

Groundwater in village vulnerable, says report

By **KIM ARNOTT**
Special to *The Champion*

The safety of Milton's drinking water depends, in part, on what happens to groundwater in Campbellville, according to a hydrogeological study presented to the Region's planning and public works committee Wednesday.

The study, which identifies the Campbellville area as hydrogeologically sensitive, says groundwater flowing through the hamlet eventually travels east to the Campbellville communal well and Milton's municipal water supply at Kelso.

With permeable bedrock, shallow water table conditions and a shallow aquifer system, groundwater in the Campbellville area is particularly vulnerable to contamination from surface sources, adds the report.

"The travel time is quite short," explained Heather Malcolmson, senior hydrogeologist for the Region. "If we have a spill somewhere, it's very easy for it to impact the local and municipal wells."

To protect the area's drinking water, the recently-completed report suggests there should be no extension of the hamlet's current boundaries. It also suggests long-term monitoring wells and a background monitoring well be installed to evaluate water levels and quality trends.

While the study found water quality in

the community is generally good, it did discover some evidence of contamination from road salt, surface contamination and localized septic system leakage.

Ms Malcolmson told councillors that the use of road salt in the Campbellville area should be reviewed and monitored, since the salt contamination is prevalent throughout the area and is reaching the Kelso water supply. The highest concentrations of salt contamination were found near the Hwy. 401 corridor.

The report also urges protection of ground water resources in the area.

Through the health department, the Region will continue to encourage private landowners to upgrade and repair private wells and septic systems where needed.


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