

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION!

1. Source Protection Committee

Assessment Report Update

The local Source Protection Committee (SPC) has been busy preparing the region's Assessment Reports for submission to the Minister of the Environment in August 2010. Each Source Protection Authority, Saugeen Conservation, Grey Sauble Conservation and the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula, will have its own Assessment Report.

At the October and November Source Protection Committee meetings, draft chapters of the reports were presented by Drinking Water Source Protection staff.

The chapters that have been reviewed include:

- Watershed Characterization
- Climate Change
- Limitations
- Water Budget

The Water Quality Threats and Issues chapter is next on the list for review and discussion.

At the Source Protection Committee meeting in January 2010, the completed draft Assessment Reports will be presented. If revisions are required, changes will be made to the Draft Assessment Report and brought to the SPC for adoption, which is scheduled for the February meeting.

During the month of March 2010, official public consultation will commence. The draft reports will be published on www.waterprotection.ca, notices sent to media and all affected stakeholders, and open houses will be held across the region. Comments received will then be considered by the Source Protection Committee and final adoption of the Proposed Assessment Report documents will take place in April 2010.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY SPC!

The November Source Protection Committee meeting was exactly two years from their inaugural meeting on November 27, 2007.

There is a second commenting period, in which the Proposed Assessment Report will be available to the public. This period will be May to June 2010 with public comments submitted to the Source Protection Authorities.

The Assessment Report process is finalized in August 2010, with a submission from the Source Protection Authorities to the Ministry of the Environment.



Ripples of Change, local youth interested in protecting water, presented to the SPC at the November meeting. This group is researching public water knowledge levels and educating along the way.

Change in Committee Members

At the November 27th, Source Protection Committee meeting, two committee members' resignations were received. Brad McRoberts, one of the five Municipal Representatives, has resigned due to a change in employment positions. Sandy Gott, Industrial Representative, has resigned due to time constraints.

The municipal position on the Committee will be filled with assistance from the grouping of municipalities that is represented by this Committee member. The industrial representative position will be advertised and letters of interest submitted to the Drinking Water Source Protection office.

Upcoming SPC meetings:

- Friday, January 29, 2009 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
Grey County Administration Building, Owen Sound
- Friday, February 26, 2009 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
Keady Community Centre, Keady

Agendas and minutes are available on our website.

www.waterprotection.ca

Working Groups

Both the Agricultural and Rural Working Group and the Planning Officials Working Group are kept up-to-date on the on-going work of the Source Protection Committee.

Comments and recommendations are forwarded on to the Source Protection Committee regarding issues the working groups discuss and feel are significant to the source protection planning process.

2. Technical Work Update

Drinking Water Source Protection staff is diligently working to compile information from consultants and internal technical data into the three draft Assessment Reports.

The Water Quality Technician has been working on compiling data from the 2009 field season for the Northern Bruce Peninsula, and organizing groundwater data.

The GIS/Database Specialist is creating the many maps required for chapters within the Assessment Report.



Drinking Water Source Protection program update and information day in Kimberley, Ontario.

3. Stewardship Initiatives

Education

The Education Specialist has been actively involved in the local community under the "Be a Water Steward" program. Local schools and organizations are being engaged in Drinking Water Source Protection, both through presentations and events.

Early Actions Funding

The Outreach Specialist is constantly in contact with many interested landowners and stakeholders concerning the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program.

Applications for early action projects continue to be received by stewardship staff. A response from the Ministry of the Environment regarding more funding for

the local area is eagerly awaited. An application was submitted by staff to obtain extra funding as the current amount of funding has been depleted. More information and areas eligible for funding can be viewed at www.waterprotection.ca, through the Stewardship Page.



The Education and Outreach Specialist, Go Green at Saugeen, Youth Forum 2009.

4. Source Protection Staff

Source Protection staff can be reached at 519-470-3000 or toll-free at 877-470-3001. The fax number is 519-470-3005 and general e-mail is mail@waterprotection.ca.

The office is located in the lower level of the Grey Sauble Conservation Administration Centre, 237897 Inglis Falls Road, Owen Sound.

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*Have a Happy New Year
And All the Best for 2010!*