

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Watershed Region

Update on the proposed *Clean Water Act, Bill 43*

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Our interim source water protection website is located at www.lsrca.on.ca	

The Standing Committee on Social Policy conducted hearings on Bill 43, the proposed *Clean Water Act*, in Toronto, Walkerton, Cornwall, Bath and Peterborough during the week of August 21, 2006. Interested parties were invited to make oral presentations to the panel in person, or to submit written comments to the Committee Clerk in lieu of appearing in person.

A verbatim record of each of the presentations can be found on the Legislative Assembly of Ontario website @ http://www.ontla.on.ca/hansard/committee_debates/38_parl/session2/SocialPol.

Following the hearings, proposed Amendments to the Act were announced on September 6, by the Minister of the Environment. The proposed Amendments respond to concerns voiced during the hearings by members of the Opposition Parties, key stakeholders, as well as to submissions received to the Environmental Bill of Rights postings in January and February of 2006. The Ministry's news release and media backgrounder on the proposed Amendments can be viewed @<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/news/2006/index.htm>.

Key highlights of the proposed Amendments include:

- Creation of a financial assistance program;
- Replacing the proposed permit system with negotiated risk reduction agreements;
- Inclusion of training and mandated qualifications for *Clean Water Act* officials;
- Extending appeal periods;
- Ability to include First Nations drinking water systems in the planning processes;
- Inclusion of Great Lakes in SWP Plans, complete with established targets;
- Planning Act and Condominium Act conformity;
- Inclusion of incentive, outreach and education programs as 'compliance' tools;
- Provision giving the Minister authority to mandate that 'other' drinking water systems (communal, etc.) be included in SWP plans; and
- The removal of the mandatory limit on the number of SWP Committee members.

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The complete record of the proposed amendments can be viewed at <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/news/2006/090601at.pdf>

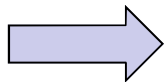
Third Reading for the Clean Water Act began on **Monday, October 2, 2006.**

Source Water Protection Planning Update

Across the province, the groups charged with coordinating the development of Source Water Protection Plans are in the first stages of the planning process.

Locally, staff have collected and begun to analyze water resources information to address questions regarding water quantity and water quality across the region over the past eighteen months. Some of this information was amalgamated from existing sources, such as the completed municipal groundwater studies and the provincial Permit To Take Water and Water Well Information databases. Additionally, some of those existing data sets have been interpreted to draft new products such as geological mapping and preliminary surface water models.

The technical information that is produced will be vetted through a peer review process to ensure high quality products. Under the guidance of a Source Protection Committee, which is to be formed following the passage of the Clean Water Act, the technical work will be summarized in an assessment report in 2008 that characterizes vulnerable areas and threats to municipal drinking water sources across the region. That technical report will form the basis of the Source Water Protection Plan, as the committee formulates recommended land use policies and management strategies.



On the right is an easy-to-read and understand guide prepared by Conservation Ontario to explain the key components of Source Water Protection Planning.

As noted above, local efforts in the South Georgian Bay-Lake Simcoe Watershed Region, have been focused on the first stage in the planning cycle: Data Collection.

What is involved in SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PLANNING?

Collect Data

Information about our water resources is collected on an ongoing basis so we know how much water is available, where it is and what influences the quality and amount of water we have. Conservation authorities, municipalities and other levels of government collect and share this data.

Develop Plans

Once data is evaluated, Source Water Protection Plans are developed. These Plans map out the best ways to protect drinking water sources in each watershed. Local residents, agencies, special interest groups and government are involved in developing Plans to protect lakes, rivers and underground sources of drinking water.

Approve Plans

Once Plans are submitted, the Ministry of the Environment seeks public input and allows stakeholders to propose changes before granting final approval.

Monitor and Update Plans

Appropriate stakeholders monitor the implementation of local Plans, report on progress, and periodically update the Plans as necessary.

Implement Plans

Municipalities and Provincial Ministries implement Plans by educating stakeholders, implementing best management practices and setting regulations that protect drinking water sources.



Overview of how a Bill becomes Law in Ontario

An “idea” is the very first stage of a new piece of legislation. Introduction of a Bill may come from a variety of sources: an individual or interest group, government administrators, party policy, Minister’s initiative, Royal Commission or an advisory body. In the case of Bill 43, the proposed *Clean Water Act*, the impetus was the recommendations made by Justice Dennis O’Connor in the Reports of the Walkerton Commission Inquiry, 2002.

“The first barrier to the contamination of drinking water involves protecting the sources of drinking water. I recommend that the Province adopt a watershed-based planning process, led by the Ministry of the Environment and by the Conservation Authorities (where appropriate), and involving local actors. The purpose is to develop a source protection plan for each watershed in the province...” Justice Dennis O’Connor, The Walkerton Inquiry, 2002

Following its initial introduction the proposed Bill then makes its way to the “Pre-Legislative Stages”, where the proposed legislation goes through several committees and much scrutiny before proceeding to the Legislative Assembly as a Bill. For an in depth discussion and diagram of the “Pre-legislative Stages” please visit <http://www.ontla.on.ca/library/billsresources/preleg.pdf>. The remaining steps are outlined below and on the following page.

First Reading

- Bill is introduced in the House and given **First Reading** and put on the Agenda (*Orders and Notices Paper*) of the Assembly
- Minister may make statement or explanation of purpose(s) of Bill
- First Reading is decided without amendment to the text of the Bill, and without debate
- Compendium of background information is supplied to Opposition Parties

Second Reading

- Debate on principle of the Bill
- Minister may make a speech to open debate
- Each Member may make one speech only
- Minister may make closing speech
- No amendments to text of Bill at this stage
- After debate concludes, Speaker puts question on the motion for **Second Reading**
- If Bill is given **Second Reading**, it may, by unanimous consent, be ordered for **Third Reading**
- Otherwise, Bill is referred to **Committee of the Whole House** or a **Standing** or **Select Committee** as designated by the Minister or Parliamentary Assistant
- If 8 or more Members require that the Bill be referred to a **Standing** or **Select Committee**, the Minister designates the Committee

Select or Standing Committee

- Purpose is to comment on, ask questions about and/or propose amendments to various sections of the Bill
- Proceedings are less formal than in House and Members may speak more than once
- Committee may invite individuals, groups and Ministry officials to comment on the Bill in writing or in person before the Committee
- Committee may travel to various locations in the province to receive public comment or to view a situation first hand
- Following public submissions, Bill is considered clause by clause. Each clause of the Bill may be considered, amended or deleted, and new clauses may be added
- Bill is reported back to House after completion of clause by clause consideration
- If amendments have been made, Bill is reprinted
- When Committee reports Bill to the House, Bill is ordered for **Third Reading**, unless Minister or Parliamentary Assistant directs that it be referred to **Committee of the Whole House**

Overview of how a Bill becomes Law in Ontario ... continued from previous page

Third Reading

- Debate is more restricted than at Second Reading and is limited to the contents of the Bill
- No amendments to text of the Bill may be moved at this stage
- After debate concludes, Speaker puts question to the motion for **Third Reading**



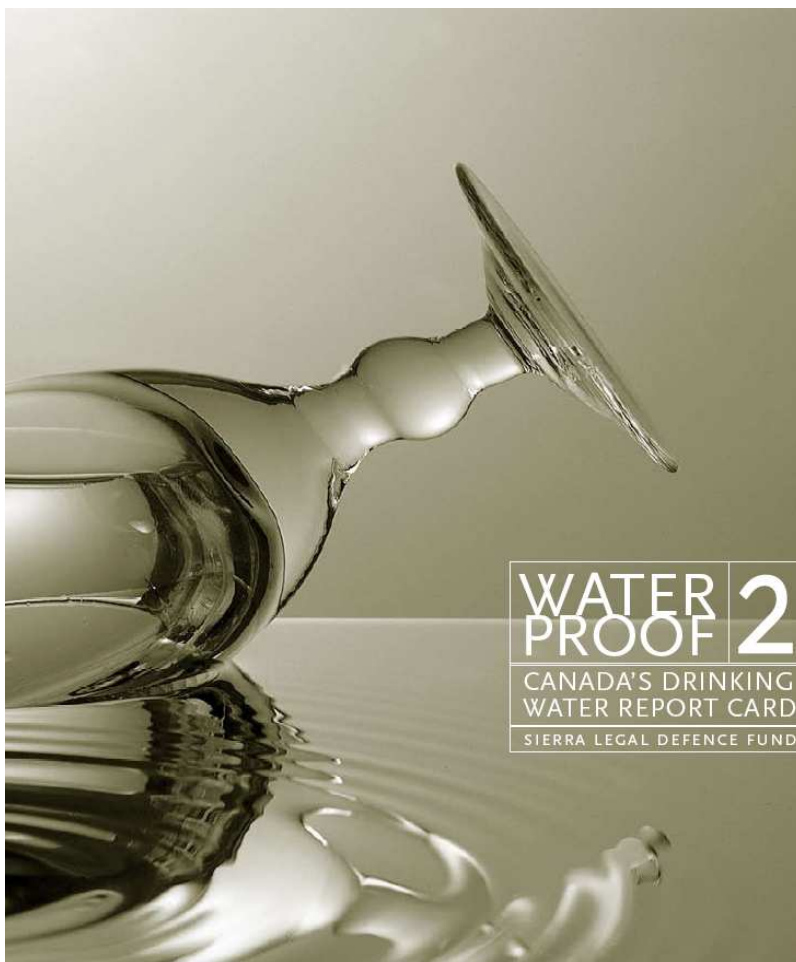
Royal Assent

- Bill is presented to the Lieutenant Governor for assent
- Lieutenant Governor assents to Bill in the Queen's name (the power of the L. Gov to withhold assent or reserve assent has fallen into disuse)
- When Bill is given **Royal Assent** it becomes and Act and is given a statute number and is reprinted

In Force

- Statute is in force: Upon Royal Assent, or when it is proclaimed by the Lieutenant Governor (by and with the advice of the Executive Council of Ontario), or on a day specified in the Act
- Different sections may come into force at different times

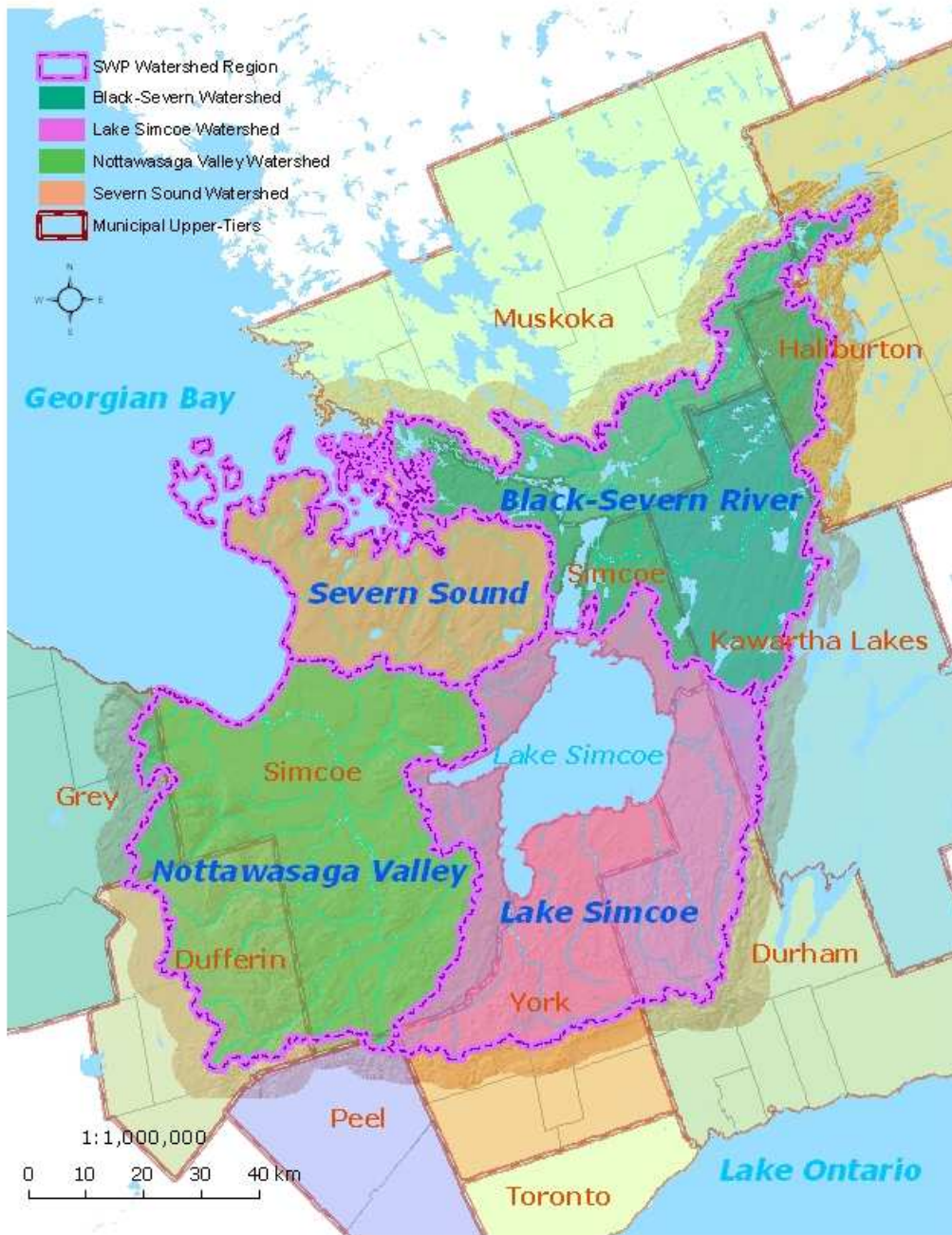
Please visit <http://www.ontla.on.ca/library/billsresources/govbill.pdf> for a copy of the full document "How a Government Bill Becomes Law".



On Friday, October 6, 2006, Sierra Legal released their second national drinking water report card. The report and media materials are posted on their website at www.sierralegal.org.

"Waterproof 2 shows that most jurisdictions in Canada have learned from the tragic drinking water crises that brought the names of communities such as Walkerton, North Battleford, and Kashechewan into the national media spotlight. Since Sierra Legal's first report, **Ontario has implemented many of the recommendations from the exhaustive inquiry into the Walkerton tragedy, and finds itself at the top of the class with an A-** All other jurisdictions – except New Brunswick – made modest improvements in protecting their drinking water and saw their grades improve. The federal government received the only failing grade in the report, getting an 'F' for failing to enact binding national standards for drinking water, failure to ensure safe drinking water for First Nations or properly regulate bottled water, and continuing to permit the use of toxic chemicals – banned in the US and Europe – which are entering Canadian drinking water." For the full "**Waterproof 2**" Report please visit : <http://www.sierralegal.org/reports/waterproof.11.report.pdf>

Our region, as outlined below in purple, is comprised of the Lake Simcoe, Nottawasaga Valley, Severn Sound and Black-Severn watersheds.



Working together to protect our water

◆ Black-Severn Watershed ◆ Lake Simcoe Watershed ◆

◆ Nottawasaga Valley Watershed ◆ Severn Sound Watershed ◆

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Watershed Region

Profile: Severn Sound Environmental Association

Severn Sound is located in southeastern Georgian Bay and includes Penetanguishene, Midland, Hog, Sturgeon and Matchedash Bays, with significant population centres in Midland and Penetanguishene. The watershed covers an area of 1,098 km². In 1985, Severn Sound was listed as one of 43 Areas of Concern with respect to water pollution by the Canada/US International Joint Commission (IJC), which oversees issues affecting the Great Lakes. Since 1987, Environment Canada (EC) and the Ontario Ministry of Environment (OMOE) have been working with other federal and provincial agencies and local stakeholders in the Severn Sound area to complete a Remedial Action Plan (RAP). The purpose of the RAP was to restore and preserve the beneficial uses of Severn Sound for the present and for the future.

In 1997, the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) was formed with the goal of overseeing the delisting of Severn Sound as an Area of Concern, completing the transition from the RAP program to a locally sustained environmental office providing cost effective environmental management to sustain improvements achieved through the RAP process. Members of the Association include Environment Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, the Towns of Midland and Penetanguishene, the Townships of Tay, Tiny, Oro-Medonte, Severn, Georgian Bay and Springwater, and the City of Orillia. Thanks to the efforts of all stakeholders, Severn Sound was removed from the IJC's list of Areas of Concern in January 2003.



Source: SSEA

The Honourable David Anderson, former federal Minister of the Environment, stated at the ceremony celebrating the completion of Stage 3, *"This milestone demonstrates what can be accomplished by governments, industry, individuals, community groups, businesses and other organizations all working together to restore an ecosystem. Their co-operative efforts will be held as a model for other communities and their achievements are an example of civic engagement at its finest."*

Since completion of the RAP, the Association continues to serve the needs of the community as an environmental office, assisting in forging cooperative initiatives to address environmental issues, coordinating increased monitoring of environmental status to detect new problems, providing expertise in planning, designing, funding and implementing environmental projects and to providing a "neutral informed voice" that assists the community in putting a priority on efforts, implementing inter-municipal projects and assists in planning and infrastructure decisions.

Working closely on joint and individual projects with the nine municipal partners in the Association, which includes frequent contact and consultation with their elected representatives and staff, the SSEA brings together partnerships with federal and provincial agencies and various other organizations to benefit the community. The SSEA oversees environmental projects, coordinates partnerships, arranges and sources funding opportunities and provides educational and information services to the municipalities and residents. The SSEA provides excellent and invaluable, cost-effective environmental services to the member municipalities.

The community recognizes the necessity of working together to restore, protect and sustain a healthy environment for future generations. The Severn Sound community cares about water quality and environmental health. More people are approaching the SSEA for information, project support and advice. Community awareness of environmental issues has been enhanced by the SSEA's public involvement and information activities. The Severn Sound Environmental Association looks forward to working with our Source Water Protection regional partners to protect our water.

Working together to protect our water

◆ Black-Severn Watershed ◆ Lake Simcoe Watershed ◆

◆ Nottawasaga Valley Watershed ◆ Severn Sound Watershed ◆

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Justice Dennis O’Connor, The Walkerton Inquiry, 2002

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Black-Severn River Watershed: District of Muskoka
City of Kawartha Lakes
County of Haliburton
Township of Ramara
Severn Township
City of Orillia

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◆ Nottawasaga Valley Watershed ◆ Severn Sound Watershed ◆



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