

MOVING FORWARD WITH SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

NEW FOCUS

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) continues to move forward with its work relating to Source Protection. The focus is now on protecting the sources of water for Municipal residential drinking water systems as mandated by Regulations of the “Clean Water Act”.

There are two Municipal residential drinking water systems within the designated Lakehead Source Protection Area. The systems are the City of Thunder Bay’s Bare Point Water Treatment Plant which gets its water from Lake Superior and Rosslyn Village system in the Municipality of Oliver Paipooonge which is supplied by two groundwater wells.



Rosslyn Village near the Municipal wellhead

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority provides oversight and human resources to assist with planning for Municipal residential drinking water source protection through a funding agreement with the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Conservation Ontario. The process for preparing a local Source Protection Plan to protect the sources of Municipal residential drinking water systems in our area is just getting underway and it is expected to take three to five years to complete.



Lake Superior shoreline

THE ACT FOR CLEAN WATER

The “Clean Water Act, 2006” passed into law on July 3, 2007 bringing into effect Regulations to address recommendations of the Walkerton Inquiry to provide safe, clean drinking water for all Ontarians.

The first set of Regulations directed the establishment of Source Protection Areas/Regions, Source Protection Authorities and Source Protection Committees on a watershed-basis across the province. The new entities were formed to drive the process for delivery of local, science-based Source Protection Plans to protect the supply of water to Municipal residential drinking water systems.

The scope and coverage of the “Clean Water Act” contains provisions to protect the Great Lakes as sources of drinking water. It is recognized protection goes beyond the Municipal water intake and will require collaboration across multiple watersheds at a provincial, federal and international level.



Bare Point Water Treatment Plant

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

MUNICIPAL RESIDENTIAL DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

LAKEHEAD SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY (SPA)

The Lakehead Source Protection Authority for the Lakehead Source Protection Area was created by Regulation of the “Clean Water Act”. The Lakehead Source Protection Authority, which held its first meeting July 30, 2007, is made up of the same Board Members appointed by the Municipal councils that serve on the Board of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority.



The Lakehead Source Protection Authority is governed by the “Clean Water Act” and operates as a separate entity from the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority which is directed by the “Conservation Authorities Act”. The Lakehead Source Protection Authority is responsible for establishing the Source Protection Committee and providing administrative support. Bill Bartley is the Chair of both the Lakehead Source Protection Authority and Lakehead Region Conservation Authority.

Bill Bartley, Chair of the Lakehead Source Protection Authority explains roles and responsibilities at media briefing.

LAKEHEAD SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC)

The process to select the Lakehead Source Protection Committee began in July 2007 with the recruitment of a Chair for the Source Protection Committee. Bob Hartley was appointed to the position by the Minister of Environment on August 20, 2007. Members were appointed to Lakehead Source Protection Committee by the Lakehead Source Protection Authority November 20, 2007. The application and nomination process began in August following open and transparent guidelines outlined by Regulation of the “Clean Water Act”.



Bob Hartley, Chair of the Lakehead Source Protection Committee talks to media.

The Committee, by Regulation, includes three Municipal representatives, three Members from the “Industry and Economic Sector” and three Members from the “Public & Other Interests Sector”. An additional voting seat is available to a First Nation Member with three non-voting Liaison Members assigned by the Ministry of Environment, Source Protection Authority and a Health Representative designated by the Minister of Environment.

This multi-stakeholder, technical Committee is charged with developing the local Source Protection Plan for the sources of Municipal residential drinking water in the Lakehead Source Protection Area. A three-to-five year commitment is expected to complete the plan that will identify and address existing and potential threats to the sources of water for the two Municipal residential drinking water systems in our area. The Source Protection Committee will produce three key documents; Terms of Reference, Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan.

MUNICIPALITIES

The two Municipalities with Municipal residential drinking water systems, the City of Thunder Bay and the Municipality of Oliver Paiponge, have direct input through membership on the Source Protection Committee. They will also provide technical and administrative support to create the plan. The Municipalities without Municipal drinking water systems participate through their Municipal representatives on the Source Protection Committee, Source Protection Authority or as required under public consultation.

LAKEHEAD SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE		
CHAIR OF THE SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE BOB HARTLEY		
MUNICIPAL SECTOR	INDUSTRY & ECONOMIC SECTOR	PUBLIC & OTHER INTERESTS SECTOR
JIM VUKMANICH City of Thunder Bay	GUY JARVIS Thunder Bay Port Authority	ROBERT STEWART, PH. D. Education
KEN McWHIRTER City of Thunder Bay	HARTLEY MULTAMAKI, R.P.F. Forest Industry	PAUL McALISTER, R.P.F. Tourism
VEIKKO LONG Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge	BERNIE KAMPHOF Agriculture	ROSS CHUCHMAN Public at Large
FIRST NATIONS SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE - Fort William First Nation		
COMMITTEE LIAISONS		
JAKE NOORDHOF Ministry of Environment	MERVI HENTTONEN Lakehead Source Protection Authority	HEALTH LIAISON Thunder Bay District Health Unit

DID YOU KNOW?....

Municipal residential drinking water systems supply the homes of more than 80 per cent of Ontarians.



Homes in Rosslyn Village in the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge

KEY DOCUMENTS IN THE SOURCE PROTECTION PLANNING PROCESS

Terms of Reference

Assessment Report

Source Protection Plan

The Committee will create a "Terms of Reference". The work plan will outline tasks and duties, and who will perform the work in the development of the Assessment Report and the Source Protection Plan with timelines specified in the Regulations of the "Clean Water Act, 2006". The associated costs with delivery of the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan will be included in the budget for the Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference, after undergoing public review, must be submitted to the Minister of Environment by the Source Protection Authority by October 20, 2008.

The Assessment Report is a science-based report generated locally for each Source Protection Area. The Report will identify the vulnerable areas within the watershed of the Source Protection Area. Threats to the vulnerable areas will be assessed and determined if they pose a significant threat to Municipal residential drinking water systems. The Assessment Report must be submitted to the Director of the Ministry of Environment by the Source Protection Authority by the first anniversary of the date that the Terms of Reference is approved.

The Source Protection Plan is a strategic document for a Source Protection Area that outlines policies and procedures to ensure that all significant and potential threats to the sources of Municipal residential drinking water systems are managed in a way that they will never become significant drinking water risks. The Source Protection Plan must be submitted to the Minister of Environment by the Source Protection Authority by August 20, 2012.



PROJECT UPDATE - SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

WATERSHED CHARACTERIZATION REPORT

The Watershed Characterization Report, expected in December 2007, was prepared to support the work of the Source Protection Committee in development of the Assessment Report. The Report is a documentation of the water resources within the boundaries of the Lakehead Source Protection Area. It includes scientific data, historical accounts, background information and maps that define the geography, geology, hydrology and socio-economic makeup of the watershed.

WATER BUDGET

The Water Budget, expected in December 2007, is a scientific document which provides a description and calculation of the water available within the watershed. The report identifies the inventory of surface and ground water in the watershed and shows how the water moves through the lakes, streams and underground aquifers within the watershed. The Water Budget considers all the activities that require water for people and the environment, both now and in the future. The Source Protection Committee will utilize this scientific report to guide the development of the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan for the Lakehead Source Protection Area.



Water testing near the Intake Protection Zone off of Bare Point with homes on the Shuniah shore in the background.



TECHNICAL STUDIES

The Ministry of the Environment has provided funding for technical studies to identify existing and potential threats to wellheads and intakes from which Municipal residential drinking water systems draw their water. The studies which include vulnerability analysis, issues and threats inventories and water quality risk assessments of the water supply will provide the scientific documentation required to prepare the Assessment Report by the Source Protection Committee.

The City of Thunder Bay is overseeing the Intake Protection Zone Study for the Municipal residential drinking water supply from Lake Superior at Bare Point. The study was started in April 2005 with technical support provided by the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority and is expected to be completed in April 2008.

The Wellhead Protection Area Study for the Rosslyn Village Municipal residential drinking water supply was started in June. The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority in partnership with the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge contracted a consultant to complete the analysis of the ground water system and produce a report by end of year 2007.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION - ACRONYM DEFINITIONS

AR - Assessment Report	SPC - Source Protection Committee
CWA - Clean Water Act, 2006	SPP - Source Protection Plan
IPZ - Intake Protection Zone	ToR - Terms of Reference
SPA - Source Protection Authority	WHPA - Wellhead Protection Area



LAKEHEAD Source Protection AREA