



The City and the owners of the Dolime Quarry have reached a potential solution to address the City's concerns about how operations at the quarry could affect Guelph's drinking water

### The proposed solution



Close the quarry and make the site, currently in Guelph-Eramosa Township, part of the City of Guelph



Give the City control of the quarry's water supply and build an on-site water management system



Create a new mixed-use residential neighbourhood that people can call home

### Next steps

#### Decisions about our community's drinking water will always be fair and transparent

Whether to pursue the proposed solution is an important Council decision. Council and City staff are sharing this proposal with our community before Council makes its decision.

**Our Community, Our Water** includes in-person and online opportunities for you to learn more about the proposed solution to revitalize the quarry site and protect our drinking water.

- [guelph.ca](http://guelph.ca) is on the online hub for more information to help you understand the proposed solution
- in-person events will provide you with an opportunity to ask our experts questions

#### We want to hear from you

From October 29 until the end of November you'll have in-person and online opportunities to share what you think the benefits and challenges of the proposed solution are for our community. We'll capture and summarize all your feedback in a report which we'll share in early 2020.

In making its decision, Council will consider water, financial, technical and planning aspects of the proposed solution, as well as your comments and our community's values as identified through the Community Plan.



To learn more, please visit  
[guelph.ca](http://guelph.ca)

## Guelph is a groundwater community

Guelph is one of the largest cities in Canada that relies almost entirely on groundwater for its clean drinking water

### How groundwater works

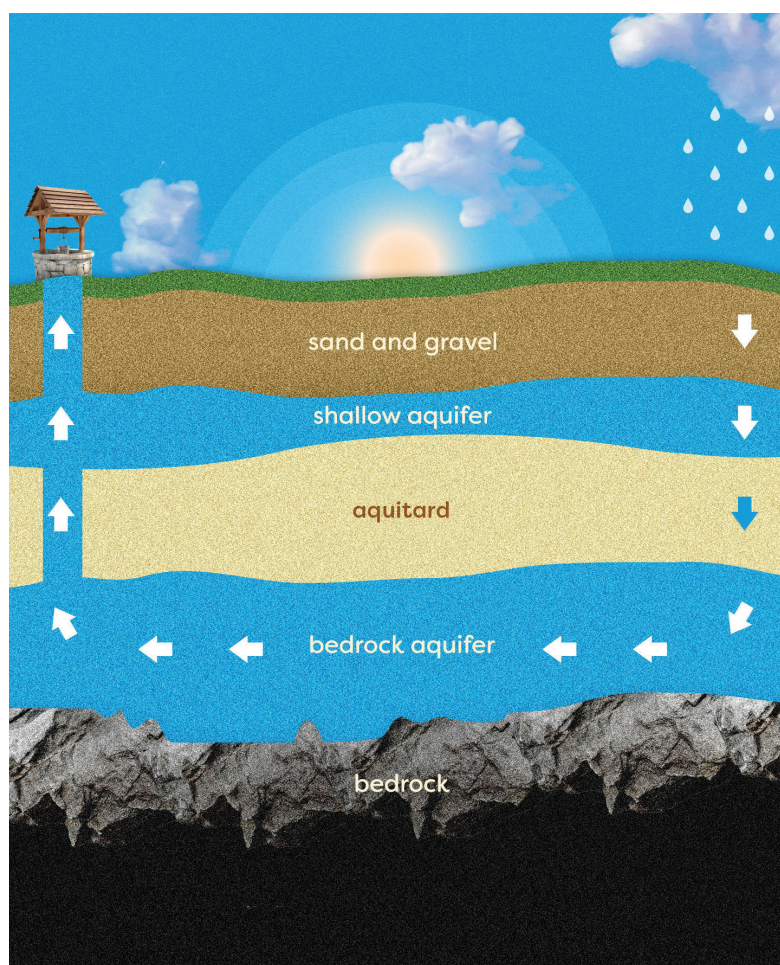
In Guelph, the water we drink comes from deep below the ground.

Groundwater is found almost everywhere underground but there usually isn't enough to support an entire city's water supply—it is a more limited resource than surface water (lakes and rivers). Fortunately, Guelph is located above two aquifers which provide us with high-quality drinking water.

The aquifers are formed by limestone and bedrock formations that span across Southern Ontario between the Bruce Peninsula and Niagara Falls. These particular bedrock formations are good aquifers because they have large open spaces and cracks in some of the layers of rock. Rain and melted snow is naturally filtered as it seeps into open spaces and cracks in soil and rocks. Filtered groundwater is protected by an aquitard—a layer of dense rock that acts like a barrier.

### Clean, safe water

The City of Guelph has always put the safety and security of our drinking water above all else. Our high-quality drinking water is a major reason why people want to live here. As Guelph grows we need to protect our groundwater resources.



To learn more, please visit  
[guelph.ca](http://guelph.ca)

# Guelph puts the safety and security of our drinking water above all else



## What are the City's concerns?

We have always been open and transparent about our concerns with the potential for operations at the Dolime Quarry to affect Guelph's drinking water. In addition to using a lot of water to support its operations, the quarrying process digs deep into the ground where the aquitard lies.

Under the proposed solution, the City would take control of the quarry's water supply and build an on-site water management system. This would address the City's drinking water concerns, and potentially free up 11 million litres of groundwater a day currently used in quarry operations. Some of this water could be used for the City's water supply.



## What are the challenges?

Guelph is growing and we need to protect our drinking water. That's why we're always looking at new and innovative water supply solutions from conservation to improved infrastructure—so we can keep providing clean, reliable drinking water.

The Dolime Quarry property is currently part of Guelph-Eramosa Township and is not included in growth plans for Guelph. The process for moving Guelph's boundary to include the quarry lands is a public process and requires provincial approval. Jurisdiction for the quarry property would be transferred from the Township to the City. The property would still be owned by the quarry owners.



## What is the opportunity?

While the owners of the quarry don't agree with the City's concerns, we're working together on a solution.

The proposed solution for revitalizing the quarry site would mean:

- The quarry would close sooner than expected
- The City would take control of the quarry's water supply, potentially freeing up 11 million litres of groundwater a day, some of which could be used for the City's water supply
- The quarry would be replaced with a new residential neighbourhood—a more compatible land use in an urban setting



To learn more, please visit  
[guelph.ca](http://guelph.ca)

## A short history

It's taken many years to find a viable solution  
that makes sense for all parties

2002

City starts investigating local water quality following the introduction of Ontario's Safe Water Drinking Act

2003

City advises regulators of concerns with quarry operations and their potential impact on groundwater quality

2008

City staff discover that quarrying has reached the aquitard—the dense layer of rock that protects our drinking water

2009

City experts, River Valley Developments (quarry owners) and provincial regulators establish a technical working group to explore concerns related to water quality and quantity

2013

City requests leave to appeal the quarry's water-taking permit based on water quality and quantity concerns

2014

City's leave to appeal is granted and City enters into confidential mediation with the Ministry of the Environment and Parks and River Valley Developments

2014

2018

Appeal parties work to find a viable solution to protect Guelph's drinking water

2018

A solution that addresses the interests of all parties emerges

2019

City launches campaign to share proposed solution to protect drinking water with the community



To learn more, please visit  
[guelph.ca](http://guelph.ca)

## How do we get there?

**The proposed solution would take time to implement and includes a number of steps**

The proposed solution is an innovative and unique approach that would address Guelph's long-term drinking water needs and lead to a more compatible land use in an urban setting.

Here are the four key steps included in the proposed solution to protect Guelph's drinking water.

### **1. Moving Guelph's boundary to include the quarry lands**

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The process for moving Guelph's boundary to include the quarry lands, currently part of Guelph-Eramosa Township, includes a public process and requires provincial approval. Jurisdiction for the quarry property would be transferred from the Township to the City. The quarry owners would still own the property.

### **2. Land use planning approvals**

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The land use planning process would require both provincial and City planning approvals to allow residential development and determine how it fits into growth plans. There would be further studies, and we'd need input from our community and other government agencies.

### **3. Building a system to protect Guelph's drinking water**

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The City would take control of the quarry's water supply and build an on-site water management system. The system would prevent surface water from mixing with groundwater, and some of the water the quarry uses now could be used for the City's water supply.

### **4. Planning and building the residential development**

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The quarry owners would lead the revitalization of the quarry site to replace it with a new residential neighbourhood.

Detailed planning for the residential development would go through the City's standard planning processes. That means our community would have an opportunity to comment on the development plans before they are approved.



**To learn more, please visit**  
**[guelph.ca](http://guelph.ca)**