



HALDIMAND RURAL WATER QUALITY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Haldimand Rural Water Quality Program is an initiative of Haldimand County and its partners to improve water quality in the County of Haldimand. The Program has been developed in conjunction with representation from the agricultural community and is based on the successful programs in Wellington, Waterloo and Brant Counties. The program will be delivered by the three local Conservation Authorities, the Grand River Conservation Authority, Long Point Region Conservation Authority and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

The benefits of improved water quality include a safe secure water supply, a healthy aquatic ecosystem, increased recreational opportunities, sustainable agricultural operations and a vibrant economy. Everyone benefits when water quality is improved and protected.

STRUCTURE OF FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

Financial incentives will be offered as a grant to share the implementation costs of a project. Landowners eligible to receive funding through other programs such as the Canada Ontario Farm Stewardship Program will be encouraged to make use of those funds in addition to the funds available to through the Haldimand Rural Water Quality Program. Where landowners are eligible to receive funds through another program, the grant rates will be adjusted to ensure that landowners do not receive more than 100% towards the cost of their projects.

PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING:

| Project | Grant Rate for Combining Grants | Maximum RWQP Grant rate | Maximum grant |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Livestock access restriction* | 50% | 75%-100%* | \$5,000 |
| Erosion Control Structures | 50% | 50% | \$5,000 |
| Tree planting/natural restoration - stream buffers, fragile land retirement, field windbreaks, | 50% | 80% | \$5,000 |
| Living Snow Fence | | 100% | \$5,000 |
| Water Well Decommissioning | 50% | 100% | \$1,000 |
| Water Wellhead Upgrade | 50% | 50% | \$1,000 |
| Sediment Basins/Wetland Creation | 50% | 80% | \$5,000 |

*livestock access restriction materials are eligible for 100% cost-share if installed by the landowner.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Attend an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) workshop and complete the worksheets applicable to your farming operation. The EFP is delivered locally by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association. Call Tom Tancock, the EFP workshop coordinator at (905) 685-4367 or email haldimand@ontariosoilcrop.org for details and workshop dates.
2. Contact the Rural Water Quality Program representative at your local Conservation Authority ([Map of Conservation Authorities Boundaries](#)) to arrange a site visit. Staff is available to assist you with planning your project and applying to the program.
3. Submit the application to the Rural Water Quality Program for review. The Review Committee consists of the Haldimand County Agricultural Advisory committee and agency staff who will evaluate the project on its potential to protect and improve water quality. The Review Committee meets on a bimonthly basis and will review proposals as required.

4. Once the project proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Rural Water Quality Program Review Committee, you will be notified to proceed with the project.
5. When the project is completed, paid for, and you have copies of all necessary receipts, notify staff. A site inspection is required to confirm that the project is complete. At that time you can submit original invoices marked paid and proof of payment (invoice signed “paid in full” by contractor, a copy of the front and back of cancelled cheques or a bank statement) for all eligible project expenses to program staff.
6. Within 5 weeks of a site inspection that determines that the work is complete and satisfactory, your cost-share payment will be sent to you.

ELIGIBILITY

1. A grant to implement all or some of the farm related best management practices in the Rural Water Quality Program may be paid to an individual applicant who:
 - is a resident of Ontario
 - is a registered owner of property in the target area used for agricultural purposes or whose property is under the influence of agriculture
 - attends an EFP workshop
 - 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 in Haldimand County, have some form of agricultural production on it, and protect and improve surface or ground water quality.
3. The following costs are generally eligible for grant assistance:
 - 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. Projects must meet all legal requirements including:
 - local municipal bylaws
 - provincial and regional highway setbacks
 - Provincial Acts
 - Canada Farm Building Code
 - Ontario Building Code
 - etc.
5. Innovative technologies and projects that do not conform to the guidelines will be considered by the Review Committee on a project by project basis. Applicants should contact program staff to determine the application requirements.

LIMITATIONS TO GRANT AVAILABILITY:

1. Grants are limited to eligible farm properties in Haldimand County that have the potential to significantly improve water quality.
2. Any applicant who proceeds with a project before it has been approved by the Rural Water Quality Program Review Committee has no assurance that financial assistance will be provided.
3. An applicant must specify the program year in which the project will be completed. If the project cannot be completed within the specified year, the grant will not be paid. However, the applicant may request an extension in writing, from the Rural Water Quality Program Review Committee.
4. Projects initiated before the program start of April 1, 2012 are not eligible for project funding.
5. Funds will be allocated on a priority basis. Those projects with the higher potential for improving water quality will be considered first.
6. Grant will not be paid on HST if the applicant is entitled to a HST rebate.
7. The Review Committee 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.

NOTE: Although the local Conservation Authorities, the Environmental Farm Plan Program and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs may provide information regarding the practices and structures described in the Rural Water Quality Program application form, 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.

Neither the members of the Review Committee, Conservation Authority, OMAFRA, or the Environmental Farm Plan Program are liable for any loss arising from the use of any advice or information provided as part of or under this program.

Livestock Access Restriction to Watercourses

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| Cost-share Rate: | 50% if combined with COFSP 75% of labour and materials if not eligible for additional funds 100% of materials if HRWQP is the only source of funds and landowner is providing labour |
| Maximum Payment: | \$5,000 |

Purpose:

- To improve surface water quality by controlling livestock access to watercourses.

Eligible projects:

- fencing along watercourses/ wetlands
- livestock crossings
- alternative watering devices

Project Details:

1. Fencing

- Temporary fencing will be considered eligible but 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
- Maximum cost share will not exceed **\$3.50/ft or \$11.65 /m**
- Fencing must be at least 10 feet (3.4 m) from the top of the bank of any watercourse.
- Only fencing along a watercourse will be considered for funding.

2. Crossings

- Bed-level, low flow or above flow crossings (bridge, large diameter culvert) may be considered. All in-stream work will require a Conservation Authority permit. Work done on a municipal drain will require additional approval from the municipality.
- For bed-level crossings, gates must be installed at 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 stream crossing, fencing along the watercourse must either be undertaken concurrently, or livestock must already be restricted from the watercourse.

3. Alternative Water Devices

- Watering devices are eligible for funding only where livestock are restricted from the watercourse.

NOTE: Projects in and along waterways and ditches may require approval by municipalities, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and your local

Conservation Authority prior to implementation. In addition, any work done on municipal drains also requires prior approval from the municipality. Staff will provide assistance to landowners in acquiring the proper permits but it is the landowner's responsibility to ensure that all necessary approvals are received.

Eligible Costs:

- Engineering fees and permits.
- Material and labour (other than owner's or owner's dependent family).
- Permanent and temporary fencing.
- Livestock crossings as outlined above.
- Alternative water devices such as nose pumps, spring boxes, wind and solar powered pumping units. Other systems may be considered.

Ineligible Costs:

- Primary hydro lines.
- Drilling new water wells.
- Grant will not be paid on HST if the applicant is entitled to a HST rebate

Erosion Control Structures

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| Cost-share Rate: | 50% |
| Maximum Payment: | \$5,000 |

Purpose:

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

Eligible Projects:

- Grass waterways.
- Water and sediment control basins.
- Terraces.
- Streambank stabilization including ditchbank seeding, spillway drop structures, culvert protection, and bioengineering techniques.
- Drop structures.
- Associated tile inlet and outlet structures
- Stream crossings for machinery

Project Details:

- Conservation tillage practices are encouraged on adjacent fields.
- Design by professional engineers may be advisable on complex and/or large projects. The private sector is expected to fill these requirements. Supervision of construction is not mandatory, yet may be specified as required by program representatives on large and/or complex projects.
- Projects must be constructed to the standards specified in the OMAFRA Soil Erosion Manual
- Projects must obtain approval 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,
- Labour, material, supervision and equipment rental

Ineligible costs:

- Permits and fees.
- 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.

Tree Planting/ Landscape Restoration

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| Cost-share Rate: | 30% if combined with COFSP or other funds 80% if HRWQP is the only source of funds |
| Maximum Payment: | \$5,000 |

Purpose:

- To improve water quality by retiring fragile agricultural land, reducing wind erosion, protecting recharge areas, and creating vegetative buffers along watercourses and wetlands.

Eligible Projects:

- Planting of appropriate native species including prairie vegetation and tree/shrub species on retired fragile agricultural land such as floodplains, steeply sloped and erosion prone land.
- Planting buffer areas along watercourses and wetlands.
- Tree windbreak/shelterbelt establishment to prevent wind erosion.
- Retirement and planting on sensitive groundwater areas.

General Comments:

- Livestock must be excluded from the site; special considerations may be given for prairie restoration.
- 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 forestry staff or a private consultant.
- Proper site preparation is required for all restoration.
- The participant is responsible for the care and maintenance of the plantings.
- Appropriate native species are encouraged.
- Applicants will be required to sign a 15 year management agreement.

Project Details:

1. Fragile land retirement:

- Fragile lands are tilled or pastured lands subject to either erosion or flooding.
- Fragile lands are also areas that serve as recharge areas, adjacent to wetlands or prone to standing water

2. Buffer strips:

- Buffer strips may be established along watercourses adjacent to either pasture or cropped land.
- Minimum buffer width is 10 feet. Wider widths are encouraged.
- To be eligible, appropriate tree or shrub species must be planted in the buffer strip.
- May require municipal approval for tree planting along municipal drains.

3. Field Windbreaks:

- Protect and improve surface water quality by reducing wind erosion. This includes field windbreaks, roadside windbreaks, shelterbelts and other linear plantings.
- At maturity, windbreaks should have 30-50% porosity during erosive periods of the year.

Eligible Costs:

- Trees, shrubs, plant material and planting costs.
- Tree protection systems and maintenance agreement costs obtained through the Conservation Authority or planting contractor.
- Establishment of cover crops on tilled land (in conjunction with tree planting).
- Costs associated with replacing trees and shrubs will be considered by the Review Committee if forestry staff feels a project was unsuccessful due to factors beyond the control of the landowner (i.e. Stock quality, weather, etc).

Ineligible Costs:

- Commercial stock, fruit trees or Christmas tree species which are commercially marketable in less than 15 years are not eligible.
- Farmstead landscaping
- 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

Living Snow Fence - Proposed Program Start Date June 15th 2012

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| Cost-share Rate: | 100% |
| Maximum Payment: | \$5,000 |
| Land Retirement Payment: | Total payment of \$1450 per 0.4 hectare (1 acre) |

Purpose:

- To implement living snow fences in Haldimand County in priority areas as identified by the Roads Department.

Project Details:

- Priority sites will be identified by the Municipality
- 100% of the cost of the establishment will be eligible for funding up to \$5,000.
- The performance incentive will be paid as two lump sums based on the areas calculated as length of the living snow fence times a width of 10 m. The first will be 6 months following a successful tree plant (\$750 per acre or 0.4 hectares) the second will be provided after 4 years upon inspection by the Conservation Authority (\$700 per acre or 0.4 hectare)
- A written agreement will be required between the Municipality and landowner.
- Trees cannot be cut for 15 years (only maintained).
- From the date of planting up to the first 3 years dead trees will be replaced at the cost of the municipality
- Posts should be installed (provided by the municipality) marking the living snow fence on either side of plastic mulch which is 1m wide to prevent over spray and cultivation.

A planting plan for the living snow fence will be developed in consultation with Conservation Authority staff taking into account, soil type, desired porosity, distance to road and prevailing wind direction. Consideration should be given to planting into plastic mulch which provides weed control and moisture conservation.

Plugging Unused Water Wells

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| Cost-share Rate: | 50% if combined with COFSP 100% without other funds |
| Maximum Payment: | \$1000 |

Purpose:

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

Eligible Projects:

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

Project Details:

- Must comply with MOE procedures for plugging or abandoning an unused water well according to Ontario Regulation 903. Details of the procedure must be documented on a water well record and a copy submitted upon completion to the program representative.

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

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| Cost-share Rate: | 30% if combined with COFSP 50% without other funding |
| Maximum Payment: | \$1,000 |

Purpose:

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

Eligible Projects:

- Installing pitless adapter to replace drilled well pit.
- Grading and permanently seeding soil surface around well.
- Sealing annular space around well casing.
- Upgrading or replacement of dilapidated casing.
- Extending well casing to 16 inches (40 cm) above finished ground level.
- Proper well caps.
- Landscaping to divert water away from well head.

Project Details:

- Landowners are encouraged to hire a licensed contractor to do the work. If the work involves any alteration to the well it must be done by a licensed well contractor according Ontario Regulation 903. Details of the procedure must be documented on a water well record and a copy submitted upon completion to the program representative.

Eligible Costs:

- Licensed contractor fees.
- Materials and labour (other than owner's or owner's dependent family).
- Wiring and plumbing costs associated with well upgrades.
- Drilling of new wells, if the existing well cannot be upgraded. To be eligible, the existing well must be properly plugged.

Ineligible Costs:

- Well pumps.
- Water purification or treatment systems.
- 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

Sediment Basin/Wetland Creation

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| Cost-share Rate: 50% Maximum Payment: \$5,000.00 |
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Purpose:

- To control sediment, nutrients and elevated flows from agricultural runoff. They will also provide wildlife habitat.

Eligible Projects:

- Berms with culverts, control structures, and overflow spillways located between field runoff and natural habitat down slope (watercourse, wooded ravine, etc.)
- Dugouts excavated between field runoff and natural habitat down slope.

Ineligible Projects:

- Berms or dugouts that do not catch and store surface runoff from agricultural fields.

Project Details:

- Impoundment size should be sufficient to catch and store a one in two year storm.
- Design by professional engineers is advisable on large projects (projects that service 20 acres or more).
- All projects must have an outlet (drop structure, culvert) and overflow spillway.
- Projects must obtain approval from appropriate agencies prior to construction. In addition, any work done on municipal drains also requires prior approval from the municipality.
- If the dugout or berm catches 50,000 liters or more per day, the landowner will require a Permit to Take Water from the Ministry of Environment.

Eligible Costs:

- Professional design
- Labour and material, supervision and equipment rental

Ineligible Costs:

- Permits and fees
- 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