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MEDIA TIPS AND LEADS

UVIC RESEARCHERS DEVELOP PLAN TO SAVE ONTARIO COMMUNITY'S WATER SUPPLY:

Population and water use are expected to double between 2008 and 2040 in the small Ontario towns of Fergus and Elora. The region is dependent on groundwater and if no conservation measures are taken the existing groundwater supply will likely require expansion by 2028.

However, the University of Victoria's POLIS Water Sustainability Project has developed a solution to the problem, with a proposed water "soft path" strategy. The detailed analysis and action plan outlines the specific steps for the community to achieve water sustainability over the next 30 years focusing on both efficiency and conservation and is a model that can be adapted for all Canadian communities and could also be applied beyond Canada.

The recommended approach for Fergus and Elora is to achieve the vision to "use the same water tomorrow we use today," which accommodates all future population and economic growth to 2040, and beyond, using the same amount of water used in 2008.

A copy of the strategy is available at <http://poliswaterproject.org/publication/416>.

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