

Protecting Catfish Creek-Area Drinking Water

Ontario Supports Actions to Safeguard Drinking Water

September 30, 2014 10:00 A.M.

Ontario has approved the [Catfish Creek Source Protection Plan](#) to strengthen local source-to-tap drinking water protection.

The plan, developed by local municipal and community partners on the Lake Erie region source protection committee, will take effect Jan. 1, 2015.

Source protection plans are designed to protect the water quality of the lakes, rivers and sources of underground water that supply municipal drinking water systems. The plans set out actions to eliminate, manage or reduce potential risks to drinking water sources.

The Catfish Creek plan will:

- Establish maintenance and inspection programs for septic systems to meet building code requirements.
- Create risk-management plans for handling and storing fuel.
- Produce and place road signs to identify wellhead protection areas and intake protection zones.

Protecting drinking water enhances the quality of life for Ontario families and supports sustainable communities now and into the future. This is part of the government's plan to invest in people, build modern infrastructure and support a dynamic and innovative business climate.

QUOTES

" Few things are as important to our health and well-being as having safe water to drink. Protecting the sources that supply our drinking water is the first step in keeping our drinking water safe and helps ensure we never have another Walkerton incident."

- Glen Murray

Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

" I am very pleased the Catfish Creek plan has been formally approved for implementation. Staff of the Catfish Creek Conservation Authority and Oxford County have put a lot of effort into ensuring Brownsville residents will continue to have access to safe, high-quality municipal

drinking water. Commendations are to be extended for a job well done to staff at the Grand River Conservation Authority who managed the process, oversaw the scientific studies and helped develop the policies."

- Craig Ashbaugh

chair of the Lake Erie region source protection committee

QUICK FACTS

- The Clean Water Act established 19 local committees across Ontario. Each committee developed science-based plans that address contamination risks to municipal drinking water systems.
- The Catfish Creek source protection area is part of the Lake Erie source protection region, which consists of four source protection areas — Catfish Creek, Kettle Creek, Grand River and Long Point.
- The Catfish Creek source protection area has one municipal drinking water system, located in Brownsville, operated by Oxford County. The other municipalities in the watershed get their water from the Elgin Area Primary Water Supply System.

LEARN MORE

- [Find out more about other source protection areas.](#)