

Legacy oil and gas wells

What you need to
know about old
oil and gas wells.

Did you know?

Ontario has about 27,000 inactive oil and gas wells, many located on private properties in southwestern Ontario, including the County of Brant.

These old wells may not be visible, and many landowners are unaware of their presence.

Why does this matter?

Old or improperly maintained wells can pose risks to:

Public safety: Leaking gases like hydrogen sulphide (rotten egg smell) or methane can be toxic, flammable, or explosive.

The environment: Contaminated soil and water can harm plants, animals, and people.

Your property: Sinking land or old well structures can create hazards.

Learn more about Oil and Gas wells in the County of Brant at brant.ca/OilGasWells



Signs you may have an abandoned well on your property

Look for these clues, especially if your property is in an area where oil and gas wells were once active:

- Sinking land, uncultivated patches, or old drilling sites.
- Stunted or unusual plant growth, oil stains, or soil damage.
- Rotten egg smell (hydrogen sulphide) or natural gas bubbling in water.
- Oil residue or abandoned structures like drilling pads.



Important: Never investigate an abandoned well yourself. This work must be done by a certified well contractor.

How the County of Brant is helping?

With support from the Ontario Government, the County is taking steps to keep residents safe and informed:



New equipment:

Portable road signs and gas detectors for emergency use.



Training:

Updated training for our volunteer firefighters and emergency teams.



Education:

Public awareness materials and a dedicated webpage about legacy oil and gas wells.



Community engagement:

Hosting public information sessions to answer your questions.

What you can do?

If you think you have an abandoned well on your property:

- **Stop construction plans:** Do not build over or near an old well.
- **Contact a professional:** Certified contractors can safely assess and plug wells.
- **Be prepared:** Create an emergency plan with evacuation routes and a 72-hour emergency kit.

Stay informed

For updates, resources, and emergency preparedness tips, follow the County of Brant on social media or subscribe to brant.ca/Subscribe. Together, we can ensure the safety of our land and our community.

Contact us

Visit: www.brant.ca
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 Phone: 519.44BRANT
 (519.442.7268) | 1.855.44BRANT
brant.ca/OilGasWells

Helpful resources

- The **Ministry of Natural Resources Abandoned Works Program (AWP)** offers financial assistance to landowners to address eligible petroleum wells that pose a risk to public and environmental safety. Learn more at ontario.ca/gasandoilwells.
- Landowners who find a well on their property are encouraged to contact the **Ministry's Petroleum Operations Section** by emailing gasandoilwells@ontario.ca or calling 519.873.4634.
- For information on the location and status of known wells, **Ontario GeoHub** has an interactive well map online at geohub.lio.gov.on.ca (search "petroleum well"). The **Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Library** has searchable petroleum well records online at ogsrlibrary.com.



Visit the **Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Library** to check well activity near you:
www.ogsrlibrary.com/maps/wells