



Conservation
ONTARIO
Natural Champions

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BACKGROUND

Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program and Conservation Authorities

2011 marked the introduction of Phase 2 of the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP). Phase 2 moves from Early Actions (Phase 1) to Early Response and is a \$28 Million four-year commitment from the Provincial Government to assist landowners, businesses and municipalities to protect municipal drinking water.

Under the Clean Water Act, ODWSP reduces threats to municipal drinking water sources.

First Phase 2007-2010:

- Early Actions
- Education and Outreach
- Special Projects

Second Phase 2011-2012:

- Early Response

2011 - 34 Conservation Authorities will help to deliver Phase 2 this program in partnership with the Province of Ontario and with other agencies and municipalities.

First Phase 2007-2010: EARLY ACTIONS

- From 2007 – 2010, funding for stewardship projects delivered under the Early Actions Program was available to property owners, agricultural producers, and small to medium sized businesses immediately within areas close to municipal drinking water sources which include Surface Water Intakes and Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs).
- The eligible early actions and best management practices funded by by the ODWSP were delivered by Conservation Authorities as well the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) in conjunction with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA).

A list of the projects from Phase 1 includes:

Action/BMP/Measure	Cost –Share (Grant Rate & Cap)	Total # Projects (Jan 2011)
Decommissioning abandoned wells and upgrades to existing wells	80% \$4000	588 Completed 35 In Progress
Septic system inspections and upgrades	80% \$7,000 (\$15,000 advanced systems)	1222 Completed 31 In Progress
Pollution prevention (P2) reviews for med and small businesses	100% \$12,000	62 Completed 2 In Progress
Runoff and erosion protection measures and additional best management practices (BMPs)	25% to 80% \$1,000 to \$60,000	92 Completed 23 In Progress

Education and Outreach:

- Under the Early Action program, funds were also provided for local education and outreach activities related to source protection planning. These funds were generally used to educate Ontario residents, and businesses (including farm) and industry about the importance of source water protection and the important actions they can take to assist in maintaining safe municipal drinking water sources.
- 52 projects were delivered by
 - Municipalities
 - Non-government organizations
 - Source Protection Regions/Conservation Authorities and
 - Conservation Ontario

Special Projects

- The Early Actions Program included funding for 71 projects that supported
 - New or Innovative approaches to municipal source water protection
 - Support of First Nations projects – eg. Delaware First Nation – well upgrade - to prevent well flooding and contamination of drinking water
 - Protection of Municipal drinking water outside of Source Protection Areas

ODWSP Benefits

- Property owners, municipalities and businesses are learning about threats to drinking water, as well as what they can do to protect municipal drinking water supplies.
- Technical and financial assistance is getting to landowners and businesses (including farm) in WHPAs, Intake Protection Zones (IPZs) who are voluntarily taking action.
- Ultimately, Ontario's drinking water is getting an extra layer of protection.

Second Phase 2011-2012 : EARLY RESPONSE

- The second phase of the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program – the Early Response component – was approved in Fall 2009.
- This is a voluntary program similar to the Early Actions Program with **local priorities** concerning **significant drinking water threats** established by the Source Protection Committees and funding being delivered by Conservation Authorities to landowners through an application process.
- This program addresses top significant threats identified in Source Protection Assessment Reports from across the province. These include:
 1. Sewage System or Sewage Works - Septic System
 2. Application of Agricultural Source Material (eg. Manure) to Land
 3. Application of Pesticides to Land
 4. Storage of Agricultural Source Material
 5. Storage of Fuel
 6. Storage of a Pesticide
 7. Sewage System or Sewage Works - Sanitary Sewers and related pipes
 8. Storage of an Organic Solvent
 9. Storage of a Dense Non Aqueous Phase Liquid (DNAPL)
 10. Application of Commercial Fertilizer to Land

For more information on the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship program:

Conservation Ontario <http://www.conservationontario.ca/stewardship/programs.html>

Ontario Ministry of Environment

http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/subject/protection/STDPROD_080599

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