



NEWS RELEASE

March 9, 2018

\$176 million infrastructure initiative successfully completed

LONDON, ONTARIO – Mayor Matt Brown hosted a celebration today marking the successful completion of HELP Clean Water (**H**uron-**E**lgin-**L**ondon **P**roject **C**lean **W**ater), a multi-year, multi-million dollar regional infrastructure program designed to provide a plentiful and reliable source of safe, clean water to more than 500,000 people living and working in Southwestern Ontario.

2018 marks the successful conclusion of 14 years of planning, financing, construction and implementation of HELP Clean Water. Elected officials from 15 municipalities situated between Lake Huron and Lake Erie that form the HELP Clean Water regional partnership along with special guests joined Mayor Brown in celebrating this unique infrastructure initiative.

“This new reservoir is the result of a regional partnership between 15 municipalities and the governments on Ontario and Canada, who each contributed \$50 million,” said London Mayor Matt Brown. “Clean water is vital to each community’s health and wellbeing and this is a project we are all very proud of.”

HELP Clean Water is comprised of eight project components that range from upgrades to existing water treatment plants, the twinning of the main transmission pipeline, and a failsafe pipeline monitoring system, to the new reservoir and pumping station in London.

The Southeast Pumping Station and Reservoir is the largest and most costly of the eight project components of HELP at a total cost of \$55 million. Its multi-function operation is to ensure a safe and secure city-wide water supply, to provide servicing to fast-growing, newly developed land in southeast London and to help defer future expansions to the Elgin Area Water Treatment Plant, which is the southern source (Lake Erie) of London’s water supply.

In 2008 the governments of Canada and Ontario approved matching funds of up to \$50 million each in support of HELP Clean Water.

“Having access to clean, safe and reliable water is essential to developing healthy and sustainable communities,” said the Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities. “The Government of Canada is pleased to have supported the HELP Clean Water project that will improve water quality, allowing families to safely access clean water and helping the surrounding communities grow and prosper.”

“Good land use planning requires a reliable source of good clean water,” said the Honourable Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. “This remarkable initiative of HELP Clean Water, a regional program envisioned and led by rural and urban communities joining together, will ensure that future generations in cities and towns in Ontario will have clean water in abundance.”

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BACKGROUND

Final Three Project Components Marking the Successful Conclusion of HELP Clean Water

1. Southeast Reservoir and Pumping Station

The Southeast Reservoir and Pumping Station (SERPS) in London is the largest and most costly (\$55 million) of the eight project components of the HELP Clean Water. Its multi-function operation is to ensure a safe and secure city-wide water supply, to provide servicing to fast-growing, newly developed land in southeast London and to help defer future expansions to the Elgin Area Water Treatment Plant, which is the southern source (Lake Erie) of London's water supply.

Project Description

- Water storage reservoir having a capacity of 114 million litres
- A pumping station with eight pump bays, and associated piping and metering
- Stand-by diesel-driven emergency power generation
- Control valves to protect the distribution system and pumps while ensuring adequate supply pressure to upstream customers
- Interconnection piping to back-feed Elgin County immediately south of London in the event of a supply or emergency interruption of the Elgin Area Primary Water Supply System

Public Space

The reservoir sits on 26 acres of green space with most of the engineering components located underground. The reservoir and pumping station structure are integrated and set into the northwest corner of the site, making the remainder available for other uses. From the outset it was intended that the site should be accessible by the public. The facility itself incorporates features supporting community activity and use. Access to the site and parking is provided in close proximity to the planned public usage/activities envisioned, such as a walking trail system.

Clean Water Training Facility

An open office area was created within the facility, which provides a space for training seminars, public meetings, etc., which will also be used for a clean-water education and training facility to be located on the site of the reservoir; an opportunity to work with colleges and universities as well as the private sector in research, study and hands-on training.

Bulk Water Station

Another feature built into the facility is a revenue-generating bulk water filling station that can be used by rural residents and commercial users in the southeast area of London, which currently does not have easy access to such a service.

2. Elgin Area Residuals Management Facility

Designed to treat the waste from the water treatment processes - largely comprised of settled sand and silt from the sedimentation tanks and when backwashing filters. This component of HELP has a primary environmental objective to reduce the discharge of water treatment wastes into Lake Erie. The new facility is fully automated and monitored, integrated into the operation of the water treatment plant which produces excellent water quality. The Residuals Management Facility will help to optimize the water treatment process, further improving water quality and reliability of the drinking water system.

3. Elgin Area Filtration System Replacement

Replacement of the existing dual-media filters, which are original to the plant's construction in the 1960's, with full-bed anthracite filters and gravelless underdrains. This component of HELP Clean Water will significantly improve the drinking water filtration process at the water treatment plant. As a direct result of the more efficient and higher capacity filtration system, the newly constructed Residuals Management Facility will have a longer life cycle and further defer the capacity expansion of the water treatment plant until at least the mid-2030's.

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BACKGROUND: Huron-Elgin-London Project Clean Water

2018 marks the successful conclusion of 14 years of planning, financing, construction and implementation of HELP Clean Water, a unique regional infrastructure program designed to meet the clean water needs of more than 500,000 people living and working in Southwestern Ontario between the shores of Lake Huron and Lake Erie.

This region is served by two water supply systems each originating at one of two water treatment plants located on the shores of the two great lakes. Each water supply system is governed by a Board whose members are appointed by the 15 municipalities served by the two water systems. The City of London, which receives its treated drinking water from the two regional water systems, has members on both Boards of Management.

In 2004 the Boards of Management for the Lake Huron Primary Water Supply System and the Elgin Area Primary Water Supply System, along with the City of London, developed plans for a multi-year, multi-million dollar regional infrastructure program that would ensure for the entire region a plentiful, safe and secure supply of clean water for years to come. The program was named Huron-Elgin-London Project Clean Water (HELP Clean Water).

This unique regional approach was unanimously endorsed by all 15 municipalities. In the name of the regional collective, HELP Clean Water applied for funding as one regional partnership under the capital infrastructure renewal programs offered by the two senior levels of government.

In 2007/2008 the governments of Canada and Ontario each committed \$50 million to the projected multi-million dollar cost of HELP Clean Water.

HELP Clean Water is comprised of eight project components that include upgrades to the two water treatment plants, a new reservoir and pumping station, and upgrades to the water transmission systems that supply the region's municipalities, totaling more than \$176 million in new and upgraded infrastructure for the region:

1. Southeast Reservoir and Pumping Station, and Upgrades to the Elgin Middlesex Pumping Station
2. Lake Huron Water Treatment Plant Emergency Backup Generators
3. Residuals Management Facility at Lake Huron Water Treatment Plant
4. Lake Huron Primary Transmission Pipeline Twinning
5. Residuals Management Facility at Elgin Area Water Treatment Plant
6. Elgin Area Primary Transmission Pipeline Twinning
7. Lake Huron Primary Transmission Pipeline – Acoustic Fibre Optic Monitoring System
8. Elgin Area Water Treatment Plant Filtration System Replacement

Regional/local benefits of HELP Clean Water:

- Sustainable and reliable supply of clean drinking water
- Capacity for future growth
- Support local and regional economic development
- Reduced reliance on groundwater supplies
- Enhanced reliability with full emergency power capacity
- Increased emergency storage of water

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