



# **Southwest Guelph Water Supply Class EA**

Quarterly Progress Update, September 2022

The City of Guelph launched the Southwest Guelph Water Supply Class Environmental Assessment in September 2021. The Environmental Assessment includes a data gathering process called an Operational Testing Program, which is a six-stage, multi-year testing program that will determine the quantity of groundwater that can be safely and sustainably pumped from existing and new City production wells. The Operational Testing Program will evaluate two key objectives: (1) how will the Dolime Quarry pond be managed after the quarry has closed to maintain and protect high groundwater quality in the surrounding aquifer, and (2) how can the City sustainably pump a portion of the additional water required for 2051 from within Southwest Guelph.

## **Operational Testing Program Stage 1**

Operational Testing Program Stage 1 took place between June to August 2022, and provided information about how the aquifer around the Dolime Quarry pond responds to a variety of municipal pumping patterns. Prior to the start of the testing, baseline data was collected at a series of groundwater and surface water monitoring locations. The City also collaborated with the University of Guelph's Morwick G360 Groundwater Research Institute to gather additional information and conduct analysis that will supplement the City's monitoring data and progress the Institute's ongoing groundwater research in the City of Guelph.

During the Stage 1 testing, the City collaborated with River Valley Developments, the quarry owner, to establish and monitor the quarry pond conditions. To simulate future conditions, following quarry closure, the pond was dewatered and the water level lowered to a target elevation. Data, including pumping rates and water levels, was collected at the municipal well locations and at the same groundwater and surface water monitoring locations where baseline data was gathered.

## **Next Steps**

Stage 2 of the Operational Testing Program started in early October 2022 and is scheduled to finish in January 2023. This stage will test additional municipal pumping scenarios while monitoring the groundwater and surface water system. Project summaries will continue to be posted on the website approximately quarterly with updates to the progress of the Project.

