

Drinking Water Protection Zone

Road Signs

We all want clean, safe water for our future. Protecting our drinking water sources is the first step.

Our drinking water comes from water under the ground, called groundwater, or from water in lakes and rivers, called surface water.

Public water sources can be near major roadways, where accidents can and do happen.

New, provincially standard road signs mark locations where well-used roads cross into zones where municipal drinking water sources are the most vulnerable to contamination.

The road signs will alert first responders of the need to quickly inform the appropriate authorities so action can be taken to keep contaminants out of the public water treatment and distribution system.



Why Protect Sources of Drinking Water?

- ◆ to protect public health
- ◆ to avoid the cost and need to clean up contaminated water
- ◆ to reduce the cost of water treatment
- ◆ to eliminate the need to search for new drinking water sources when existing ones become contaminated or depleted
- ◆ to ensure a long-term supply of clean water
- ◆ to ensure an adequate water supply for economic growth

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- Who:** Emergency responders can help to protect drinking water sources.
- What:** Drinking Water Protection Zone Road Signs mark the areas along major roads where contaminant spills could travel quickly to a municipal drinking water source.
- Why:** **To protect public health.**
Under Ontario's *Clean Water Act, 2006*, Source Protection Plans were created by local committees to protect public water sources. The provincially approved Plans contain various policies including one that calls for the road signs.
- How:** In the event of an accidental spill within a Drinking Water Protection Zone, emergency responders can:
- ◆ notify the local drinking water treatment plant operator*
 - ◆ notify the Spills Action Centre 1-800-268-6060
 - ◆ contain the accidental spill so clean up and remediation can occur
- *The water treatment plant operator can shut off of the raw water supply before contaminants (that can pose a danger to public health) enter the public water treatment and distribution system.
- Where:** 33 signs will be installed in the Quinte Region; 9 on provincial highways and 24 on major municipal roads. 780 signs will be erected across Ontario. Sign locations are based on science and provincially approved mapping of the vulnerable areas surrounding the municipal drinking water sources.
- When:** The first new provincially-standard sign was unveiled in the Town of Greater Napanee on November 16, 2015. The remaining signs will begin to be erected in spring 2016.
- More:** Once installed, the signs will help to create public awareness across Ontario of the need to protect drinking water sources.

DRINKING WATER
SOURCE PROTECTION
ACT FOR CLEAN WATER

QUINTE
REGION

Approved Quinte Region Source Protection Plan

The Quinte Region Source Protection Plan contains policies designed to help keep accidental spills and other pollutants out of our drinking water sources. For more:

QuinteSourceWater.ca