



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report To: Council

From: Jill Hogan, Commissioner, Development Services

Date: May 11, 2026

Report No: DS-032-26

Subject: Updates to the Halton Hamilton Source Protection Plan to protect drinking water

Recommendation: That Council support the proposed changes to the Halton Hamilton Source Protection Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Clean Water Act, 2006 provides tools to protect sources of municipal drinking water.
- The Halton Hamilton Source Protection Plan is being updated to insert policies focused on protecting drinking water quantity and revise policies addressing water quality risks, including risks from climate change and changes in infrastructure.
- The water quantity policies are intended to allow for additional considerations when new land uses with the potential to negatively impact the supply of municipal drinking water sources are proposed within the Campbellville and Kelso wellhead protection areas.
- The technical analysis prepared to inform the policies determined that the risk to water quantity for the Campbellville and Kelso wells are moderate.
- The water quality policies have been revised to align with updated provincial rules, achieve greater consistency across municipal jurisdictions and neighbouring source protection regions, and to enhance clarity and interpretation.
- The policies would apply to a relatively small geographic area in the Town, recognizing the need to balance drinking water protection with local activities and potential future development.
- The policies will be implemented by the various partners involved in source water protection, including staff at Halton Region and the province.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Infrastructure changes reflected in the Source Protection Plan include a new replacement well for the Campbellville drinking water system and the decommissioned system for Walker's Line.

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Background

Halton Region operates two municipal drinking water well systems in the Town of Milton that serve a section of the Hamlet of Campbellville and the community in the vicinity of the Kelso Conservation Area. The protection of the water supply for these wells is governed by the Clean Water Act, 2006 that provides tools to protect sources of municipal drinking water. The Act requires that source protection plans be kept up to date when new information becomes available. Source protection plans identify vulnerabilities and implement policies to manage potential hazards to drinking water sources. In Milton, there are three source protection plans, the Grand River Source Protection Plan that applies to lands in the northern portion of Milton, the Halton Hamilton Source Protection Plan that applies to the majority of the Town and the CTC - Credit Valley, Toronto and Region and Central Lake Ontario (Appendix 1 - Source Protection Areas in Milton).

The policies in these plans have focused on protecting the quality of drinking water by using a multi-barrier approach to preventing potentially harmful contaminants from entering the drinking water source. However, policies to protect the amount of drinking water supply over the long-term are also important. Water supply can be compromised by water taking activities and activities that reduce groundwater recharge. In 2025, the process began to insert new water quantity protection policies into the Grand River Source Protection Plan. The proposed policies from this Plan that are applied in Milton support using low impact development to promote groundwater recharge and working with the partners to manage larger permits to take water.

The Halton Hamilton Source Protection Plan is now being updated to include policies focused on managing the risks related to drinking water quantity. The policies are not intended to limit existing uses from continuing. The policies are intended to allow for additional considerations when new land uses which have the potential to negatively impact the supply of municipal drinking water sources are proposed within the Campbellville and Kelso wellhead protection areas.

Background

Policies addressing water quality risks are also revised to align with updated provincial technical rules and to achieve greater consistency across municipal jurisdictions and neighbouring source protection regions. Editorial revisions are intended to increase clarity and interpretation. Revisions include updates to policies for the application and storage of road salt, storage of snow, handling and storage of fuel, and the application, handling and storage of non-agricultural source material (e.g., biosolids) and agricultural source material (e.g., manure).

Following the completion of a climate change vulnerability assessment, a new policy is proposed to encourage municipalities to review the findings and consider implementing the recommendations. These include development and enhancement of best management practices, implementation of low impact development and green infrastructure, integration of nature-based solutions to increase resilience of drinking water sources to impacts from a changing climate.

The updated Halton Region Assessment Report, the technical document supporting the Halton Hamilton Source Protection Plan, has been updated to reflect infrastructure changes at the Campbellville drinking water system, including the replacement of one of the supply wells and resulting slight enlargement of the wellhead protection area. In addition, information and maps for the decommissioned Walker's Line drinking water system have been removed.

Council is being asked to endorse the proposed updates to the Halton Hamilton Source Protection Plan prior to public consultation undertaken in summer 2026 by the Halton Hamilton Source Protection Region as required by Ontario Regulation 287/07

Discussion

Protection of Drinking Water Quantity

On March 23, 2026 the Halton Hamilton Source Protection Committee endorsed draft proposed water quantity policies for the Halton Hamilton Source Protection Plan (Appendix 2 - Proposed Water Quantity Policies). The source protection plan policies were developed through collaboration with staff from the Town of Milton, Halton Region, Town of Halton Hills and the Wellington Source Water Protection Region. The technical analysis prepared to inform the policies determined that the risk to water quantity for the Campbellville and Kelso wells are moderate, therefore only proposed future activities within the wellhead protection area need to be addressed. The policies would apply to a relatively small geographic area

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in the Town, recognizing the need to balance drinking water protection with local activities and potential future development. A significant amount of new development is not anticipated in the Campbellville or Kelso wellhead protection areas. However, the Official Plan facilitates and supports new development that enhances the rural community, when it has been demonstrated that the proposed uses are supported by appropriate infrastructure and will not result in negative impacts. Not all of the new proposed policies are the responsibility of the local municipality. The policies will be implemented by the various partners involved in source water protection, including staff at the Region and the province.

The proposed policies allow Town staff to:

- Take into consideration water quantity constraints when managing growth.
- Recognize the permit to take water process as an opportunity to work with the Province to protect drinking water quantity.
- Use stormwater management facility design to protect groundwater.
- Protect, maintain or improve groundwater recharge functions and maintain predevelopment recharge through best management practices.
- Use the resulting research that was prepared to support source water protection when preparing subwatershed studies.

Protection of Drinking Water Quality

Proposed changes to the water quality policies have been brought forward to the Halton Hamilton Source Protection Committee over the last two years and have been endorsed. Most of these policies are implemented by Halton Region's Risk Management Official. The policy changes will:

Application and Storage of Road Salt

- In the most sensitive drinking water areas, require bulk storage of road salt to be enclosed.
- Use a risk management plan when bulk storage is not enclosed and when road salt is applied in high-risk areas.

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Storage of Snow

- Update the existing land use planning policy prohibiting new snow storage facilities where these would be significant drinking water threats to reflect changes in the provincial technical rules.

Handling and Storage of Fuel

- Prohibit new bulk fuel storage (>250 L) only where it would be a significant threat to drinking water.
- Manage existing activities, allowing flexibility for property owners to continue safely storing fuel without creating a new threat.
- These policies are managed by the Halton Region Risk Management Official.

Non-Agricultural and Agricultural Source Materials

- The Risk Management Official to work with landowners to manage the risk associated with storing or applying these materials adjacent to municipal wells.

Drinking Water Well Infrastructure Updates

- Incorporate updated mapping because of the new replacement well, at the Campbellville drinking water system.
- Update mapping to reflect the decommissioning of the Walker's Line system.

Climate Change

- Implementation of recommendations to address climate change impacts on the quality of drinking water sources aim to increase the resilience of water resources.

Next Steps

Following pre-consultation and request for endorsement of the proposed plan updates by affected municipalities Halton Hamilton Source Protection Region will undertake public consultations on the proposed source protection plan updates anticipated for summer 2026. Comments received through consultation will be reviewed and considered by the Hamilton Halton Source Protection Committee. Final endorsement of the updated plan by the



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Committee is anticipated in Fall 2026, following which the plan is submitted to Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks for review and approval.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Hogan
Commissioner, Development Services

For questions, please contact: Gail Anderson MCIP, RPP Phone: Ext. 2332
Senior Planner, Policy

Attachments

Appendix 1 - Map Source Protection Plan Areas in Milton

Appendix 2 - Proposed Water Quantity Policies

Approved by CAO
Andrew M. Siltala
Chief Administrative Officer

Recognition of Traditional Lands

The Town of Milton resides on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee people. The Town of Milton shares this land and the responsibility for the water, food and resources. We stand as allies with the First Nations as stewards of these lands.