – the source of drinking water from municipal wells – without going through the natural filtration processes. Once contamination enters an aquifer it can affect others who use this natural resource. You can take action to eliminate these potential pathways of contamination by upgrading existing wells and by decommissioning old or abandoned wells. The program will provide funding for the sealing and capping of old water wells, upgrading and maintenance, and connecting to a municipal drinking water service line/trunk line and decommissioning of existing well for eligible landowners.

- The grant will cover 80 per cent of the cost up to a maximum of \$4,000

Septic System Inspection and Upgrades

If a septic system is not functioning properly, waste water, which contains bacteria, viruses, organic matter and nutrients, can leach out before these contaminants are properly treated. Maintaining your septic system will help reduce the risk of drinking water contamination, and increase the value of your property. You can keep your septic system working properly by watching what you put down the drain, having your tank pumped regularly, having it inspected, and correcting any problems that arise. The program will provide funding for connecting to a municipal sewer line and decommissioning the existing septic system, repair, upgrade, or replacement of faulty or malfunctioning septic systems for eligible landowners.

- The grant will cover 80 per cent of the cost up to a maximum of \$7,000 or \$15,000 for advanced systems.

Pollution Prevention Reviews

Confidential pollution prevention reviews are available to eligible small and medium-sized businesses – businesses with 500 employees or fewer – that manufacture, handle, store, and dispose of materials into water, land, or air, and will identify threats to sources of municipal drinking water.

- These reviews are being offered free of charge, up to \$12,000, and the results are confidential.

Runoff and Erosion Protection

Runoff from residential areas or fields can carry contaminants towards sources of drinking water. Eroding soils in fields or along stream banks can reduce water quality. Funding is available for a variety of projects that will help reduce the negative impacts of runoff and erosion on sources of drinking water by properly constructing or restoring buffer strips and riparian zones. If you have a stream, river, or pond on your property there is funding available for eligible candidates to help protect these water bodies.

- Grant rates range from 25 to 70 per cent, depending on the project.
- Maximum grants range from \$1,000 to \$60,000.

Land Conservation Measures

Some land use activities have a higher risk of causing drinking water contamination, especially in highly vulnerable areas. Active management of the land surrounding drinking water sources can ensure the activity is no longer a threat to source water. The program will provide funding for land purchase, easements, and leasing of a landowners property, followed by careful management of activities thereafter. The loss of productivity on land that is currently being used for agricultural use is taken into account. Note: Land Conservation Measures funding is only available for properties within or extending into a 100-metre radius of a municipal wellhead and/or a 200-metre radius of a municipal surface water intake for the 2008-2009 funding year.

- Grant rates range from 30 to 100 per cent, depending on the project.
- Maximum grants are currently not available, but will be provided soon

Fuel Storage Management Practices

Small amounts of fuel in surface or ground water can cause serious harm to humans and animals, and often are not detectable by taste. Fuel storage tanks can pose a threat to sources of drinking water when they are leaking or not properly maintained. Activities which are eligible for funding are still being determined and will be provided when available.

- Grant rates pending.

Grant Categories Available to Farmers

There may be additional grants available to the agricultural community through local Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association representatives. These additional grants fall under the Beneficial Management Practices categories of Manure Land Application, Water Well Management, Riparian Area Management, Erosion Control Structures (Riparian), Erosion Control Structure (Non-Riparian), Land Management for Soils at Risk, Cover Crops, Nutrient Management Planning, Soil Erosion and Salinity Control Planning, Riparian Health Assessment, and Septic Systems. For information on these Beneficial Management Practices please contact your local Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association representative. For information on your local representative please contact Derek Matheson at the phone number listed at the bottom of this page.

What are the deadlines?

Projects must be approved and completed by September 11, 2009.

If you have any questions visit us online at sourceprotectionstewardship.on.ca or please call Derek Matheson, Source Protection Technician, at **519-335-3557**

Thank you for your efforts to protect our drinking water.

The Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program is being delivered in the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region by the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Conservation Authorities and by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association.