

## How will the Source Protection Plan affect activities on my property?

### Residents

Area: Cana Wellhead Protection Area A

Water Source: Groundwater (municipal well)

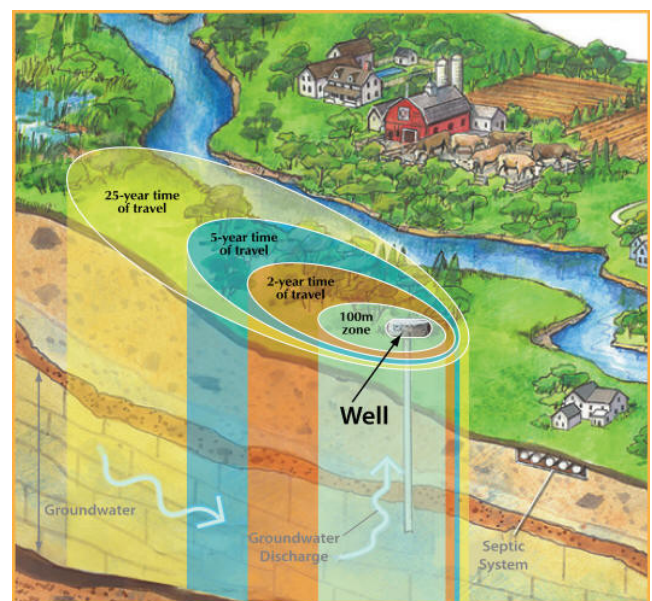
### Why is source protection important?

Source water protection means protecting our sources of drinking water such as lakes, rivers and groundwater from being contaminated or overused. Source water protection is important because water treatment is not always enough and some chemicals are not removed from water, even with a water treatment system. In some cases when the pollution cannot be cleaned up, the resulting contamination can ruin a water source forever. It is much easier to keep water clean than it is to try and clean it up after it has been polluted. Further details about the benefits of source protection can be found on the clean water cataraqui website at [www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca](http://www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca).

### What is a wellhead protection area?

A wellhead is the physical part of the well that sits above the ground. A Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) is the area around the wellhead that contributes source water to a drinking water system (i.e. municipal wells) where actions must or should be taken to protect the drinking water supply.

Wellhead Protection Area A (WHPA-A) is one of five areas that form a complete WHPA. WHPA-A is the immediate area surrounding the well. It is particularly important to prevent pollution in WHPA-A because there is little time to react and little distance for any pollution to dissipate before it reaches the well and is distributed through the drinking water system.



## What can you do?

Everyone in Cana WHPA-A can help protect the drinking water supply. You can:

- Handle and dispose of waste properly
- Maintain heating oil tanks and fill lines
- Maintain and use septic systems properly
- Maintain wells and upgrade as necessary
- Hire a licensed well contractor to properly plug unused wells
- Avoid or limit use of chemicals such as fertilizer, pesticides and road salt

If you would like to learn more about how you can help protect your drinking water, check out these websites:

- **Green Communities Canada**
  - [Waste management](#)
- **Rideau Valley Conservation Authority**
  - [Benefits of a natural shoreline graphic](#)
  - [Natural shoreline fact sheet](#)
- **Canadian Oil Heat Association**
  - [Heating your home with oil](#)
- **Smart About Salt Website**
  - [Winter salt management information](#)
- **Well Aware**
  - [How to be well aware](#)
- **Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority**
  - [Private wells](#)
  - [Septic Systems](#)
- **Ontario Groundwater Association**
  - [Information for well owners/operators](#)
- **Ontario Pesticide Education Program**
  - [Learn more about pesticide safety and training](#)



*Spilled oil can seep into soils and groundwater and flow into the rivers and lakes that supply your drinking water, causing contamination.*



*Septic systems that are in good working order help reduce the risk of drinking water contamination, both to your water supply and your neighbour's.*

## The Cataraqui Source Protection Plan might apply to you if you:

- Have a septic system or holding tank
- Have a fuel tank
- Store DNAPL
- Store organic solvent
- Store waste at a business
- Have a sewer connection

## Specific requirements that apply to residents in Cana WHPA-A:

### Risk Management Plans in Cana WHPA-A

A risk management plan is **required** for these existing/planned activities in WHPA-A:

- Storage of fuel
  - If you have a fuel tank (home heating oil) (*existing and future*)
  - If you have a fuel tank (gas pumps) (*existing*)
- Storage of dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) (*existing*)
- Storage of an organic solvent (*existing*)
- Storage of waste at a business (*existing or future*)

A **risk management plan** addresses certain activities that have the potential to harm the quality of water that may be used as a drinking water source. A risk management plan is negotiated between the person responsible for the activity and the designated Risk Management Official. The plan is to recognize good practices already in place to reduce the risk to source water and, if necessary, to include other practices to fill gaps in management and minimize the risks posed to the drinking water supply. If a plan is required for your property, the Risk Management Official will contact you to help develop a risk management plan for your activity.

### If you have a septic system or holding tank in Cana WHPA-A

On-going maintenance of a septic system or holding tank, or repair of an unsafe system, is necessary to ensure proper function and prevent pollution. Owners/operators of a septic system/holding tank are responsible for maintaining their septic system/holding tank. There is a **mandatory** inspection program in Cana WHPA-A to ensure that septic systems/holding tanks are being maintained and/or repaired if necessary.

### If you have a sewer system connection in Cana WHPA-A

You will be sent educational materials regarding the importance of maintaining your sewer system connections to protect drinking water sources.

## Would you like to learn more about the Source Protection Plan?

The information included in this fact sheet is a summary only. For complete details, view the [Source Protection Plan](#) or contact staff at the Cataraqui Source Protection Authority.

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Made possible through the support of the  
Government of Ontario.