

# Protecting drinking water sources in

## Atwood

The Municipality of North Perth provides clean, safe drinking water to more than 250 people in Atwood. Your positive actions can help to keep that water safe and clean.

There are two municipal wells located in the south part of the hamlet of Atwood.

Atwood Well Number 1 was constructed in 1997 and Well Number 2 was built in 2003.

The well depth of No. 1 is 24.4 metres and for No. 2 is 49 metres.

The Atwood wells are designed to this capacity:

Well Number One: 3.8 litres per second or 326 metres cubic metres per day.

Well Number Two: 3.1 litres per second or 265 cubic metres per day.

The wells' average usage is about 0.8 litres per second or 69 cubic metres per day.

**Ontario Drinking Water Standards (ODWS):**  
Ontario Drinking Water Standards were met in 100 per cent of the tests from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012.

The wells and wellhead protection areas are in the Maitland Valley source protection area.

### Where does Atwood drinking water come from?

The two municipal wells draw groundwater from an aquifer. Aquifers collect water underground much like a sponge collects water.

### How is the water treated?

The municipality adds chlorination to the well water to disinfect it. Iron sequestration also takes place. Operators must adhere to strict requirements for the treatment, testing and distribution of drinking water specified in the *Safe Drinking Water Act*.

## The Atwood Wells and Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs)

The Atwood Wellhead Protection Area zones and areas of high vulnerability are displayed in maps that are online.



Please download free map from [sourcewaterinfo.on.ca](http://sourcewaterinfo.on.ca) website or contact us.

## Understanding the areas

### Zone A

This zone is any area within 100 metres of the municipal wells.

### Zone B

In this area, it could take less than two years for contaminated groundwater to reach the municipal wells.

### Zone C

In this zone, it could take less than five years for contaminated groundwater to reach the municipal wells.

Source protection plans may require action from you if you are located in a wellhead protection area (zone A, B, or C).

Visit [sourcewaterinfo.on.ca](http://sourcewaterinfo.on.ca) for maps, plan policies, and a list of activities that pose a threat to drinking water sources. Feel free to contact our staff if you have any questions not answered by this fact sheet.



## Maitland Valley, Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Plans

Source protection plans took effect in April of 2015 in the Maitland Valley and Ausable Bayfield source protection areas.

Policies such as prohibition, or risk management plans, only apply to significant threat activities in this region.

If a threat to drinking water exists today a risk management plan will usually be required.

(Risk management plans do not apply to septic systems but septic systems do require inspection where the threat is significant).

In general, if a significant threat does not exist today it cannot be established in the future in the most vulnerable areas.

In this region, plan policies that require action (those policies with must-conform-to legal effect) only apply in three zones around municipal wells:

- 1) 100-metre wellhead protection area
- 2) Most vulnerable parts of two-year time-of-travel area
- 3) In the case of dense non-aqueous phase liquids, within the five-year time-of-travel area.

For copies of the plans, visit the local website at [sourcewaterinfo.on.ca](http://sourcewaterinfo.on.ca) or visit the Maitland Valley or Ausable Bayfield source protection authority offices during business hours.

## What activities pose risk?

Activities, in vulnerable areas, that may pose a significant threat to drinking water sources, need to be managed to reduce risk to your water. Here are some of those activities: septic systems; sewage; fuel and oil; toxic chemicals such as organic solvents and dense non-aqueous phase liquids; fertilizer; manure, biosolids, grazing, and nutrients; waste disposal and hazardous waste sites; road salt and snow storage.

- For the list of 21 provincially prescribed drinking water threats, go to this web page: [ontario.ca/document/tables-drinking-water-threats](http://ontario.ca/document/tables-drinking-water-threats)

## How can I help to protect local drinking water sources?

- Improve storage of fuel, oil, and chemicals.
- Properly dispose of hazardous waste.
- If you apply pesticides or fertilizers or nutrients follow best practices.
- If you have a septic system, have it inspected and pumped every three to five years.
- If you can reduce quantities, or find alternatives to harmful chemicals, please do so.
- Take used engine oil to recycling facilities.
- Prevent spills, contain spills. Do a spills prevention plan. Report spills if they happen to Ontario Spills Action Centre: 1-800-268-6060.
- Protect and maintain your private well. Wells provide pathways for contaminants to enter groundwater. If you have a well, be sure it is sealed properly. If you own a well you no longer use, have it properly decommissioned by a licensed well technician.

Visit [sourcewaterinfo.on.ca](http://sourcewaterinfo.on.ca) for more ways to protect drinking water sources in Atwood and area.

## Contact us to find out more:

Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region • 71108 Morrison Line • RR 3 Exeter, ON • N0M 1S5  
1-888-286-2610 • [sourcewaterinfo.on.ca](http://sourcewaterinfo.on.ca) • Maitland Valley: 519-335-3557 • Ausable Bayfield: 519-235-2610

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*The content provided in this publication is intended for local educational and information purposes only. Subject to change.*

Every effort has been made to ensure the correctness of information as at the publication date (January 2016). • For legislation and regulations visit [ontario.ca](http://ontario.ca)

## How is drinking water protected?

Ontario's *Clean Water Act, 2006* was created to protect drinking water at the source as the first of several barriers of protection. Other barriers of defence include monitoring, distribution, and the three Ts (testing; treatment; and training of water operators). Local sources of drinking water are also protected by the positive actions you take to reduce risk to our local municipal well water.

## How do plans affect me?

Your local source protection committee, for the Maitland Valley and Ausable Bayfield areas, has prepared drinking water source protection plans. The Province of Ontario has approved these plans which took effect in April of 2015. These plans help to keep your drinking water safe.

Plan policies may require action from you if you are located in municipal wellhead protection area (zone A, B or C).

Read this fact sheet, visit your local website at [sourcewaterinfo.on.ca](http://sourcewaterinfo.on.ca) to find out about the plan policies, and contact us with any questions you have. If plans require action from you (such as a risk management plan), your local municipal risk management official will be pleased to work with you to develop this.

## Where do policies apply?

Wellhead.

## What is a wellhead protection area?

Wellhead.