

# Melrose Drinking Water Interconnect Project

Proposed Fee to Benefiting Properties  
Open House - September 4, 2025



## Project Background

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- In 2017, completed a Schedule B Municipal Class Environmental Assessment and background studies to identify a long-term solution for water servicing for the Wynfield Gate Community.
- The preferred solution was to connect the area to the regional water supply (RWS) and convert the Melrose Water Treatment Plant to a pumping station.

## Lake Huron Primary Water Supply System



Map from the Lake Huron Primary Water Supply System  
<https://www.huronelginwater.ca/about-us/>



## Advantages to Connecting to the RWS

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- Integrates the municipality's infrastructure assets
- Reduces annual operating costs
- Improves water quality and quantity
- Increases available storage for supply
- Reduces potential for significant drinking water threats associated with using groundwater (Melrose Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA))

# Map: Construction Limits for Melrose Water Interconnect Project





## Melrose Drinking Water Interconnect Project

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- Connect the Melrose Water Treatment Plant to the RWS secondary transmission main
- Install a new watermain along Vanneck Dr. to the treatment facility at 7 Wynfield Gate
- Convert the existing plant into a water pumping station (mechanical and electrical upgrades)
- Decommission the current groundwater well system



## Project Timeline & Status

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- The project began in March 2025 and is expected be completed by May 2026.
  - Tree trimming completed in March
  - Watermain installation completed in May
  - Water chamber installed in July, and associated restoration works completed in August & September
  - Water plant refurbishment will continue to April 2026





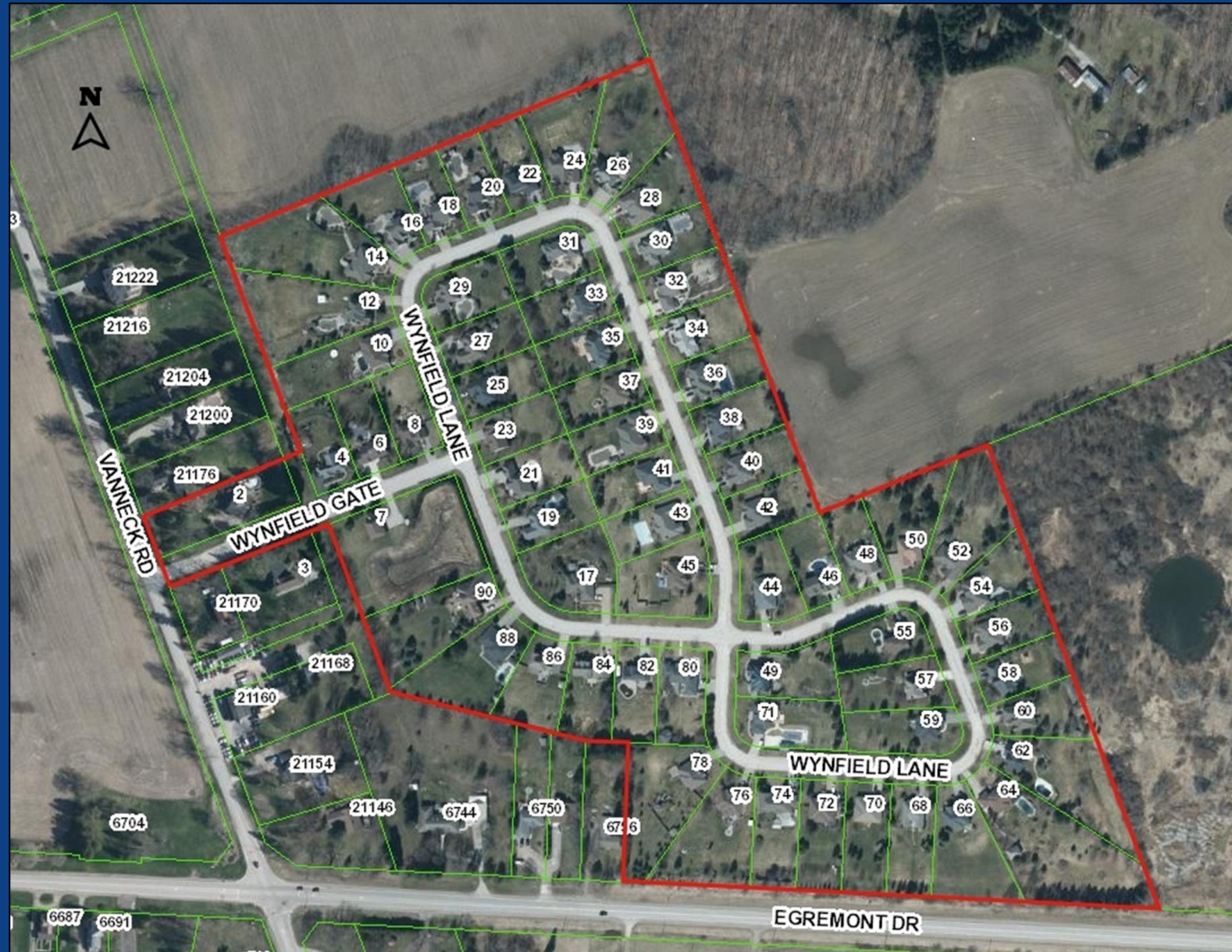
## Benefits to the Community

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- Reliable and secure water source, eliminating reliance on groundwater
- Removal of high sodium and iron content from the water supply
- Improved water aesthetics
- Increased water storage capacity



# Map: Properties Serviced by the Melrose Municipal Drinking Water System





## Project Funding

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- **Estimated Total Project Cost:** \$4 million
- **Current Funding Source:** Water Capital Reserve Fund
- **Challenge:** This significant project cost for one neighbourhood places strain on municipal reserve fund, limiting future critical water infrastructure investments.



## Proposed Solution – Fee to Benefitting Properties

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**Proposal before Council:** Charge a one-time fee to the 65 properties that directly benefit from the new infrastructure.

- Helps offset financial pressure on municipal reserves
- Ensures fairness: those who directly benefit contribute more
- Supports long-term sustainability of water infrastructure funding



## Fee Under Consideration

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- A one-time fee of up to \$10,000 per property
  - At \$10,000, would generate \$650,000 – about 16% of total project cost
- Applies to properties directly benefitting from the new water infrastructure
- Would be eligible for debenture (paid for over time on property taxes)



## Council Approval Process

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- On June 18, staff presented a report to Council that proposed the option of a fee
- Council directed staff to notify residents and seek their feedback prior to decision being made
  - Letter to each property owner
  - Open house today
- Staff will prepare a report on the feedback received and present to Council on October 15 (tentative)



# Providing your Comments

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## ONE – Feedback Form

- Complete a feedback form at today's Open House.
- Available in the room with the display boards.





# Providing your Comments

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## TWO – Written Comments

- Send written comments to the Office of the Clerk.
  - Email or hard copy.
  - We encourage you to provide your written feedback by September 15 so that it can be included in the post-open house report to Council.
  - Comments will be accepted the Monday prior to the Council meeting when the item is on the agenda (see below).





# Providing your Comments

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## THREE – Speak at Council Meeting

- Speak at Council Meeting when item is on the agenda.
  - Tentative Date: October 15, 2025
  - Register with the Office of the Clerk by the Monday before the meeting (October 13) at 4:30 p.m.



## Staying in Touch

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[www.middlesexcentre.ca/melrose-interconnect](http://www.middlesexcentre.ca/melrose-interconnect)

- Visit our website where you can:
  - Find project information
  - View the latest project materials
  - Access this meeting material
- Contact staff directly with comments or questions.

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