

## REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

# 2025 Drinking Water System Performance Update

**To:** Warden and Members of County Council

**From:** Director of Public Works

## RECOMMENDATION

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1. That County Council receive Report PW 2026-18 entitled “2025 Drinking Water System Performance Update” as information in accordance with the regulatory requirements of Schedule 22 and Section 11 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2022*.

## REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

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- On February 25, 2026, Oxford County Council received Report PW 2026-05 entitled “2025 Drinking Water System Performance,” including the 2025 Annual Drinking Water System Summary Reports. The report, in part, summarized outcomes of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) annual inspections.
- At the time of the report, 11 out of 17 drinking water system inspections were completed, and Oxford County staff committed to updating Council again when the remaining six results were completed.
- The results of the remaining MECP inspections (Bright, Dereham Centre, Oxford South, Tavistock, Tillsonburg and Woodstock) have now been received and bring the County’s overall average compliance rating to 99.5%.

## IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

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In accordance with the regulatory requirements of Schedule 22 and Section 11 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2022*, the 2025 Annual Drinking Water Systems Summary Reports were posted on the County’s website by February 28, 2026. The remaining MECP inspection ratings are now available and will also be posted to the County’s website.

## Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts as a result of this report. Any required actions that will result in expenditures have been accounted for in the 2026 Business Plan and Budget for the respective drinking water systems.

## Communications

The drinking water system performance reports were available to the public on the County’s website as legislatively required by February 28, 2026. They can be found at [www.oxfordcounty.ca/water-wastewater](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/water-wastewater). This report will also be shared directly with Area Municipal Chief Administrative Officers and Public Works senior management, respectively. An update will be published to the County’s webpage with the 2025 Annual System Summary Reports to include the remaining MECP inspection ratings and non-compliance findings.

## 2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

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Oxford County Council approved the **2023-2026 Strategic Plan** on September 13, 2023. The Plan outlines 39 goals across three strategic pillars that advance Council’s vision of “Working together for a healthy, vibrant, and sustainable future.” These pillars are: (1) *Promoting community vitality*, (2) *Enhancing environmental sustainability*, and (3) *Fostering progressive government*.

The recommendation in this report supports the following Strategic Plan Pillars and Goals:

### Strategic Plan Pillars and Goals

PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3
		
<b>Promoting community vitality</b>	<b>Enhancing environmental sustainability</b>	<b>Fostering progressive government</b>
		<b>Goal 3.1</b> – Continuous improvement and results-driven solutions

See: [Oxford County 2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#)

## DISCUSSION

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### Background

In accordance with the *Safe Drinking Water Act of 2002*, the 2025 Annual Drinking Water Systems Summary Reports ([Annual Reports - Oxford County](#)) have been prepared for each of the County's 17 municipal drinking water systems. These reports are presented to Council and made available to the public by February 28 each year. Under Schedule 22 and Section 11 of O. Reg. 170/03, drinking water system owners must prepare reports that provide the following information:

- brief description of the system;
- any incidents of adverse water quality, inadequate disinfection, or where any mandatory requirement was not met;
- all test results;
- a summary of the amount of water supplied with a comparison to the system's rated capacity; and
- the results of the annual MECP drinking water system inspection.

### Comments

Every year, the MECP inspects each drinking water system to assess compliance with the requirements of the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* and the *Ontario Water Resource Act, 1990*. As the MECP's inspections take place during their fiscal year (April to March), inspection reports are not always finalized in time to be included in the County's annual reports. Overall, 2025 demonstrated the continuous exceptional performance at the County's water treatment and distribution facilities as reflected in the MECP inspection reports and ratings.

At the time of the report to County Council ([PW 2026-05](#)), 11 out of 17 drinking water system inspections had been completed. The results of the remaining MECP inspections have now been received and bring the County's overall average compliance rating to 99.5%. A summary of all 17 drinking water system inspection ratings is outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Municipal Water System Inspection Ratings

System	MECP Inspection Rating
Beachville	100%
Bright*	100%
Brownsville	100%
Dereham Centre*	100%
Drumbo-Princeton	100%
Embros	100%
Hickson	100%
Ingersoll	100%
Innerkip	100%

System	MECP Inspection Rating
Lakeside	100%
Mount Elgin	97%
Oxford South* (Norwich, Otterville and Springford)	97%
Plattsville	100%
Tavistock*	100%
Thamesford	97%
Tillsonburg*	100%
Woodstock*	100%

\*Denotes inspection report ratings received after the publication of PW 2026-05.

As previously presented in [PW 2026-05](#), one non-compliance was issued for the Mount Elgin drinking water system where a well cap was not properly secured. Staff were able to immediately secure the cap upon discovery, and no further action was required. One administrative non-compliance was issued for the Thamesford drinking water system related to the description of a water treatment component. The description was updated in the required documentation, and no further actions were required.

Of the inspections that have been completed since PW 2026-05 was presented to Council, the Oxford South drinking water system was issued an administrative non-compliance related to the description of a water treatment component. The description was updated in the required documentation, and no further actions were required.

## CONCLUSIONS

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The 2025 Annual MECP Inspection report ratings demonstrate Public Works' continued oversight of the County's Municipal Drinking Water Systems in order to provide a safe, reliable and sustainable supply of municipal drinking water for its residential and business users.

The County continues to institute industry best management standards to annually monitor the levels of service and financial performance of its water systems and to ensure water assets are maintained in optimal condition through effective preventative maintenance, and optimized asset decision-making.

## SIGNATURES

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### Report author:

Original signed by

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**Departmental approval:**

Original signed by

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