

## Public Works MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Oxford County Area Municipal Councils

**FROM:** David Simpson, Director of Public Works

**DATE:** January 16, 2023

**RE:** **Oxford County Proposed Backflow Prevention Program  
Notice of Public Consultation Centres, Oxford County**

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Oxford County is seeking feedback on a proposed backflow prevention program and draft bylaw. In Report No. [PW 2022-35](#), County Council authorized staff to undertake a public consultation and engagement campaign to seek input on the proposed Backflow Prevention Program and draft By-law in 2023. Public and stakeholder consultation is a key element of the program development and review process.

In keeping with these commitments, Public Consultation Centres (PCCs) are to be held in each Area Municipality as noted below. The PCCs will consist of a presentation by the County project team followed by a question and answer period.

<b>Tuesday, January 31</b>	<b>Woodstock</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 7</b>	<b>East Zorra-Tavistock</b>
<b>Thursday, February 16</b>	<b>South-West Oxford</b>
<b>Thursday, February 23</b>	<b>Ingersoll</b>
<b>Tuesday, February 28</b>	<b>Norwich</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 7</b>	<b>Blandford-Blenheim</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 14</b>	<b>Tillsonburg</b>
<b>Thursday, March 23</b>	<b>Zorra</b>

Notice of the PCCs will be advertised to commercial, industrial, institutional, and select multi-residential property owners in advance through local newspapers and social media. In addition, mail outs were delivered to industrial, institutional, and commercial users that may be impacted by the proposed by-law making them aware of their ability to comment on the program during this review period.

Further to the PCCs, public opportunities to leave comments and ask questions will be available through the [Speak-Up, Oxford!](#) project web page and remain active until the public consultation period closes on April 6, 2023.

*Original Signed by:*

David Simpson, P.Eng., PMP  
Director of Public Works  
Encl. *Notice of Public Consultation Centre*

## Notice of Public Consultation Centre

# Oxford County Proposed Backflow Prevention By-law

Oxford County is seeking feedback on a proposed Backflow Prevention Program (BPP). The BPP will further protect the municipal drinking water from potential contamination (backflow event) by private side businesses and properties that are connected to the water distribution system. Backflow events can significantly impact residents, businesses, water quality and pose a health risk to consumers. Implementing a BPP will further strengthen the multi-barrier approach the County uses to protect its municipal drinking water system.

### Why do we need backflow prevention?

Under normal operating conditions water flows from the municipal drinking water system into businesses and homes through private service connections. Backflow can occur when changes in pressure cause water to reverse this normal direction of flow-- pushing or pulling water from within a private-service back into the municipal drinking water system.

A cross connection is any connection between the municipal drinking water system and a source of contamination. Water that backflows through a cross connection poses a hazard to the municipal drinking water system. This risk is mitigated through the installation of a backflow prevention device (BPD), which isolates the water supply of private services to prevent the reversal of flow.

### About the Backflow Prevention Program

While the Ontario Building Code may require some properties to install a backflow prevention device (BPD) at the time of construction, the OBC has limitations that may exclude some properties that pose a risk to the municipal drinking water system. A formalized BPP will address these concerns and further guide:

- Which properties will require a BPD
- Types of acceptable BPD
- Testing and inspection frequency of BPD
- Qualifications for inspectors of BPD
- Requirements to submit test reports to the County
- Non-compliance infractions

Oxford County is taking a proactive approach to safeguard its municipal drinking water systems. The proposed by-law will apply to select industrial, commercial, and institutional properties, as well as select multi-residential properties, based on their moderate or high risk hazard classification under the CSA B64 series standard.

### We want to hear from you

Public and technical agency consultation will be fundamental in developing the BPP, and members of the public are invited and encouraged to comment on the project at any time during the Study.

A copy of the proposed Backflow Prevention By-law is available at [www.oxfordcounty.ca/backflow](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/backflow).

The Project Team is hosting in person Public Consultation Centres (PCCs) in each area municipality between January 31 and March 23, 2023. PCCs will be advertised through local media, social media, and Speak Up, Oxford! at [www.oxfordcounty.ca/backflow](http://www.oxfordcounty.ca/backflow) prior to the event.

The comment period for the Backflow Prevention Program PCC closes on Thursday April 6, 2023.

### Contacts for information

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*Information will be collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.*

Posted January 11, 2023