



WATER

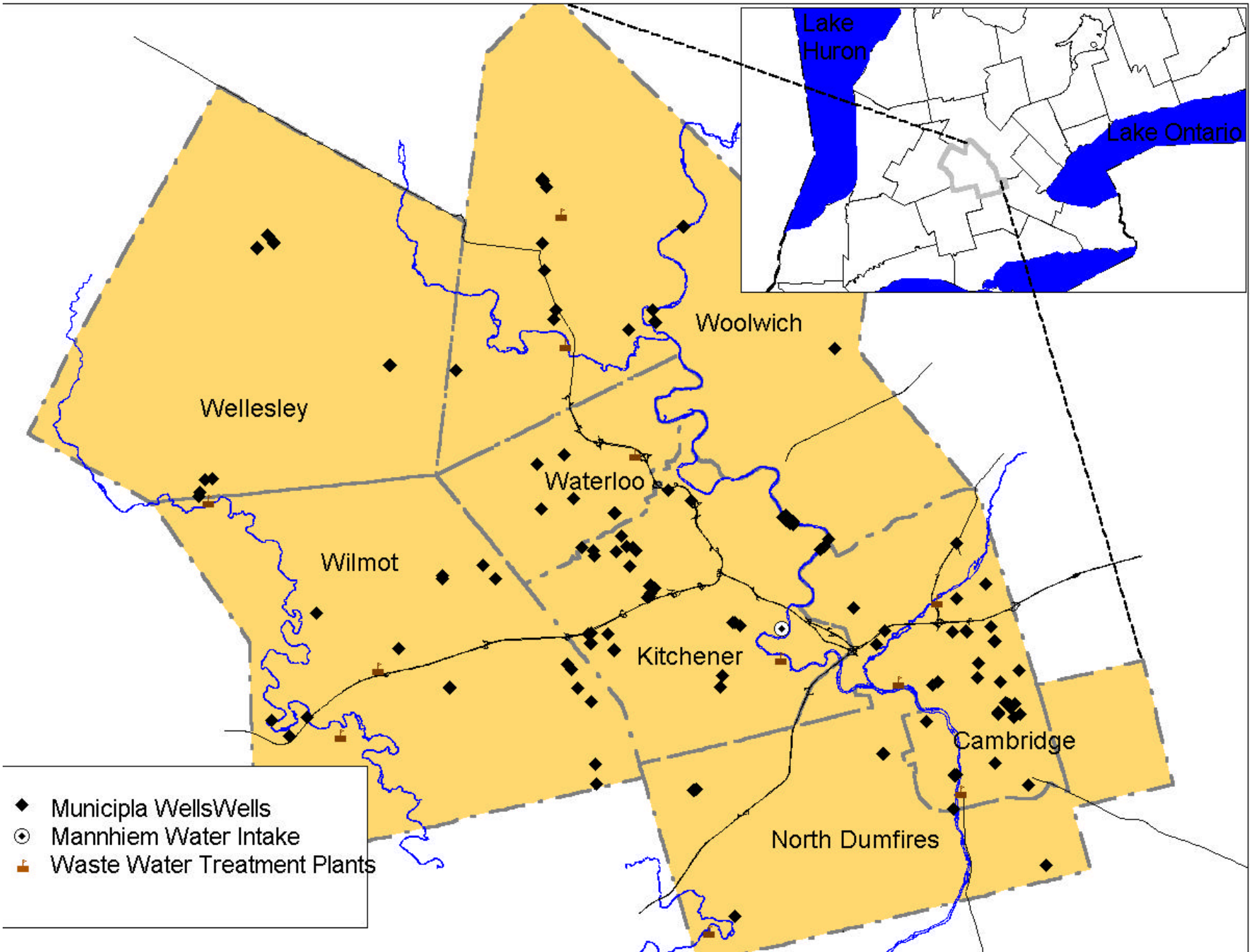
OURS TO PROTECT

RURAL WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

Rural Water Quality Program

- Locally developed program, in consultation with the agricultural community
- First time a municipality has directly funded a non-point source pollution control program
- Innovative approach to addressing water quality
- Viewed as a model for the province





Water Quality Issues

- microorganisms
- phosphorus
- nitrogen
- sediment



Water Quality Benefits

- Secure safe water supply for municipal and private users
- Ensures wastewater treatment effectiveness
- Improves river based recreation and tourism opportunities
- Protects and improves aquatic habitat



Program Structure

- Region of Waterloo
 - Funding \$1.5 million over 5 years
 - Program Management
- Grand River Conservation Authority
 - In-kind Funding
 - Program Delivery
- Local Farming Groups
 - Steering Committee
 - Application Review



Program Structure

- Grants
 - 50 to 75 %
 - \$25,000 maximum
- Examples
 - Livestock access restriction
 - Milkhouse and manure storage
 - Wellhead protection



Program Structure

- Grants Plus Performance Incentives:
 - Per acre basis for up to 3 years
 - Up to \$2,500 per year



Performance Incentives

- Erosion control structures
- Cropping practices
- Nutrient management practice



Steering Committee



- 11 local farm groups
- 5 provincial farm groups
- 3 provincial ministries
- 1 federal ministry
- 2 lower tier municipalities
- Region and GRCA



Regional Municipality of
Waterloo

Partnership Benefits

- Involve farmers at the initial stages
- Build consensus
- Create allies and champions of the program
- Develop spokespeople in the community



Program Innovations

- Reliance on the Environmental Farm Plan
- 3 year performance incentive for non capital BMP's
- In-kind labour allowable for fencing
- Cross compliance between sections of the program



Regional Municipality of
Waterloo

Program Achievements

- Over 100 projects completed
- Over \$500,000 of grants provided
- \$1.2million of capital investment
- \$85,000 in-kind provided by the landowner
- Increased EFP participation



Program Accomplishments

- Cost-effective water quality improvement
- Improved water quality and ecosystem
- Adopted by other municipalities
 - Wellington County/City of Guelph RWQP
- Healthy rural economy
- Created sustainable partnerships



