

AQUASOURCE NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2011

About Drinking Water Source Protection

Safe and abundant municipal drinking water is something we all want. Source Water Protection is about keeping it safe. It's about protecting our lakes, rivers and underground aquifers, our sources of municipal drinking water, from being contaminated or depleted.

The program evolved from the recommendations made by Justice Dennis O'Connor in the wake of the Walkerton tragedy in May 2000; seven people died and thousands became sick from drinking contaminated water. He recommended local groups of stakeholders undertake the work to protect sources of drinking water on a watershed basis.

The province responded with the Drinking Water Source Protection Program. Nineteen Source Protection Regions were created in Ontario, each with its own local Source Protection Committee. This group of stakeholders has been charged with the task of mapping out drinking water sources, identifying threats to those sources and then developing policies to mitigate the threats found.

The Source Protection Committee is charged with developing three key pieces of documentation:

1. Terms of Reference - approved
2. Assessment Report - submitted
3. Source Protection Plan – about to begin

The development of the Source Protection Plan will look at threats on the landscape and develop policies to mitigate them (both existing threats and future threats).

You are receiving this newsletter because you've shown an interest in our program in the past. We hope you find this update helpful. Feel free to let us know what you think – see the reverse for contact information.

Assessment Reports Submitted to Province



After extensive consultation in the fall of 2010, the Source Protection Committee unanimously approved the Proposed Assessment Reports for submission to the Province in December 2010.

Five public meetings throughout the Source Protection Region in September and October 2010 drew more than 400 people in total.

Thank you for your participation!

Midland – 95 attendees
Newmarket – 96 attendees
Orillia – 76 attendees
Alliston – 63 attendees
Barrie – 87 attendees



South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region

Updated Assessment Reports

The Assessment Reports are still undergoing changes. Additional information and the completion of additional scientific studies on surface water intakes in Tay and Collingwood will mean another draft will be published and submitted to the province in June 2011. Along with this draft will be another opportunity for public input in May. Watch your local papers for the notice. We'll also be posting the updated Assessment Report online, so keep checking our website.

Source Protection Planning

The process of developing the Source Protection Plan will begin this spring. Letters will be going out in May 2011 to landowners identified as potential significant threats to advise them of this and to invite their participation in the source protection planning process. Over the course of the summer and fall, policies will be drafted and reviewed with our municipal and other stakeholders. Formal public consultation will take place in the late winter or early spring of 2012.

The Source Protection Committee (SPC)

The Source Protection Committee meets on a monthly basis. All meetings are open to the public and all minutes and agendas can be found on our website.

Upcoming SPC Meetings*

April 28, 2 – 5pm

May 26, 2 – 5pm

June 23, 2 – 5pm

July 28, 2 – 5pm

All meetings are scheduled to take place at the Monte Carlo Inn & Suites, 81 Hart Drive, Barrie

*These dates may change; please check our website (www.ourwatershed.ca) for updates.

Early Response – The Next Phase of the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program

This latest phase of the Ministry of Environment's program will focus on helping landowners with the cost of projects that will mitigate potential significant drinking water threats. There will be an application process.

Further details about the Early Response program will be included in the landowner mailing in May. The details will also be posted on our website at that time.



Water the Exhibition Opens at the ROM on March 5, 2011

Journey around the world in this ground-breaking exhibition about the power, wonder, and scarcity of water. Essential learning for every Canadian, discover what you and your family can do to help conserve water and protect the future of our blue planet. For more information: www.rom.on.ca/water

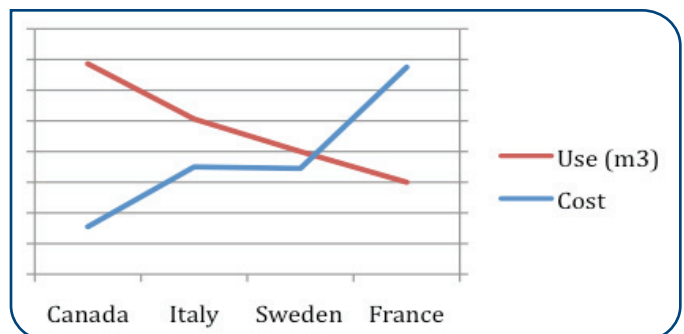


Drip. Drip. Drip.

That sound adds up to more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted in the average home each year due to easy-to-fix leaks.

We could be better water stewards

Compared to other countries, we pay very little for our municipal water. The graph below shows that water use tends to decline as the price increases. But rising prices aren't the only way to become more efficient. Go to www.ourwatershed.ca for water saving tips.



Source Protection Contacts

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