



# City of Guelph

Fact Sheet

<b>Topic:</b>	Water Supply Master Plan
<b>Department/Division:</b>	Environmental Services Department, Waterworks Division
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## Key Facts

Even though Guelph is not running out of water, we need to be prudent to allow the ground water aquifers that supply the city with water to constantly be replenished. During times of drought, however, the City's ability to pump some water supplies is affected. Water conservation strategies here and in other groundwater communities help ensure that we do not consume water at a rate that exceeds the supplies' capacity to replenish.

To ensure that Guelph can meet its water existing and future demands, the City initiated the Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) as part of the overall Water Supply Strategy that aims to identify a path to supplement the existing supply for the next 50+ years. The WSMP will follow the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process and will at a minimum complete Phase 1 – Problem or Opportunity and Phase 2 – Alternative Solutions (MEA, 2000).

The City of Guelph's current water supply comes from groundwater wells throughout the city as well as the Arkell Spring Grounds and a shallow groundwater collector system in Arkell Spring Grounds.

The water supply source options that are currently being considered include: additional groundwater; local surface water sources (Speed River, Eramosa River, or Guelph Lake); regional surface water sources (Great Lakes), municipal partnerships, optimization techniques (well field and artificial recharge), treatment of poor quality sources, and water reuse.

The option of additional groundwater is already being explored as the City has located additional water supply in the Arkell Spring Grounds and is in the process of completing the Class EA to increase the taking from this source. The Arkell Spring Ground Class EA forms part of the overall Water Supply Strategy.

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Public consultation forms an important part of this project. There will be a number of opportunities for the public to provide input into the WSMP at key points in the project. It is expected public input will aid in the identification of potential water supply alternatives and the development of screening criteria for the evaluation of preferred alternatives. All public events will be advertised on the City's website [www.guelph.ca](http://www.guelph.ca) and in local papers.

The City has created a Public Advisory Committee (PAC) to be certain that local opinions inform the WSMP. The PAC's role is specifically to provide feedback and advice to the project team on key aspects of the WSMP and Class EA process. PAC members have knowledge of, or experience with, municipal water supply issues and represent Guelph's major public and business sectors.

Water conservation forms an important part of the City's overall approach to water management. To manage periods of peak demand and to comply with the provincial government's call for reduced consumption at times when watercourse levels are low, Guelph developed the Waterwise Program which successfully reduce water use by 280,000 cubic metres in 2004.

The WSMP is not centered on growth. As stewards of sustainable water, the City considers it prudent to consider demand (i.e. growth) but only as tool to assess impacts on water supply. The WSMP is being developed as one component of the City's coordinated planning strategy that includes wastewater, transportation, economic development, etc.

The Water Supply Master Plan is administered by Environmental Services Department, Waterworks Division and led by a project team with representatives from City Council, City staff, including Environmental Services, Planning and Building Services' Environment and Transportation Group, and the consulting team consisting of Earth Tech, Lotowater, Lura Consulting and C.N. Watson.

The WSMP will occur take place during the next 10 months and is scheduled for completion in August/September 2005.

The Water Supply Master Plan will serve as the planning document for potential increases to the capacity of the water supply system. Individual projects would be completed according the Class EA process and the schedule requirements of the individual project. The Master Plan will be reviewed every five years as it is implemented to confirm assumptions, assess changes in needs or alternatives, or potential for net environmental effects.