



**Agricultural Properties | Financial Incentive Program Guidelines**

# **WATER QUALITY & HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Current as of December 1st, 2021





Conservation Halton has a lot of information and documents available to support landowners in both hard copy and online. To assist you in finding the information most relevant to you, documents have been organized into the following categories: Urban Properties, Countryside Properties and Agricultural Properties. Use the colour coding tag and symbology as a guide along your information gathering journey.

## **Agricultural Properties**



## **Countryside Properties**



## **Urban Properties**







# **Conservation Halton**

## **Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Program**

### **AGRICULTURAL PROPERTIES**

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## Program Background

Since 1994, Conservation Halton has provided technical and financial assistance to private landowners to assist them in implementing best management practices and conservation projects that improve and protect water quality and wildlife habitat. Citizens in urban, rural, and agricultural areas of Conservation Halton's watershed are encouraged and supported in taking responsibility for restoring and maintaining the quality of the environment in which they live.

This is the foundation upon which this program, formerly known as the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program, was developed in 1994 with the following partners:

Conservation Halton  
Hamilton Conservation Authority  
Bay Area Restoration Council

### Program Purpose

The purpose of the Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Program (WQHIP) is to support landowners with a grant towards the cost of eligible projects they undertake on their land to improve local surface and ground water quality as well as fish and wildlife habitat through improved land management practices. All projects implemented under this program are voluntary.



### Program Goals

- To provide technical and financial assistance to landowners and residents in Conservation Halton's watershed to achieve their environmental and stewardship goals;
- To promote and facilitate the adoption of environmentally sound land management practices to protect, restore, and enhance surface and ground water, air and soil quality, and/or fish and wildlife habitat in Conservation Halton's watershed;
- To help protect agricultural lands as a natural resource of major importance in the area, while recognizing and supporting farmers and agricultural organizations as valuable contributors to the environment, community, and economy; and
- To promote healthy communities that respect the natural environment and water resources.

### Program Process

Grant assistance is available to landowners who:

- Build new structures, upgrade existing structures, and adopt practices which will improve existing impairment problems as part of their water quality improvement



plan;

- Create or rehabilitate fish and wildlife habitat;
- Demonstrate good land stewardship practices; and
- Create educational opportunities or demonstration sites.

Projects will be pre-screened by Conservation Halton staff for eligibility to ensure they meet guidelines. Projects will then be reviewed by the Project Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) who will consider the merit of each project and score them accordingly.

There may be instances where Conservation Halton is the recipient of external grant funding that can be allocated to landowner projects. Under these circumstances, a PTAC review of the project may not be required.

There may be instances where landowners' proposed projects require review by one or more of the following: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF), Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), local Medical Officer of Health, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA), Conservation Halton (CH), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), or municipality, etc.

**Approvals Committee:** The Project Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) acts as the Approvals Committee for all WQHIP project proposal applications as outlined in the PTAC Terms of Reference and ensures that the Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Program is administered in accordance with these guidelines.

PTAC consists of representatives from local agricultural organizations, environmental interest groups, citizens at large, as well as representation from local Conservation Authorities.

Conservation Halton staff provide support to landowners by offering free:

- Property site visits;
- Landowner consultations;
- Technical assistance for project design, when appropriate;
- Education and outreach opportunities.



## Landowner Financial Assistance and Project Eligibility

### Grant Overview

The following grants are available to agricultural landowners in Conservation Halton's watershed who implement projects to improve water quality or habitat on their properties as outlined below. A single property may be eligible to receive grants under each category up to the category cap each calendar year (some exceptions apply). For large projects that are planned to be implemented in phases, applicants are encouraged to present the complete project as well as the immediate phase that is requesting funds. Each phase of the project must provide a demonstrable environmental improvement as determined by the PTAC.

Refer to Table 1 for a list of project categories and their associated grant rates and caps.

**Note: WQHIP grants may be combined (stacked) with other cost share sources, and applicants are encouraged to seek additional funding. Combined grants are not to exceed 100% of total expenses. Applicants must inform Conservation Halton staff of additional cost share funding. Conservation Halton's Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Program is applied as the final funding. If a landowner receives funding from another source(s), their project will be eligible to receive the WQHIP grant rate for the remaining costs. For example:**

**Total Project Cost = \$1000**

**\$250 confirmed funding from other cost share source**

**\$750 remaining cost is eligible for WQHIP grant rate and cap.**



Table 1: Projects Eligible for Funding

Project Type	Cost Share	Maximum Cost Share	Performance Incentive	Notes
Manure Storage and Handling Systems	50%	\$10,000	-	One project per property
Manure Storage Decommissioning	50%	\$3,000	-	Per project
Clean Water Diversion	50%	\$10,000	-	Per project
Livestock Restriction from Environmentally Sensitive Features	75% - \$100	\$10,000	-	Livestock access restriction materials are eligible for 100% if installed by landowner.
Fuel and Chemical Storage	50%	\$3,000	-	Per project
Erosion Control Structures	75%	\$10,000	-	Per project
Dead Stock Composting Facilities	50%	\$4,000		One project per property
Machinery Crossings	75%	\$5,000	-	Per project
Nutrient Management Strategy	75%	\$2,000		Only available to farms not currently phased into nutrient management legislation.
Nutrient Management Plan	75%	\$3,000	-	Only available to farms not currently phased into nutrient management legislation
Cover Crops	n/a	\$3,000	\$100/acre	Maximum \$3,000 per farm business
Fragile Land Retirement	n/a	\$3,500/year	\$350/acre	Maximum 10 acres for 3 years per project
In-Stream Barrier Mitigation	75%	\$10,000		Per project
Natural Area Creation and Enhancement	75%	\$5,000/\$10,000		Per project
Wellhead Abandonment – City of Hamilton	100%	\$1000		Maximum 2 wells per property. A City of Hamilton program delivered through CH's WQHIP
Wellhead Abandonment – Halton Region	Offered Through Halton Region			
Invasive Species Management	50% - 75%	\$10,000		Per project
Wellhead Protection (upgrades)	100%	\$1000		One project per property
Education and Training	50%	\$500		Once per year per applicant
Innovative Projects	75%	\$5,000		Per project



## Eligibility

1. A grant to implement a project through the Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Program may be paid to an individual applicant who:
  - is a resident of Ontario; and
  - is a registered owner of the property

**Note: under this program, a person is deemed to be the owner of land if the person leases the land for farming from the registered owner.**

2. The project must be located within Conservation Halton's jurisdiction and improve habitat and/or water quality.
3. The following costs are generally eligible for grant assistance:
  - Required permits
  - Purchased materials and supplies
  - Professional fees
  - Fees for design, construction, and supervision

**Note: The labour and machinery use of the applicant, family dependents, and the applicant's business are not eligible.**

4. All approvals and permits are the responsibility of the applicant. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the project meets all legal requirements including (but not limited to):
  - Local municipal bylaws
  - Provincial and regional highway setbacks
  - Drainage Act
  - Federal and Provincial Acts
  - Canada Farm Building Code
  - Ontario Building Code
  - Conservation Authorities Act
5. Innovative technologies and projects that do not conform to the guidelines will be considered by the Project Technical Advisory Committee on a project-by-project basis. Applicants should contact Conservation Halton WQHIP staff to determine the application requirements.
6. From time to time, Conservation Halton staff will review the eligible project types and guidelines and may alter these at their discretion.





## Limitations to Grant Availability

1. Grants are limited to properties in Conservation Halton's watershed, with completed water quality and/or habitat improvement project plan designs.
2. Any applicant who proceeds with a project before it has been approved by the Project Technical Advisory Committee has no assurance that financial assistance will be provided.
3. An applicant must specify the year in which the project will be completed. If the project cannot be completed within the specified year, the grant may not be available, however, the applicant may appeal to Conservation Halton staff for an extension.
4. Funds will be allocated on a priority basis. Those projects with the higher potential for improving habitat and/or water quality will be considered first.
5. The grant will not be paid on HST if the applicant is entitled to an HST rebate.
6. Conservation Halton will set funding allocations annually. At that time, they may decide to set allocations for priority areas, and/or project categories. Funds may be limited based on this decision.
7. The number of grants available may be restricted to meet local priorities and budgets. Once the annual Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Program budget has been committed, no further approvals will be given.
8. It is possible that a project is evaluated as having merit but is not funded due to available funding being fully allocated to higher ranking projects. If the approved projects in a single year exceed the annual budget, the remaining approved un-funded projects may be resubmitted for re-scoring and approval the following year.

## The Grant Process

### How to Apply

1. Contact the Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Program at Conservation Halton (CH) (905-336-1158 x 2263) or by email at [stewardship@hrca.on.ca](mailto:stewardship@hrca.on.ca) to verify that your proposed project meets the guidelines and to arrange a site visit. CH staff are available to assist you with the planning of your project and applying to the program.
2. Complete and submit the WQHIP Application to Conservation Halton by the December 1<sup>st</sup>\* deadline of the year prior to the year of project implementation. An Application Support Guide will be provided for clarification and to assist with the process.

\* Application deadline may be extended in a given year. Please check online at: <https://conservationhalton.ca/financial-incentives> or contact your Landowner Outreach Technician to confirm the current year's deadline.



### Grant Application Review Process

1. The Project Technical Advisory Committee reviews project applications once per year over a two-week period in January/February. Grant applications are anonymously presented to PTAC to review, evaluate, and score the projects based on their potential to protect and/or improve local habitat and/or water quality. All applicants are notified of their project scoring results in the week following the PTAC review.
2. The committee may pose questions to the applicant, a contractor listed on the application, or to CH staff and may have discussions about the project to determine a project's merit.
3. Project merit is assessed based on the following attributes:
  - The project directly addresses a water quality impairment;
  - The project directly addresses a habitat impairment;
  - The project contributes to improving water quality;
  - The project contributes to improving habitat quality;
  - The project is located adjacent to, or in close proximity to a natural area; and
  - The project raises public awareness of water quality and habitat issues or opportunities.
4. PTAC members score each of the projects independently, based on the project's attributes.
5. After reviewing the responses from the PTAC members, Conservation Halton staff will rank the different projects and inform PTAC members of their decision to fund or not fund the grant applications.
6. Once the project proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Project Technical Advisory Committee, successful applicants will be notified to proceed with the project. If your project has not been approved, the reasons for this will be communicated. There may be an opportunity to resubmit the project application the following year after suggested changes have been made.
7. Once your project has been approved, you will be asked to review, sign, and return a WQHIP Agreement prior to commencing work. The agreement, alongside your application, will serve as the Project Agreement between you and Conservation Halton.



### Project Closeout

1. Notify staff when the project is completed, paid for, and you have copies of all necessary permits and receipts. A site inspection is required to confirm that the project is complete. At that time, you can submit the Financial Tracking Form, original invoices marked “paid”, and a copy of cancelled cheques (front and back) or bank statement for all eligible project expenses to CH staff.
2. Within 4 weeks of a site inspection that determines that the work is complete and satisfactory, your pre-approved cost-share payment will be sent to you.

### Timeline

ACTION	DATE
WQHIP applications to be submitted to Conservation Halton	January 15 <sup>th</sup>
PTAC Review meeting	February
Landowner notification letters distributed	Late February
Project Agreement established	Early March
Project installations	March-November
Financial Tracking submitted to Conservation Halton	ASAP, but no later than December 1 <sup>st</sup>
Grant payment issued (upon completion of inspection)	ASAP, but no later than December 15 <sup>th</sup>



## Roles and Responsibilities

### Conservation Halton (CH)

- Establishes and updates program guidelines as needed to ensure that the program is properly administered;
- Reviews the funding allocation regularly;
- Ensures that information on the administration of the program is available to all potential applicants;
- Establishes the WQHIP Project Guidelines with assistance from PTAC and partners and regularly reviews and evaluates the financial assistance framework to ensure the program is properly administered and the financial assistance available aligns with the goals of the WQHIP;
- Conducts site visits to identify project opportunities for the creation or enhancement of habitat and evaluates the potential sources, pathways, and magnitude of water quality impairment;
- Provides information to landowners regarding conservation practices, structures, and stewardship practices that may qualify for grants;
- Provides management choices and remedial options to reduce pollution potential from identified sources;
- Assists landowners with the completion of the Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Funding Application and Agreement;
- Reviews water quality and/or habitat improvement plans for acceptability for grant assistance;
- Ensures the anonymity of project applicants when grant applications/project proposals are presented to PTAC;
- Allocates funds based on the review, scoring, and ranking of PTAC;
- Communicates to all applicants the results of the PTAC review in writing;
- Verifies that projects have been completed;
- Ensures that payment is issued to the landowner upon project administrative completion; and,
- Undertakes monitoring of the completed project as written in the funding agreement.

### The Project Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC)

- Is made up of industry professionals and community volunteers;
- Ensures that the WQHIP is administered in accordance with these guidelines; and,
- Evaluates and scores each project based on the attributes listed under the Grant Application Review Process above.

### The Grant Applicant

- Contacts CH WQHIP staff to verify that the proposed project meets the grant eligibility requirements;
- Contacts CH WQHIP staff to arrange an on-site consultation;



- Completes the grant application to the best of their ability. CH WQHIP staff are available to assist;
- Ensures that the information on the grant application is complete and correct;
- When signing the grant application, agrees to maintain and use the new structures in accordance with their water quality improvement or habitat enhancement plan for a period of not less than 10 years or the life of the structure;
- Ensures that the project meets all relevant local, provincial, and federal laws and regulations;
- Ensures that appropriate permits are obtained prior to construction;
- Contacts CH promptly following completion so that verification of the completed projects can be made;
- Provides receipts for materials or items purchased and copies of supporting cancelled cheques or proof of financing in order to receive the grant, including completion of the Financial Tracking Form;
- Agrees to display a conservation project sign on their property in a location visible to the public;
- Agrees to inform CH if the property is sold to a new landowner in the future;
- Agrees to transfer a copy of the approved Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Funding Application and Agreement and associated documents to the new landowner (for information purposes only) if the property is sold in the future; and
- Gives permission to CH to photograph and promote the success of a particular project to demonstrate the positive actions that are being taken by the landowners in CH's watersheds.

**Note: Although Conservation Halton may provide information regarding the applicant's water quality improvement plan, habitat enhancement plan, and the practices and structures contained in the plan, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the practices and structures undertaken are suitable to the applicant's operation and technically and structurally adequate.**

Conservation Halton, Bay Area Restoration Council, PTAC Members, funding agencies or other review agencies (e.g., DFO, OMAFRA, MECP, MNRF, OSCIA, Local Medical Officer of Health) are not liable for any loss arising from the use of any advice or information provided as part of or under the Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Program.





## Project Guidelines

### Clean Water Diversion

**Cost Share Details: 50% up to \$10,000**

#### **Purpose:**

- To reduce the amount of contaminated runoff from manure storages and exercise yards by diverting clean rain and snow melt water away from sources of contamination to a satisfactory outlet, helping to prevent flooding and erosion, and improving land management.

#### **Eligible Projects:**

- Eavestroughs that direct water away from exercise yards and manure storage areas.
- Clean water diversion structures such as berms and ditches that direct clean water away from an exercise yard or manure storage.
- Roofs on exercise yards.
- Any other permanent technique to keep rain and snow from becoming contaminated by manure or adding to the volume of contaminated runoff.
- Impermeable surfaces and curb walls (maximum height 0.6 metres above grade) on livestock yards or container nursery yards to direct runoff to storage or treatment areas.

#### **Project Details:**

- Downspouts located where livestock can access them must be made of schedule 40 PVC (or stronger materials) and be well-secured to prevent dislodging.
- Eavestroughs must be made of galvanized steel or material of similar or greater strength to reduce the risk of ice damage.
- Applications for Clean Water Diversion that include eavestroughs directed into a tile must also include debris traps to ensure that tiles do not become plugged.
- All Clean Water Diversion projects must discharge clean water away from any source of contamination, and not pose other hazards such as soil erosion.
- Berms, tile outlets, and ditches must be properly protected.
- The Project Technical Advisory Committee may require an applicant to install an emergency shutoff valve if there is concern for conveyance of a spilled contaminant.

#### **Eligible Costs:**

- Materials and labour (other than applicant's) associated with an approved project
- Permits and engineering fees

#### **Ineligible Costs:**

- Paving of exercise yards
- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, family dependents, and the applicant's business
- When roofing an exercise yard, the Clean Water Diversion grant cannot be combined with the grant available under Manure Storage and Handling Systems.



## Cover Crops

**Cost Share Details: up to \$100/acre for a maximum of \$3,000 per Farm Business**

### **Purpose:**

- To promote the establishment and over-wintering of cover crops (living or dead), which help provide soil protection and reduce erosion to watercourses.
- To assist with the management of soil fertility, soil quality, water, pests, disease, biodiversity, and wildlife in an agro-ecosystem.
- To protect groundwater by promoting biological nitrogen fixation.

### **Project Details:**

- The cost share grant is a maximum \$3,000 per farm business.
- Priority will be given to areas directly adjacent to watercourses or with tile drainage.
- Applicant must register all potential fields and provide a crop rotation plan. Eligible fields may be owned or rented. In the case of rented fields, the grant will be paid to the tenant farmer.
- Crops may be tilled no sooner than April 1st of the year following planting (may be chemically killed the previous fall).
- Cover crops must be destroyed before June 1.
- Only cover crops used exclusively for cover are eligible for grants, such as rye buckwheat and oilseed radish. This excludes crops that are harvested or grazed such as winter cereals, winter canola, and forages.
- The cover crop must be verified by CH WQHIP staff. Applicants are responsible for contacting CH prior to chemical destruction, winter freeze, or before tillage to ensure that the cover crop is providing at least 50% ground cover.

### **Eligible Costs:**

- Only cover crops used exclusively for cover
- Crop consultant fees

### **Ineligible Costs:**

- Purchase of Equipment
- On-going operating and capital costs
- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, the applicant's family, and/or the applicant's business



## Dead Stock Composting Facilities

**Cost Share Details: 50% up to \$4,000**

### **Purpose:**

- To encourage environmentally responsible composting of livestock mortalities and prevent contamination of surface and ground water from disposal of dead stock.

### **Eligible Projects:**

- Composting facilities to dispose of dead livestock or poultry that meet OMAFRA guidelines and provincial regulations.

### **Project Details:**

- Compost facilities must meet the most recent OMAFRA guidelines as described in their factsheet entitled “Deadstock Disposal Options for On-Farm (Order No. 09-025)”  
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/deadstock/index.html>
- Where a dead stock composting facility is constructed as part of a roofed solid manure storage, it must have a separate entrance from outside the building and be separated from the manure storage by a concrete wall.

### **Eligible Costs:**

- Permits and engineering fees
- Materials and labour (other than the applicant’s) associated with an approved project

### **Ineligible Costs:**

- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, family dependents, and the applicant’s business



## Education and Training

**Cost-Share: 50% up to \$500**

### **Purpose:**

- To support a watershed resident in accessing an opportunity that relates to the protection, restoration, and enhancement of surface and/or groundwater quality, air or soil quality, and/or fish and wildlife habitat as promoted by Conservation Halton.
- To provide support to an organization or collaborations that wish to educate or train Conservation Halton watershed residents on water quality, habitat, or agri-environmental related subjects.

### **Eligible Projects:**

- Educational and/or Training Course costs
- Production of new materials (e.g., brochures, pamphlets, etc.)
- Reprints and distribution of existing materials
- Development and implementation of new events (e.g., workshops, farm tours, etc.)
- Support of recurring events



### **Project Details:**

- Applicants\* will provide a plan identifying the need for the initiative, the target audience, goals and objectives, draft content, distribution plan, itemized cost estimates, timeline, as well as potential and secured funding.
- The plan must demonstrate that the project is a priority in the context of Conservation Halton's Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Program.
- Applicants are encouraged to seek multiple funding partners. Applicants must identify all funding (potential and received) from other partners or cost recovery aspects at the time of application.
- Applicants are encouraged to develop materials and events that address the needs of various stakeholders including agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial.
- Educational programs must not duplicate the work being done or previously completed by other agencies or organizations. The Program will make use of existing educational materials and events whenever possible, providing that they adequately meet its objectives.
- Applicants are eligible for one grant per year for educational initiatives. PTAC may consider additional project proposal applications from one group if funds remain at the end of the Program year.
- Conservation Halton's Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Program will not fund projects initiated by for-profit companies and organizations, government or government agencies and Conservation Authorities.
- The Program will not fund projects targeted at audiences exclusively outside of Conservation Halton's watershed.



- Successful applicants will consult with CH WQHIP staff on the final content and layout of publications and events to ensure that Program objectives are met.

**Eligible Costs:**

- Material costs
- Professional/speaker fees
- Translation
- Printing costs
- Rental of halls or equipment for events
- Permits and approvals
- Meals and non-alcoholic beverages

**Ineligible Costs:**

- Purchase of equipment
- On-going operating and capital costs (e.g., costs associated with an annual general meeting)
- Individual courses that solely benefit a single farm business
- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, the applicant's family, and/or the applicant's business
- Mileage

\* An 'applicant' represents the interests of their organization at its highest representative level. Therefore, individual applications, without the consent of their organization, will not be considered. Funding allocated to the applicant will be considered as funding to the entire organization and will be subject to the yearly grant maximum.





## Erosion Control Structures

**Cost Share Details: 75% up to \$10 000**

### **Purpose:**

- To control soil erosion problems on farmland which impact surface water quality.

### **Eligible Projects:**

- Grass waterways
- Water and sediment control basins
- Contour terraces
- Drop inlet structures to reduce the velocity and erosive force of water

### **Project Details:**

- Obtaining funding for erosion control projects will be enhanced if conservation tillage practices are used on adjacent fields.
- Work must be done by or supervised by a qualified contractor.
- Design by private sector professional engineers may be advisable on complex and/or large projects.
- Structures should be properly engineered to withstand expected water volume and velocities. The landowner and their contractor/engineer will be responsible for the structural integrity of the construction project. Applicants may refer to OMAFRA factsheets for design information: [www.omafra.gov.on.ca](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca)
- Projects must be constructed to the standards specified in the OMAFRA Soil Erosion Manual.
- Applicant must obtain approval(s) from appropriate agencies prior to construction. In addition, any work done on municipal drains also requires prior approval from the municipality.
- All collected water must be taken to a sufficient and legal outlet.

### **Eligible Costs:**

- Professional design fees for completed projects
- Labour, supervision and material
- Permits and fees

### **Ineligible costs:**

- Systematic tile and subsurface drainage that is not an integral part of an erosion control structure
- Catch basins without adequate sediment control
- Labour and machinery use of applicant, family dependents, and the applicant's business
- Grant will not be paid on HST if the applicant is entitled to a HST rebate



## Fragile Land Retirement

**Cost Share Details: Performance incentive \$350/acre for 3 years, maximum 10 acres**

### **Purpose:**

- To improve water quality and wildlife habitat by retiring fragile agricultural land

**Note: Fragile agricultural land is considered tilled or pastured land that is prone to water, tillage, or wind erosion.**

### Examples of Fragile Land Are:

- Steeply sloped croplands
- Lands that are prone to standing water
- Flood plains
- Areas where groundwater is recharged

### **Eligible Project Types:**

Permanently retiring fragile land requires taking the land completely out of agricultural production to:

- Plant a permanent vegetated buffer, such as native trees, shrubs, grasses or wildflowers along a watercourse, wetland or pond and allow the land to naturalize, or
- Create a wetland

### **Project Details:**

- Land must have been cropped or pastured within the previous 3 years to be eligible for the land retirement incentive.
- A plan is required specifying species, planting density, location, site preparation, and maintenance. For the greatest chance of success, the plan should be developed in conjunction with Conservation Halton staff or a private consultant.
- Minimum vegetated buffer width along water courses, wetlands (existing or created), and ponds is 3 metres from top of bank. Wider widths are encouraged.
- Appropriate native species must be planted in the buffer strip.
- Wetland creation projects must provide water storage, improve water quality by acting as a natural filter, reduce flooding, reduce erosion, replenish groundwater, and create or enhance wildlife habitat.
- Priority may be given to projects that are adjacent to identified natural heritage areas (please consult with Conservation Halton WQHIP staff).
- Priority may be given to projects partnering with other wetland restoration programs (e.g., Ducks Unlimited Canada)
- The participant is responsible for the care and maintenance of plantings. The project site must be properly maintained according to the approved plan to receive a performance incentive.



- The performance incentive is to compensate landowners choosing to retire agricultural lands from production. Performance incentives are paid out in the fall following successful establishment of planted or seeded vegetation. Retired land planted in the spring will be eligible for the first performance incentive in the fall. Retired land planted in the fall will be eligible for the first performance incentive the following year.
- Livestock must be fenced out of retired land (See Livestock Restriction project category for cost-share availability).
- Projects must obtain approval(s) from appropriate agencies prior to construction. In addition, any work done on municipal drains also requires prior approval from the municipality.
- Projects must not negatively impact existing natural or critical habitats, nor species at risk and their habitats.



## Fuel and Chemical Storage

**Cost Share Details: 50% up to \$3,000**

### **Purpose:**

To prevent contamination of surface and ground water, soil, and air quality by fuel products, chemicals, and fertilizers.

### **Eligible Projects:**

- Farm chemical storage structure
- This category is limited to the replacement or upgrade of three (3) tanks per farm.
- Chemical mixing/sprayer washing structure
- Liquid fertilizer handling facility
- Upgrading existing facilities to prevent groundwater contamination

### **Project Details:**

- Chemical storage structures must be able to contain any spills that may occur within the structure. No floor drains are permitted in storage structures and the non-permeable floor must have a minimum 5 centimetre (2 inches) curb.
- Chemical storage buildings must satisfy Canadian Farm Building Code. Buildings must be used exclusively for farm chemical storage.
- If fuel tanks are being replaced, they must be above ground, double-walled, vacuum sealed tanks and must be located on a reinforced, poured concrete pad.
- Tanks must be protected from vehicle collisions with a safety barrier (i.e., bollards).
- If an existing fuel storage system has single walled tank(s) in good condition, the tank(s) may not require replacement in order to be eligible for funding to upgrade other components of the system (e.g., emergency shut off, bollards).
- In accordance with Ontario Regulation 217-01: Liquid Fuels, any alteration to a tank(s) must be completed by a Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) registered contractor. Information on registered contractors can be found on the TSSA website: [www.tssa.org](http://www.tssa.org)
- Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the project meets all applicable requirements (e.g., separation distances from buildings, bollard specifications, etc.).
- Fuel storage spill containment must meet or exceed Gasoline Handling Code standards.
- A copy of an emergency plan for accidental exposure and spills must be submitted with the project proposal application.

### **Eligible Costs:**

- Permits, engineering and design, and consultation fees
- Materials and labour (other than the applicant's or the applicant's family)

### **Ineligible Costs:**

- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, the applicant's family, and/or the applicant's business
- Pumps, nozzles, or hoses
- Primary hydro



**Note:** By law, tanks, pumps, and hoses must be Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC) approved.





## Innovative Projects

**Cost Share Details: 75% up to \$5,000**

### **Purpose:**

To encourage the adoption of innovative technology that improves and protects surface water or groundwater quality and/or wildlife habitat.

### **Project Details:**

- Projects will be reviewed on their own merits. The applicant must submit a plan outlining the proposed project.
- Projects must be able to demonstrate the potential for improving and protecting surface water or groundwater quality and/or wildlife habitat.
- Applicants are encouraged to seek additional funding from other sources.
- All permits required by the appropriate agencies must be obtained (municipal, provincial or federal, Conservation Authority, etc.).

### **Eligible Costs:**

- Materials and supplies
- Labour (other than the applicant's) associated with an approved project
- Permit fees
- Professional design fees
- Engineering or consulting fees

### **Ineligible Costs:**

- Primary research
- Purchase of farm equipment or equipment modifications
- GPS systems and components, yield monitors
- Funding will not be provided to incomplete projects
- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, family dependents, and the applicant's business
- Primary hydro



## In-Stream Barrier Mitigation

**Grant Rate and Cap: 75% up to \$10,000**

### **Purpose:**

- To restore or enhance aquatic habitat through the remediation of an existing impairment to fisheries habitat. Impairments may include, but are not limited to, online ponds, dams, culverts, etc.

### **Eligible Project Types:**

- Bypass channel
- Dam removal
- Debris removal
- In-stream Barrier Mitigation
- Culvert replacement or upgrade
- Online pond mitigation

### **Project Details:**

- Projects must obtain approval from appropriate agencies (e.g., Conservation Authority, OMAFRA, DFO, MNRF, Municipality, etc.). Projects on Municipal Drains must be approved by the applicable Drainage Superintendent.
- Project must remediate an existing water quality impairment.
- During construction all erosion control measures shall be implemented.
- For larger or more complex projects, engineered designs may be advised.
- Structures should be properly engineered to withstand expected water volume and velocities. The applicant and their contractor/engineer will be responsible for the structural integrity of the project.

### **Eligible Costs:**

- Materials and labour (other than the applicant's or the applicant's family)
- Equipment rentals
- Professional services
- Permits
- Engineering and consulting fees

### **Ineligible Costs:**

- Projects without adequate sediment control
- Labour, mileage, in-kind contributions and/or machinery use of the applicant, family dependents, and the applicant's business
- Installation or repair of the tile drainage system
- Maintenance of installed structures



## Invasive Plant Species Control

**Grant Rate and Cap: 50% - 75% up to \$5,000 (see Grant Rates and Caps in chart below)**

### **Purpose:**

- To support the implementation of best management practices to remove, control, and prevent the spread of invasive plant species and help enhance biodiversity.

### **Eligible Projects:**

- Removal of invasive plant species such as *Phragmites*, Dog-Strangling Vine, Japanese Knotweed, Common Buckthorn, etc. For a full list of eligible species, visit [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com)



**Note:** Best Management Practices often recommend planting native tree and shrub species once the targeted invasive species population is eradicated or under control. If dealing with a large infestation, it is sometimes best to remove the invasive plant(s) and re-plant in phases to avoid other invasive species moving in. Re-planting with native species will help jump-start natural succession and increase biodiversity in the area. Higher consideration may be given to invasive plant species control projects that are paired with a native tree, shrub, herbaceous plant and/or grass planting project application. Projects proposing non-native species alternatives and lawn alternatives post removal, will not be considered. Best Management Practices for Invasive Plant Species in Ontario can be found at [www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca](http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca)



Invasive Species Type	Description of Eligible Project	Grant Rate	Grant Cap
Herbaceous Plants and Grasses	Property within 100 meters of an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA), Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), Significant Woodland, Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) and/or wetland complex, 10 acres or greater in size. Funding to pay for contractors to remove invasive species using Integrated Pest Management (IPM).	75%	\$5,000
Woody Shrubs			\$5,000
Trees			\$5,000
Herbaceous Plants and Grasses	Property greater than 100 meters away from an ESA, ANSI, Significant Woodland, PSW and/or wetland complex, 10 acres or greater in size. Funding to pay for contractors to remove invasive species using IPM.	50%	\$2,500
Woody Shrubs			\$5,000
Herbaceous Plants and Grasses	Property within 100 meters of an ESA, ANSI, Significant Woodland, PSW and/or wetland complex, less than 10 acres in size. Funding to pay for contractors to remove invasive species using IPM.	50%	\$500
Woody Shrubs			\$1,000
Trees			\$1,000
Herbaceous Plants and Grasses	Property greater than 100 meters away from an ESA, ANSI, Significant Woodland, PSW and/or wetland complex, less than 10 acres in size. Funding to pay for contractors to remove invasive species using IPM.	50%	\$250
Woody Shrubs			\$500
Herbaceous Plants and Grasses	Projects occurring within the floodplain of a creek. Funding to pay for contractors to remove invasive species using IPM.	75%	\$2,500
Woody Shrubs			\$5,000
Trees			\$5,000

#### Eligible Costs:

- Professional contracting services for removal/control of invasive plant species. Full list of eligible species found at [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com)
- Project costs could include the following:
  - Development of invasive plant species management plan
  - Materials, labour, equipment rentals, permits, and engineering fees
  - Use of specialized equipment for removal
  - Appropriate disposal of vegetation

#### Ineligible Costs:

- Major clearing of fencerows, field, or forest landscapes
- Purchase of cultivation equipment, including equipment used primarily for general vegetation control around farmsteads (e.g., tillers, bushhogs, mowers etc.)
- Chemicals (herbicides), unless proven to be the most effective means of control with a support letter from technical specialist or other supporting information deemed appropriate
- Purchase of chemical spraying equipment
- Control and management of plants not identified as invasive (full list of eligible species at [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com))
- Fuel costs



# Livestock Restriction from Environmentally Sensitive Features

**Cost Share Details: 75% -100% up to \$10,000**

## **Purpose:**

- To restrict livestock from environmentally sensitive features including but not limited to woodlands, wildlife corridors, buffer strips, watercourses, wetlands, ponds, meadows, and prairies.
- To promote alternate watering sources and systems.
- To assist with the rehabilitation of natural areas.

## **Eligible Projects:**

A project proposed under this category must be remedial in nature and improve an existing environmental impairment. Projects include:

- Fencing livestock from environmentally sensitive features with permanent or temporary fencing.
- Livestock crossings such as spanning bridges, culvert crossings, or bed-level crossings.
  - Spanning bridge
  - Culvert crossing

Bed-level crossing

- Alternate watering systems.



To be eligible a proposed farm or field should:

- Have livestock on the farm.
- Have had livestock on the pasture or field in the last year.
- Have the field seeded to pasture.
- Have a perimeter fence in place currently.
- Have evidence of environmental impairment.
- Try whenever practical to restrict access of livestock to all areas at risk.

## **Project Details:**

### **Fencing livestock from Environmentally Sensitive Features**

- Funding will only be provided for the portion of fencing that protects an environmentally sensitive feature or restricts livestock from an identified Source Water Protection threat area.
- The proposed fence should restrict livestock access over the entire length of the feature or identified Source Water Protection threat area.
- For a contractor-installed fence, the grant rate is 75% of the total project cost (labour and materials) paid up to a maximum of \$12/metre. Example: Jane hires a contractor to install 200 metres of fencing along a stream that runs through her sheep pasture. The project costs





her \$4,000. In this case, Jane could apply for \$2,400 (200m x \$12/m) in funding from the Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Program.

- For a landowner-installed fence, the grant rate is 100% of the material cost paid up to a maximum of \$15/metre. Example: Jane installs 200m of fencing herself along a stream that runs through her sheep pasture. The materials cost her \$3,500. In this case Jane could apply for \$3,000 (200m x \$15/m) in funding from the Water Quality and Habitat Improvement Program.
- Temporary fencing may be considered but if approved, will require a signed agreement requiring the applicant to install the fence prior to livestock being introduced to the pasture every year and to maintain the fence while livestock are present in the pasture.
- Fencing must be a minimum of 5 metres (16 feet) from the top of bank of any water feature, ditch, or municipal drain, measured from the highest seasonal water level.
- It is recommended that fencing be installed outside the drip-line of woodlots to reduce the likelihood of damages due to fallen tree limbs.
- Fencing setbacks from an identified Source Water Protection threat area will be in accordance with the Risk Management Plan for that property, if required.
- New fencing installed on existing farms to create a new pasture area may be eligible for funding if the project clearly demonstrates the protection of an environmentally sensitive feature.
- Replacement fences may be considered if the new fence is sited to provide significant environmental gain such as a wider buffer on a stream or wetland.
- Only fencing along an environmentally sensitive feature within an existing pasture will be considered for funding.

### **Livestock Crossings**

- Projects must obtain approval(s) from appropriate agencies (e.g. Conservation Authority, OMAFRA, Municipality, etc.).
- For bed-level crossings, gates must be installed on each streambank to allow livestock to be restricted out of the crossing. Gates shall be opened only for the purposes of moving livestock to the other side for pasture rotation purposes. Watering facilities must be available on both sides of the stream.
- To be eligible for cost-share on a livestock crossing, fencing along the watercourse must either be undertaken concurrently, or livestock must already be restricted from the watercourse.
- If the project is proposed on a municipal drain, the municipal drain superintendent is to be contacted.
- For crossings intended to also accommodate machinery, refer to the Erosion Control category.

### **Alternate Watering Systems**

- Watering systems for livestock will be eligible only where the water feature is properly fenced to exclude livestock.
- Nose pumps, spring boxes, electric and solar pumping units are eligible. Other systems may be proposed for consideration. Electrical pump systems are eligible, but the cost of primary hydro lines is not covered.



- Drilling of a new well to replace a surface water source. The intention is NOT to pay for drilled wells at the farmstead (except for extraordinary circumstances acceptable to CH WQHIP staff and PTAC).

**Eligible Costs:**

- Permits and engineering fees
- Materials and labour (other than the applicant's or the applicant's immediate family)
- Relocation of an existing fence to provide significant environmental gain
- Permanent and temporary fencing
- Alternate watering system
- Livestock crossings as outlined above

**Ineligible Costs:**

- Well drilling to supply an alternate water system (except in exceptional circumstances)
- Primary hydro lines
- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, the applicant's family and/or the applicant's business.
- Repair and/or maintenance of existing fences
- Costs associated with a project that would encourage new land or pasture to be put at risk or impairment



## Machinery Crossings

**Cost Share Details: 75% up to \$5,000**

### **Purpose:**

- To control or reduce the impact of farm machinery crossings on surface water quality.

### **Eligible Projects:**

- Replacement or removal of machinery crossings with an existing water quality impact.
- Streambank stabilization including ditchbank seeding, culvert protection, and bioengineering techniques.

### **Project Details:**

- Bed-level, mid-level, and bridge crossings may be considered. All bridge crossing designs must be engineered. The private sector is expected to fill these requirements.
- Applicant must obtain permit approval from appropriate agencies prior to construction. In-stream works will require a Conservation Authority permit. Any work done on a municipal drain requires prior approval from the municipality. Additional approvals may be required.

### **Eligible Costs:**

- Professional design fees for completed projects
- Labour and supervision
- Materials and supplies
- Permits Fees

### **Ineligible costs:**

Labour and machinery use of applicant, family dependents, and the applicant's business.



# Manure Storage and Handling Systems

**Cost Share Details: 50% up to \$10,000**

## **Purpose:**

- To prevent contamination of surface and groundwater from manure and exercise yard runoff and to encourage environmentally responsible manure handling and spreading practices.

## **Eligible Projects:**

- Unroofed solid manure storages with runoff containment or treatment (e.g., vegetated flow path).
- Roofed solid manure storages.
- Concrete or steel liquid manure storage tanks (with or without lids/covers).
- Earthen manure storages and runoff containment and/or treatment system.
- Manure composting structures that meet the requirements of a manure storage structure (i.e., runoff containment, treatment or roof).

## **Project Details:**

- Under the Nutrient Management Act, manure storage facilities must have a minimum 240-day storage capacity for all solid and liquid wastes, unless approved otherwise by OMAFRA in writing. Funding for storage facilities will be based on the program maximum of 400-day storage capacity. Information on manure storage facility requirements can be found on OMAFRA's website: [www.omafra.gov.on.ca](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca)
- Must have a certified Nutrient Management Strategy and Nutrient Management Plan, unless:
  - If under the Nutrient Management Act and municipal by-laws the manure storage facility does not require a certified Nutrient Management Strategy and the manure storage is less than 5 Nutrient Units, CH WQHIP staff will work with technical advisors and the applicant to determine appropriate sizing.
  - Manure is not spread on the applicant's farm. In this instance, CH WQHIP staff will work with technical advisors and the applicant to determine appropriate BMPs to address disposal of manure.
- If a new barn is constructed, funding eligibility will be pro-rated to the volume of storage that was required for the existing/previous conditions.
  - In cases where the structure has been sized and constructed for an expanded operation, a simple arithmetic formula will be used. For example: a farmer currently has a herd of 50 dairy cows (including heifers and dry cows) and plans to expand to 75; the storage is sized and constructed for the 75 herd size. The eligible grant would be calculated based on 50/75 or 66% of the final cost of the project.
  - In cases where the herd size has not increased and where the structure has been constructed larger than that proposed in the approved WQHIP project proposal application and in excess of the 400 day program maximum, the volume of the



approved structure will be divided by the volume of the structure constructed to arrive at the pro-rating factor.

- Pro-rating for funding eligibility for manure storage and handling systems to the volume of storage required for existing/previous conditions is not required in the following case:
  - The proposed manure storage and handling system exceeds a minimum regulatory standard required under the Nutrient Management Act;
  - The project will provide a substantive water quality benefit; and,
  - The Nutrient Management Strategy and Plan that is required for the farm operation is updated to ensure the project is subject to a regulatory requirement.
- All manure storages, regardless of operation size or status, must meet the requirements of Ontario Regulation 267/03 under the Nutrient Management Act. This includes the Siting and Construction Standards which require manure storage facilities to be designed and inspected by a professional engineer. Applicants are responsible for determining the requirements for their proposed storage; contact OMAFRA for this service.
- Applicants must provide CH WQHIP staff with a copy of the building permit prior to grant payment.

#### **Eligible Costs:**

- Permits and engineering fees
- Materials and labour (other than the applicant's) associated with an approved project
- Transfer pumping equipment and piping
- Walls around yards to direct contaminated precipitation into a runoff storage. Regardless of height, only an equivalent 1 ft (0.3 m) concrete wall and the footing will be funded
- Storage covers and roofs
- Upgrading storages to increase the capacity of existing storages to a minimum 240 days and a maximum of 400 days

#### **Ineligible Costs:**

- Pumping equipment to empty long term storages
- Equipment associated with moving manure to a permanent manure storage
- Equipment associated with the land application of manure
- Slats or solid floors over in-barn storages including support posts, beams, and roofs
- Barn gutters
- Timbers that are treated with creosote, pentachlorophenol, or other toxic substances
- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, family dependents, and the applicant's business
- When roofing an exercise yard, the Clean Water Diversion grant cannot be combined with the grant amount available under Manure Storage and Handling Systems



# Manure Storage Decommissioning

**Cost Share Details: 50% up to \$3,000**

## **Purpose:**

- To remove unused manure storage structures that pose risk to surface and groundwater quality and may interfere with movement of groundwater.

## **Eligible projects:**

- All unused in-ground vessels to store liquid manure and milk house wash water.
- All unused below-grade solid manure storages that collect runoff containing animal wastes.
- Removal of earthen works, concrete, steel, and other components of the manure storage.

## **Project Details:**

- All required permits must be obtained (e.g., municipality, Conservation Authority).
- If there is an adverse impact on surface or groundwater, the applicant shall seek direction from a MECP agricultural enforcement officer and/or an OMAFRA engineer prior to removal of any part of the storage structure.
- Decommissioning procedures must conform to instructions laid out in OMAFRA FACTSHEET NO. 12-061: *Decommissioning and/or Recommissioning Existing Nutrient Storage Structures*, <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/facts/12-061.pdf>
- Concrete base (floor) must be broken to not hinder seasonal movement of water table.
- All demolition to be performed by appropriately licensed individuals, as instructed by the Municipal Building Official.
- If any storage materials are taken off-site, an approved, MECP licensed hauler must be used and materials must be taken to an approved landfill.

## **Eligible Costs:**

- Permit and engineering fees
- Removal of transfer tanks, piping, and equipment
- Unloading manure storage and spreading of materials. Materials must be spread in accordance with the Nutrient Management Act (NMA O. Reg.267/03 as amended)
- Grading and re-seeding site after storage removal to avoid flooding and soil erosion

## **Ineligible Costs:**

- Labour and machinery use of applicant, family dependents, and the applicant's business
- Fines from any accidents or spills occurring during the decommissioning of the storage
- Manure transfer pumps and pipes located inside the barn
- Upgrades/maintenance to manure storages or related transfer equipment for future use



## Natural Area Creation and Enhancement

**Grant Rate and Cap: 75% up to \$10,000: Aquatic**  
**75% up to \$5,000: Terrestrial**

**Purpose:** To create, restore, or enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitats and/or enhance water quality.

### Eligible Project Types:

- Watercourse or instream channel reconstruction/enhancements
- Riparian plantings\*
- Streambank stabilization
- Wetland creation and enhancements
- Wetland buffer plantings\*
- Seeding, planting, or live staking of native species of flora (e.g., reforestation, meadow or grassland establishment)
- Habitat features (e.g., bird and bat boxes, spawning substrate, turtle nesting bed, osprey platform, snake hibernaculum)



**\*Note:** Many of these projects types may be eligible for further incentives under the *Agricultural Fragile Land Retirement/Natural Area Enhancement and Creation* project category

### Project Details:

- Projects must obtain approval(s) from appropriate agencies (e.g., Conservation Authority, OMAFRA, Municipality, etc.). Projects on Municipal Drains must be approved by the applicable Drainage Superintendent.
- A plan is required specifying species, planting density, location, site preparation, and maintenance. To promote approval, the plan should be developed in conjunction with Conservation Authority/CH staff or a private consultant.
- A plan is required for construction of habitat features, including but not limited to, what materials will be used, size, location of installation, etc.
- A plan is required for all wetland and watercourse projects. Level of detail required will vary by project and site and will be stipulated by approval agencies.
- Appropriate native species are mandatory.
- Wetland creation projects must provide water storage, improve water quality by acting as a natural filter, reduce flooding, reduce erosion, replenish groundwater, and create or enhance wildlife habitat.
- Priority may be given to projects that are adjacent to identified natural heritage areas (please consult with Conservation Halton WQHIP staff).
- Priority may be given to projects partnering with other wetland restoration programs (e.g., Ducks Unlimited Canada)



- The participant is responsible for the care and maintenance of plantings. The project site must be properly maintained according to the approved plan to receive a performance incentive
- Livestock must be excluded from the site.

**Eligible Costs:**

- Materials and supplies
- Labour
- Equipment rentals
- Professional services
- Permits Fees
- Trees, shrubs, and planting costs (maximum \$30 per tree, \$20 per shrub and \$7 per herbaceous where site conditions warrant larger stock)
- Tree protection systems

**Ineligible Costs:**

- Commercial stock, fruit trees, or Christmas tree species which are commercially marketable in less than 15 years
- Farmstead landscaping
- Labour, mileage, in-kind contributions and/or machinery use of the applicant, family dependents, and the applicant's business
- Irrigation ponds
- Non-native species of flora





## Nutrient Management Strategy and Plan

**Cost Share Details: 75% up to \$2,000: Nutrient Management Strategy  
75% up to \$3,000: Nutrient Management Plan**

### **Purpose:**

- To encourage the most effective use of available nutrient resources, optimize yields, and protect groundwater and surface water.
- To provide continued learning opportunities for nutrient management planning.

### **Eligible Projects:**

- A Nutrient Management Strategy or Plan created using OMAFRA's NMAN software program.
- Full cost of registration fees for one producer (or producer's employee) to complete Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' nutrient management training courses.

### **Project Details:**

**Note: There is a difference between a Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS) and a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). A NMS documents the type and number of livestock, volume of manure produced, available land base, and manure storage requirements. A NMP documents where, when, and at what rate manure/nutrients will be applied to the land.**

- A copy of the NMS and/or NMP must be submitted to CH WQHIP staff.
- To receive funding, the Nutrient Management Strategy or Plan must address all manure produced on the farm without producing 'red flags' in the NMAN program.
- It is recommended that on-site soil and manure sampling and testing be completed as part of the NMP.

### **Eligible Costs:**

- Soil and manure nutrient sampling and analysis by an accredited laboratory. A list of accredited laboratories can be found on OMAFRA's website: [www.omafra.gov.on.ca](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca)
- Professional fees for preparation of a Nutrient Management Strategy/Plan
- Registration fees for nutrient management training sessions

### **Ineligible Costs:**

- Crop scouting fees
- Training courses associated with becoming a nutrient management consultant



## Wellhead Abandonment - Halton Region

**Cost Share Details: 50% up to \$1,000 per well**

***\*This project is offered directly through Halton Region's Residential Private Well Decommissioning Grant Program. Details can be found at:***



## Wellhead Abandonment – City of Hamilton

**Cost Share Details: 100% up to \$1,000 per well**

### **Purpose:**

- To prevent groundwater contamination via improperly abandoned or unused wells by encouraging the proper plugging of wells that are dry or no longer used.

### **Eligible Projects:**

- Proper plugging of unused wells (dug, bored, or drilled) by a licensed well contractor.

### **Project Details:**

- Must comply with Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) procedures for plugging or abandoning unused water wells according to Ontario Regulation 903 under the Ontario Water Resources Act.
- A drilled well inside a dug well is considered one project and therefore qualifies for one grant only.
- The contractor is required to complete a Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Well Record to document the steps taken to plug the well. A copy of the well record must be submitted upon completion to the program representative.
- If you have an existing well record for the well that you are proposing to upgrade, please include a copy with the application form. If you do not have a well record, please see below for guidance on determining if a well record exists.
- Information on licensed well contractors and well records can be found on the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks website: Directory of Licensed Well Contractors in Ontario <https://www.ontario.ca/page/find-licensed-well-contractors> or by contacting the Water Well Help Desk at 1-888-396-WELL (9355) or [wellshelpdesk@ontario.ca](mailto:wellshelpdesk@ontario.ca)

### **Eligible Costs:**

- Licensed contractor fees
- Any labour or materials associated with proper well plugging procedures

### **Ineligible Costs:**

- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, family dependents, and the applicant's business
- Grant will not be paid on HST if the applicant is entitled to a HST rebate



## Wellhead Protection (Upgrades)

**Cost Share Details: 100% up to \$1000 per well**

### **Purpose:**

- To reduce the risk of contamination of well water by implementing proper construction and maintenance practices and safeguards for existing wells.

### **Eligible Projects:**

- Upgrading water wells to meet Ontario Regulation 903 of the Ontario Water Resources Act including:
  - Installing pitless adapter and filling drilled well pits;
  - Grading and permanently seeding soil surface to divert water away from well head;
  - Sealing annular space around well casing;
  - Upgrading or replacement of casing;
  - Extending well casing to 16" (40 cm) above finished ground level; and
  - Installing proper well head caps (vermin proof).

### **Project Details:**

- In accordance with Regulation 903 of the Ontario Water Resources Act, any alteration to the well must be completed by a licensed well contractor. The contractor is required to complete a Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Well Record to document works undertaken on the well. A copy of the Well Record must be submitted upon completion to program staff.
- Where a contractor determines an existing well cannot be upgraded, funding may be provided for the drilling of a replacement well on the condition the old well is properly decommissioned. If a replacement well must be drilled, all reasonable attempts must be made to achieve adequate separation distances from potential sources of contamination. Conservation Halton WQHIP staff can assist with this.
- Information on licensed well contractors and well records can be found on the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Park's website: Directory of Licensed Well Contractors in Ontario: <http://www.waterwellontario.ca/>

### **Eligible Costs:**

- Licensed contractor fees
- Materials and labour (other than that of the applicant or the applicant's family)
- Wiring and plumbing costs associated with well upgrades
- Drilling of new wells, if the existing well cannot be upgraded. To be eligible, existing wells must be properly decommissioned. Applications for well upgrades on properties which have the ability to connect to municipal water service will require additional justification and consultation with Conservation Halton staff

### **Ineligible Costs:**

- Well pumps
- Water purification or treatment systems



- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, the applicant's family, and/or the applicant's business
- Well upgrades in buildings. They will be considered for the well decommissioning grant