



RBC Blue Water Project Awards \$120,000 to Elgin County Conservation Authorities to Protect Water Quality

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For immediate release

A new rural water quality program has been launched to help protect water quality in Elgin County. The Royal Bank of Canada's (RBC) Blue Water Project has awarded \$120,000 to the Catfish Creek, Kettle Creek, Long Point Region and Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authorities to assist landowners with projects that will help improve and protect water quality. The Clean Water Program will be delivered by local conservation authority staff.

"Helping to improve the environmental conditions across Elgin County just got a lot easier for landowners. Many landowners are interested in putting up a fence to keep livestock out of the creek or decommissioning an unused well but the cost can be prohibitive," says Betsy McClure, stewardship coordinator for KCCA and spokesperson for the program. "The Elgin Clean Water Program will provide the financial means to help landowners undertake stewardship projects that inevitably will benefit the entire County."

The Elgin Conservation Authorities are now accepting applications for this new program. Landowners will be provided with up to 50% of the cost of environmental projects undertaken on their property. The program is specifically targeting projects that will benefit water quality in the County of Elgin.

"Locally, we rely on drinking water from Lake Erie and ground water wells. The Elgin CAs want to ensure we do our part to maintain the quality and quantity of water for drinking, fish and wildlife, tourism and recreation," says McClure. "We look forward to working with County landowners to help achieve that goal."

Funds are limited and will be distributed by a review committee. Any landowner in the County can apply for up to 50% of the costs associated with projects such as erosion control, decommissioning or upgrading wells, livestock access restriction, wetland and riparian habitat restoration and clean water diversion.

For more information on the Elgin Clean Water Program, please contact the conservation authority representing your area.



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