

# HOW DO I DECOMMISSION MY WELL?

- \* Confirm that your well and property are located in the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority Jurisdiction.
  - \* Make an appointment with a CLOCA staff person to identify your property and receive an application and list of licensed well contractors in our jurisdiction.
  - \* Provide photograph(s), digital or hard copy, of your existing well and surrounding conditions. In some cases a site visit by CLOCA staff maybe be required.
  - \* Request up to 3 decommissioning quotes from licensed well contractors and make your preferred selection. Note, you must ensure the well contractor is licensed to construct the type of well that is being abandoned. There are 5 types of wells, dug, bored, drilled, sandpoint and below grade.
  - \* Inform CLOCA staff a minimum of two weeks before your scheduled decommissioning project. We will set up a visit during the work to decommission your well to ensure it is done properly.
- \* Submit a copy of the invoice from the well contractor, showing payment has been made, along with a copy of the well record and decommission form completed by the well contractor.
  - \* CLOCA will issue the agreed to compensation of 50 % of the well decommissioning costs up to \$1000.00.

**For more information please contact,**  
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# WELL decommissioning PROGRAM



## WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT MY UNUSED WELL?

Wells that are older and wells that have not been properly maintained, provide direct pathways to groundwater or aquifers and can pose a direct threat to your drinking water supply. Improperly retired wells can also increase the risk of contamination entering nearby wells and provide a shortcut for contaminants like organic waste, fertilizer, pesticides and petroleum to reach deeper aquifers. Once a groundwater source is contaminated, it is harmful to drink and creates a health issue for you, your family, the neighbours, municipal well supplies and perhaps in the case of a farm, your livelihood. Unused wells also pose a physical hazard to people and animals on your property.



## HOW TO IDENTIFY AN UNUSED WELL ON MY PROPERTY?

- Pipe sticking out of the ground
- Small building that might have been a well house
- Depressions in the ground
- Presence of a concrete pit covered by lumber or metal
- Presence of old windmills or windpumps
- Additions to a home that may have been constructed over a well to protect it from freezing.



*In Ontario, wells that are not used or maintained for use, are legally required by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to be decommissioned by the property owner. Yes, that is right, your well, your responsibility.*

Proper closing off the pathway from the ground surface to the aquifer involves the plugging and sealing of the well by a licensed well contractor. Just filling in the well with debris or stone does not create a proper seal.

*The Region of Durham in partnership with Central Lake Ontario Conservation, is extending our stewardship efforts toward the decommissioning of abandoned wells on private property.*

The program is designed to protect groundwater supplies from potential contamination by providing landowners with up to \$1000 in grant assistance funds to decommission unused and abandoned domestic wells on their property.