



## **CITIZENS CALL FOR “BLUEBELT” CREATION TO PROTECT REGIONAL GROUNDWATER**

*Wilmot Township* – In light of recent findings that Waterloo Region faces significant water capacity challenges due to rapid growth and aging infrastructure, *Citizens for Safe Ground Water (CSGW)* is urgently calling for a moratorium on all new development in water recharge areas and source water protection zones. The region’s own *Water Supply Strategy* has revealed that pressures from population growth and lower water levels are impacting the ability to sustainably supply drinking water to residents.

### ***Immediate moratorium (Municipal Interim Control Bylaw) on all development within a Regional Recharge Area, and Source Water Protection Area***

“Protecting our aquifers and source water areas is not optional—it is essential for the health and prosperity of our communities,” said CSGW Secretary Rory Farnan. “We need immediate action by all municipal planning authorities to halt development in vulnerable areas, and to strengthen local groundwater protection, ensuring development complies with the highest standards for water safety and sustainability” said Farnan. A temporary pause on development within designated “Recharge Area,” or “Source Water Protection Area” under a ICBL is justified, as the Region of Waterloo is conducting a review to assess the full extent of current state and future water supply needs.

### ***Support for the creation of a Waterloo Moraine “Bluebelt” to permanently protect vulnerable water systems within the boundaries of the Waterloo Moraine***

*Citizens for Safe Ground Water* is also calling on Regional Council to pass a motion calling on the Provincial Government to pass legislation to create a “Bluebelt” around the perimeter of the Waterloo Moraine—a permanent protected zone encompassing undeveloped natural areas, wetlands, prime farmland, and watersheds critical to the region’s water supply. This initiative would align with our broader efforts to safeguard

drinking water for future generations, as Waterloo Region is reliant on local groundwater, and the Grand River watershed.

“Our heavy reliance on groundwater makes the protection of recharge areas—especially the Waterloo Moraine—critical for maintaining both the quality and quantity of the region’s water supply,” said CSGW President Samantha Lernout.” “Waterloo Region’s water system is one of the most groundwater-dependent in Ontario’s urban jurisdictions, we cannot take it for granted,” said Lernout.

###