

Protecting drinking water sources in



Varna

Drinking Water Source Protection

Protecting the groundwater that supplies municipal well systems is part of a multi-barrier approach that includes enhanced water testing and treatment and training of operators.

The Varna Water Works Association asked the Municipality of Bluewater to take over ownership and operation of its shared well. The well was installed in 1995 to a depth of 57.3 metres, replacing a previous well drilled in 1963. After many upgrades to the system, the transfer to the municipality took place in July 2017. Your positive actions help to keep this water safe and clean for the local residents it serves.

All municipal wells are required, under the Ontario *Clean Water Act, 2006*, to have wellhead protection areas (WHPAs) mapped. These areas indicate where groundwater travels from the underground aquifer to the well. In our region, these maps are included in the locally developed, provincially approved Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Plan which became effective April 1, 2015.

Local property owners attended open houses, in January 2018, about source protection mapping for the Varna well. The Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks approved the amended Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Plan on January 31, 2019. It took effect February 5, 2019. It included Varna as the region's newest municipal well. The wellhead protection area map is on the back of this fact sheet.

The Province of Ontario has identified 22 activities that can pose a threat to municipal drinking water sources and to which source protection planning policies apply. In Bluewater, these activities could be:

- **Septic systems.** They need to be inspected every five years in Wellhead Protection Area–A.
- **Fuel storage** – e.g., Basement home heating fuel and bulk fuel.
- **Agricultural activities** – e.g., Manure application is prohibited within 100 metres of the municipal well.
- **Hazardous waste** – e.g., Used oil.

(If these activities exist in WHPA–A they may require a risk management plan. A risk management plan can address how products are stored and where a spill kit/spill plan is located.)

- **Dense non-aqueous phase liquids (DNAPLs)** – These heavy chemicals include metal or oil paints, solvents, degreasers, metal cleaners, creosote or other heavier than water products. In zones A, B, and C risk management plans are required for *existing storage of more than 25 litres*.

If the above activities do not already exist on your property, in the most vulnerable areas by the municipal well, they may be prohibited in the future.

DRINKING WATER
SOURCE PROTECTION
Our Actions Matter

Ausable Bayfield
Maitland Valley
Source Protection Region

Contact us to find out more:

Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley

Source Protection Region

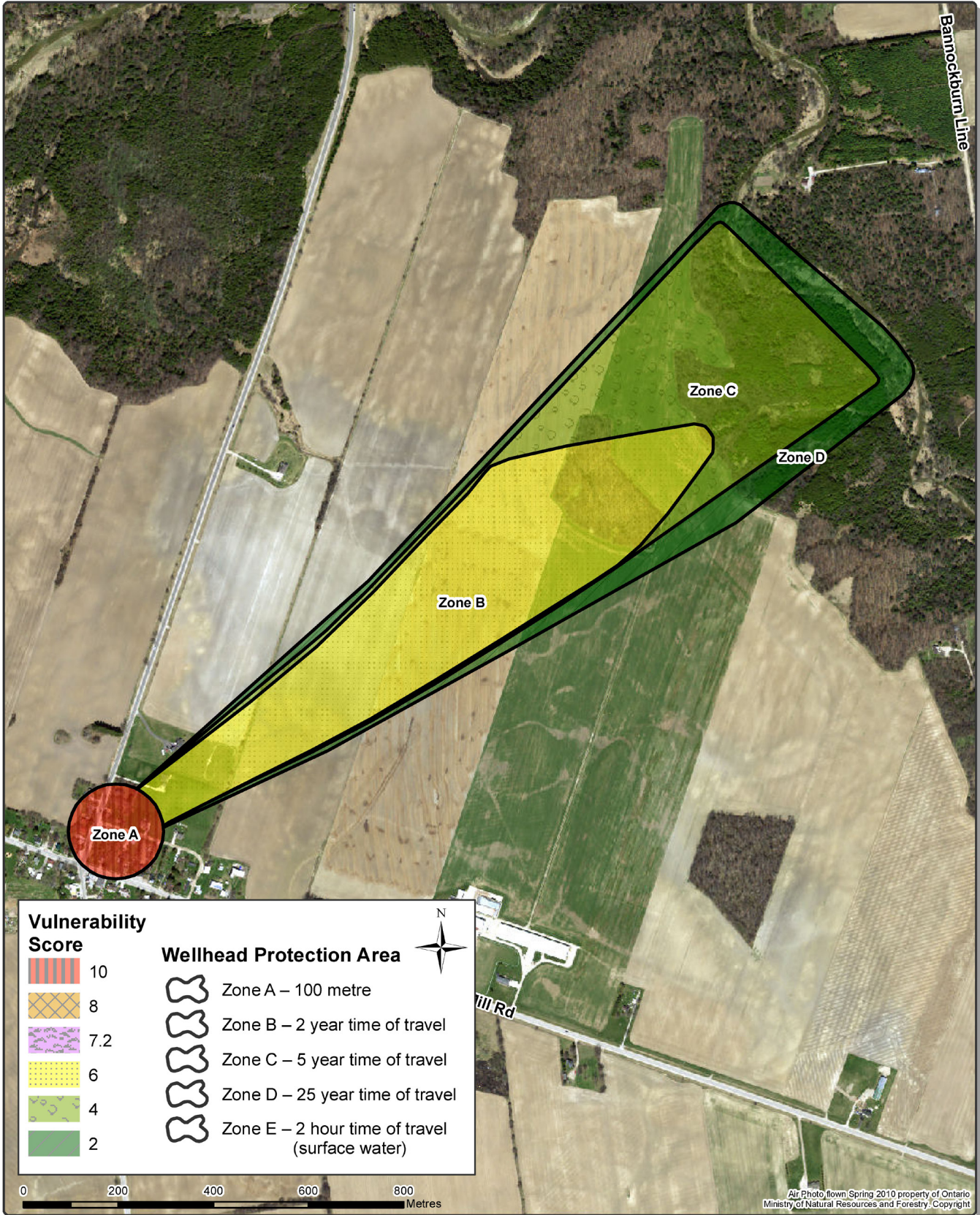
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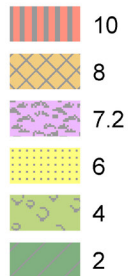
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sourcewaterinfo.on.ca

Varna Municipal Well Wellhead Protection Areas



Vulnerability Score



Wellhead Protection Area

- Zone A – 100 metre
- Zone B – 2 year time of travel
- Zone C – 5 year time of travel
- Zone D – 25 year time of travel
- Zone E – 2 hour time of travel (surface water)



0 200 400 600 800
Metres