What is drinking water source protection?

Source water is the raw, untreated water we take from lakes, rivers, and underground aquifers – for treatment – to supply people with drinking water. Drinking water source protection, or source water protection, means protecting these sources of drinking water from contamination and overuse. The focus is on prevention.

From where does the Town of Goderich draw its water for treatment to provide drinking water?

The water supply for the Town of Goderich is drawn from Lake Huron. The area one kilometre around the intake is called the Intake Protection Zone 1 or IPZ-1. The area where water takes two hours to reach the intake is called Intake Protection Zone 2 or IPZ-2. These are areas where the municipal water supply is most vulnerable. If you notice a spill, please call the Ontario Spills Action Centre at 1-800-268-6060.

The Need for Drinking Water Source Protection

- *The Clean Water Act, 2006.* The purpose of this Ontario law is to protect existing and future sources of drinking water with a multi-barrier approach providing multiple barriers of defence to protect your municipal drinking water sources.
- *Water treatment is not always enough.* Water treatment systems do not remove all contaminants, particularly chemicals such as fuels and solvents, from water. The safest approach is to prevent contamination.
- *Prevention saves money.* It is much less expensive to keep water clean than it is to try and remove contaminants.
- *Other benefits.* Clean and plentiful water also supports agriculture and agri-business, manufacturing, tourism and culture, recreation, business development, and fish and wildlife habitat – all of which are important to our local economies.
- *Source protection plans.* These locally developed, provincially approved plans ensure storage of fuel, chemicals or waste as well as agricultural activities close to municipal water supplies do not cause contamination to the drinking water.

To learn more please go to www.sourcewaterinfo.on.ca or call 1-888-286-2610

You can also get information on the provincial website:
https://www.ontario.ca/page/source-protection
and go to the Source Protection Information Atlas