

Water supply safe from spill: region

Oily substance leaked into Grand River prompted temporary switch to underground reservoirs last week

Paige Desmond, Record staff

WATERLOO REGION — Regional officials say the local drinking water supply is safe despite a major spill of a petroleum-like substance into the Grand River in Kitchener.

The contamination travelled from a private storm drain to a city sewer. Politicians heard from Region of Water-

loo staff Tuesday that the Mannheim water intake was taken off-line Friday afternoon when City of Kitchener staff learned of the spill.

Nancy Kodusek, director of water services, said the region has been drawing from underground reservoirs at Mannheim while it's out of operation.

"We have been operating off those groundwater reservoirs over the past sever-

al days, so those have been secure and not impacted by any of the spill material," she said.

Coun. Karen Redman questioned who decides when the water is clean and when Mannheim goes back online.

"At the end of the day, who decides if the crisis is over," she said.

Kodusek said staff will discuss when to bring Mannheim back online as early as

Tuesday in consultation with the Ministry of the Environment.

The ultimate all-clear on the contamination will likely come from the ministry, said Thomas Schmidt, commissioner of transportation and environmental services.

And while the storm sewer has been "plugged," staff said, to keep the petroleum-

► **Spill** continued on B4





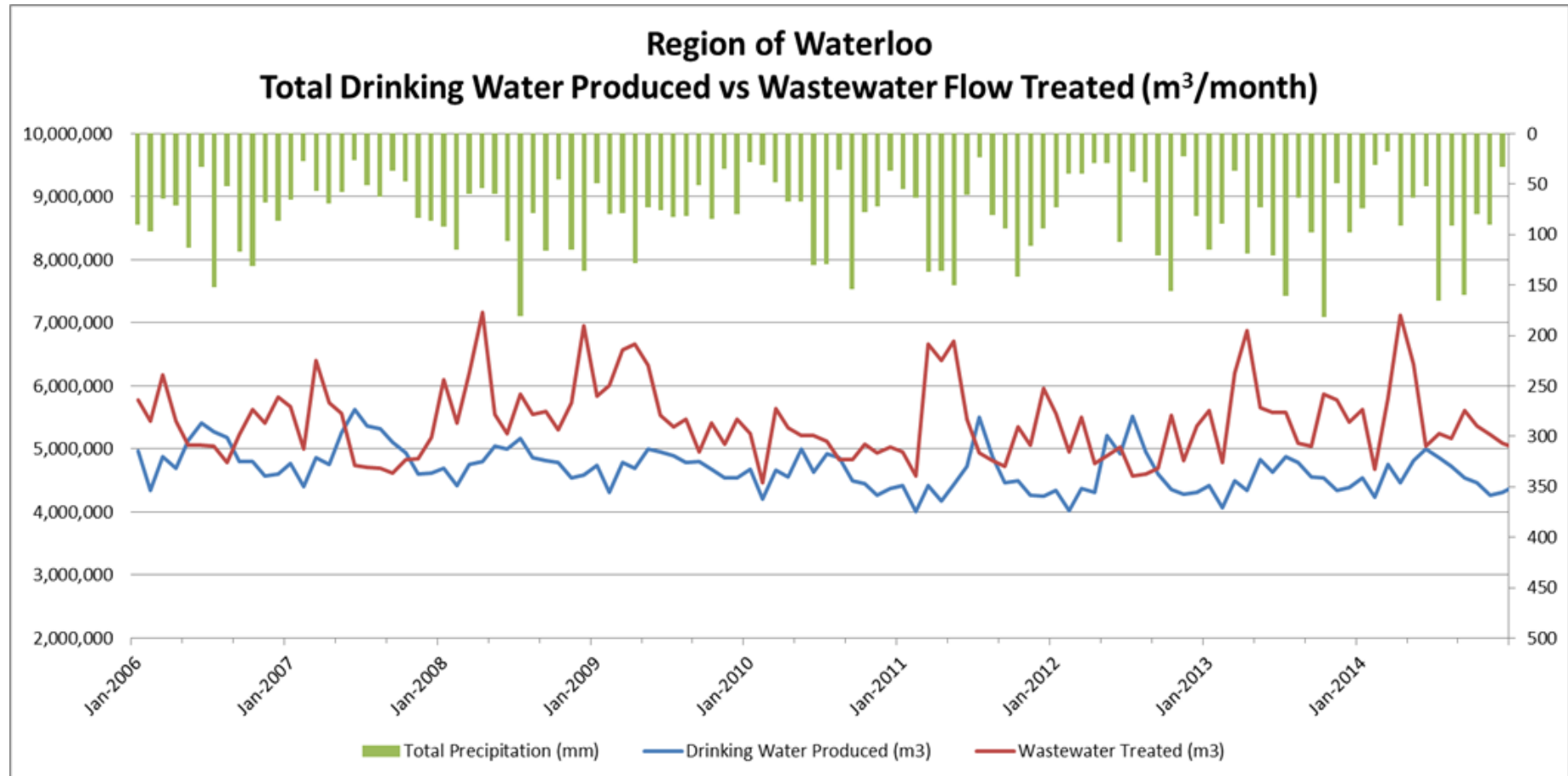
Water & Wastewater

Population
~570,000

Area
1,382 km²



Hydrological Cycle

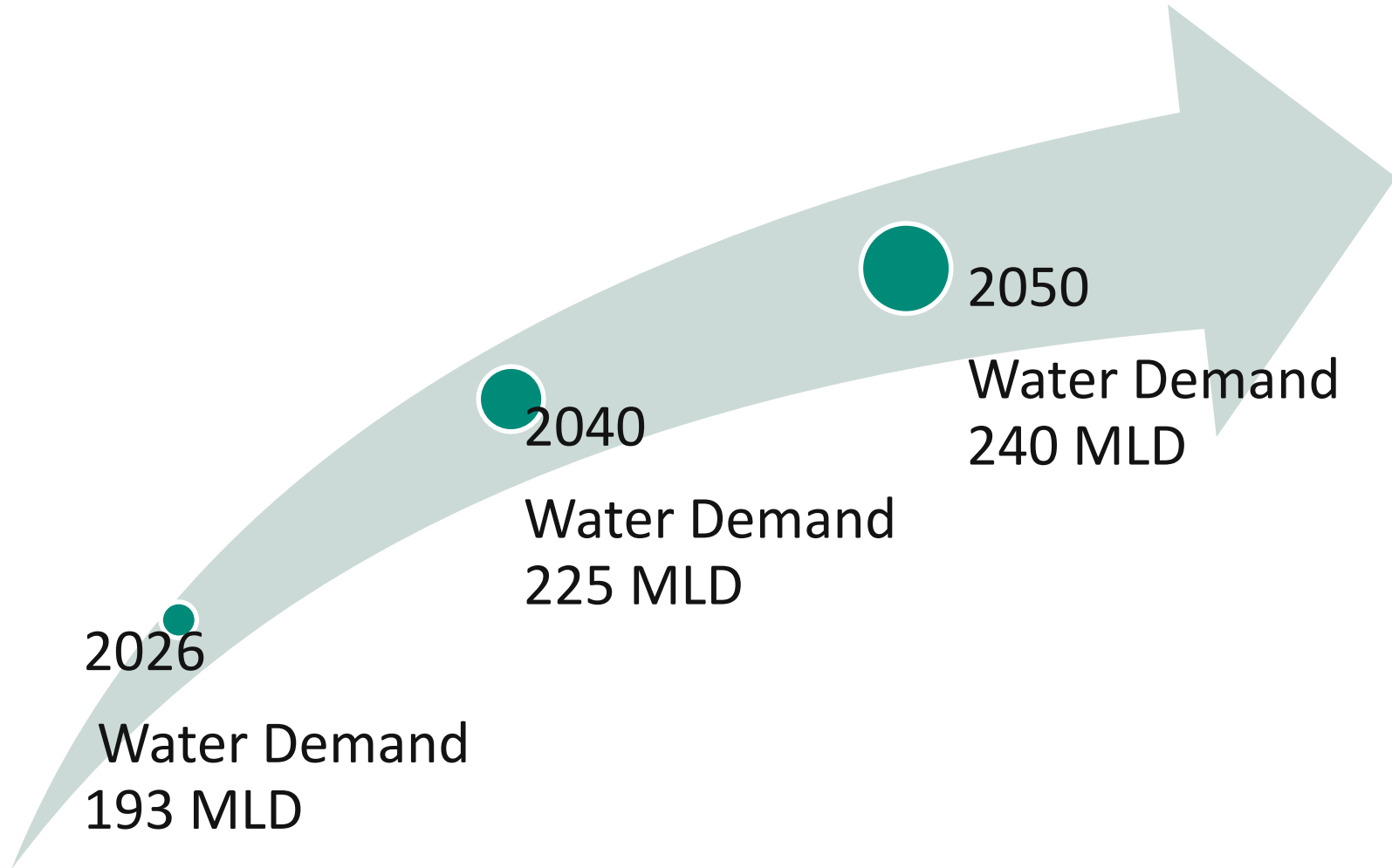


Hydrological Cycle

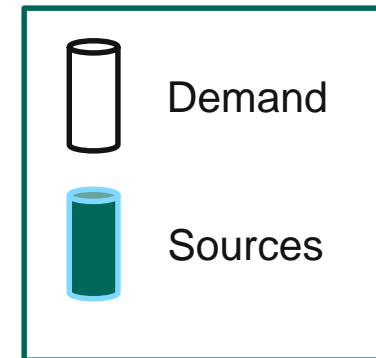
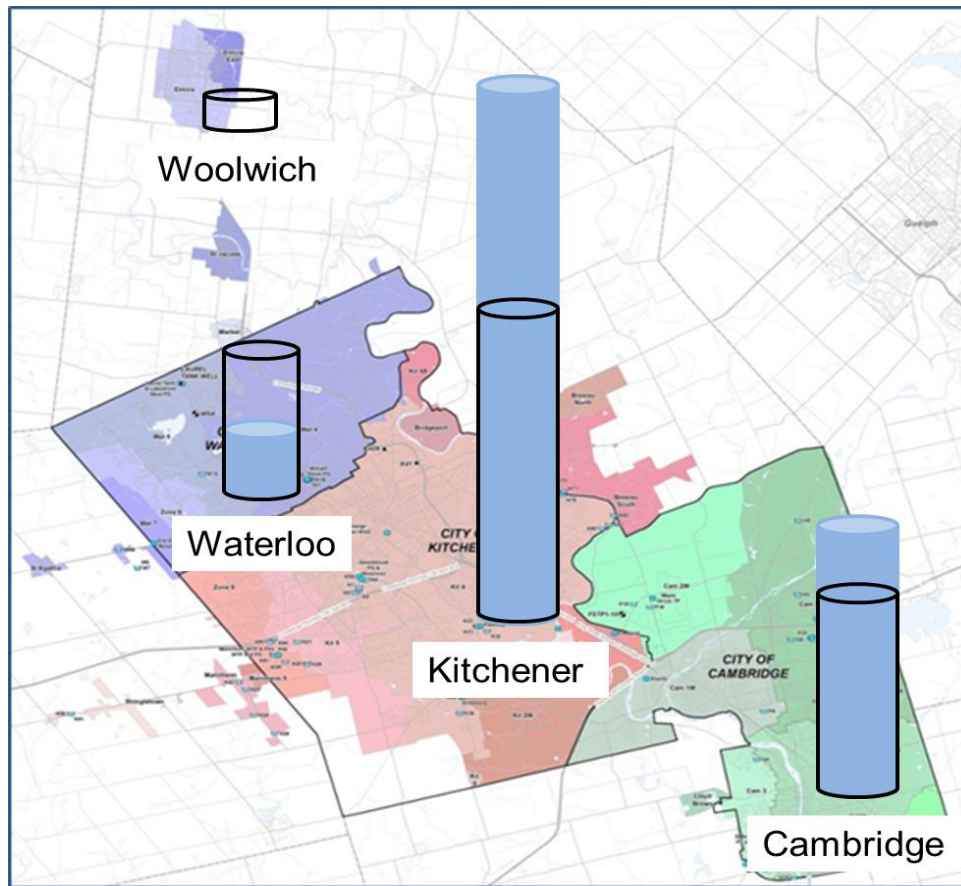


Tools to help protect water

Adaptive Management



Adaptive Management Water Use vs. Supply



Build Resilience



Ability of a system to return to normal or continue without interruption





Thank you

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