



News Release
For Immediate Release

September 11, 2014

Kettle Creek Source Protection Plan approved

St. Thomas – A plan to protect the sources of municipal drinking water in the Kettle Creek watershed has been approved by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority and the Municipality of Central Elgin announced today.

The Kettle Creek Source Protection Plan, which was approved on September 11, 2014, outlines the policies and programs that will protect the quality of water used by two municipal drinking water systems in the Kettle Creek watershed. Both systems are based in the Municipality of Central Elgin:

- The Elgin Area Primary Water Supply, which takes water from an intake in Lake Erie just east of Port Stanley. The system supplies water to several communities in eastern Elgin County as well as the City of London.
- The water system serving the community of Belmont, which draws water from two wells in the town.

The source protection planning process began in 2006 when the Ontario government passed the Clean Water Act to protect the sources of municipal drinking water supplies throughout Ontario. The Act established 19 local committees across Ontario. Each committee developed science-based plans that address contamination risks to municipal drinking water sources.

Locally, the Kettle Creek watershed and the Catfish Creek watershed were grouped with the Long Point Region and Grand River watersheds to form the Lake Erie Source Protection Region. The Lake Erie Source Protection Committee was charged with developing four distinct plans for each watershed.

“As Chair of the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee, I am very pleased that the Kettle Creek Source Protection Plan has been formally approved for implementation,” says Craig Ashbaugh. “Staff of the Municipality of Central Elgin, the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority and the Grand River Conservation Authority, as lead, have really put their best efforts forward to ensure local residents continue to have access to safe, high quality municipal drinking water.”

The Kettle Creek Source Protection Plan was submitted to the Province for approval on March 19, 2014. After a full review of the document the Ministry of the Environment approved the Kettle Creek Source Protection Plan on September 11, 2014.

A range of approaches have been used to address the threats including outreach and education campaigns, updating municipal documents and, in certain instances, prohibiting activities immediately within the Belmont Wellhead Protection Areas or the Port Stanley Intake Protection Zone.

“We worked hard to find the right balance between protecting our drinking water from significant drinking water threats and social and economic impacts,” says Lloyd Perrin, Director of Physical Services with the Municipality of Central Elgin and a member of the Lake Erie Source Protection Committee.

The plan and its policies will take effect on January 1, 2015.

With the Ministry’s approval of the plan, the Municipality of Central Elgin and the Kettle Creek Conservation Authority will begin the implementation phase of the planning process. A comprehensive education and outreach campaign is planned for the coming months to raise awareness of the plan and its policies.

The approved plan and its associated documents are available at www.sourcewater.ca

-30-

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