Ontario Approves Plan for Long Point-Area Watersheds

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Province Protecting Drinking Water Sources in Southwestern Ontario

Ontario
has approved a plan to protect sources of drinking water in the Long Point-area watersheds on the north shore of Lake Erie. The source protection plan, developed by local municipal and community partners, will take effect July 1, 2016. This approved plan will help the area to: Create management plans to help communities reduce the risks associated with certain waste disposal sites, manure, livestock, road salt, solvents, pesticides, fuel and commercial fertilizers; Implement education and outreach programs that promote best management practices for the risks associated with manure and biosolids, fertilizers, pesticides, livestock, waste, sewage systems, and solvents; Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of targets and goals outlined in the plan. Ontario has now approved 21 of 22 source water protection plans from areas across the province, and expects to approve the last plan by the end of the year. Together, the plans will cover areas where 95% of the province's population live.Â

The Long Point source protection
area contains 10 main watercourses (streams and rivers), which drain directly into Lake Erie. The region has 15 municipal residential drinking water systems, which service 52% of the area's 110,000 residents. The remaining population receives its drinking water from non-municipal systems, such as private wells or intakes, communal systems and cisterns that supply public and private facilities, such as schools, community centres and trailer parks.

Environnement Ontario