Protecting drinking water sources in Harriston

The Town of Minto provides clean, safe drinking water to more than 2,108 people in the Harriston area. Your positive actions can help to keep that water safe and clean.

There are three municipal wells in Harriston.

Harriston Well Number One was constructed in the early 1930s. Well Number Two was built in 1961. Well Number Three was built in 1998.

Well Number One is 61 metres deep. The depth of Well Number Two is 59 metres. The depth of Well Number Three is 56.6 metres.

Well Number One is 5.5 litres per second on average. Well Number Two average use is 5.6 litres per second. Well Number Three average use is 5.96 litres per second.

Chief Drinking Water Inspector Annual Report:

2014-2015 inspection rating: 100.00 per cent

2014-2015 drinking water quality (percentage of tests meeting standards): 100.00 per cent

Where does Harriston drinking water come from?

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

How is the water treated?

The Town of Minto uses chlorination and iron sequestration to treat the water. Operators must adhere to strict requirements for the treatment, testing and distribution of drinking water specified in the *Safe Drinking Water Act*.

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** 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 questions not answered by this fact sheet.

Harriston Wells

and Wellhead Protection Areas

Harriston Wellhead Protection Area zones and areas of high vulnerability are displayed on online maps.

Please download free map from **sourcewaterinfo.on.ca** 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.

How is drinking water protected?

Ontario's *Clean Water Act, 2006* protects drinking water at the source as the first of several barriers of protection. Other barriers of defence are monitoring, distribution, and three Ts (treatment; testing; and training of water operators).

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION
ACT FOR CLEAN WATER

Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region

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 significant 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 of this region.

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 chemicals known as 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**, contact us, 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

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** for more ways to protect drinking water sources in Harriston 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** • Maitland Valley: 519-335-3557 • Ausable Bayfield: 519-235-2610

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