



Media Release

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Ganaraska and Trent Source Protection Plans Approved

The Source Protection Plans for the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region have been approved by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. These plans, effective on January 1, 2015, set out policies that will protect the water sources that supply 53 municipal drinking water systems within a planning region stretching from Algonquin Park to Lake Ontario and the Bay of Quinte; including the 6 drinking water systems within the Ganaraska Region Watershed. The plans are a requirement of Ontario's *Clean Water Act*, which was passed as a response to the Province's inquiry into the Walkerton drinking water tragedy.

The Source Protection Plans were developed over several years and are based on technical studies, collaborative policy development, and extensive public consultation. The process was guided by a Source Protection Committee made up of representatives from municipalities, business, industry, First Nations, landowners, and other stakeholders.

"We are proud of the work of our team of twenty-eight members of the Source Protection Committee and our regional Source Protection Staff in achieving this goal," said Jim Hunt, Chair of the Source Protection Committee. "Our work with our municipal partners and the province has enabled us to produce these comprehensive living documents which will serve to reduce risk to municipal drinking water systems through the introduction of policies designed to protect sources of municipal water supply. The process is collaborative and science-based and will provide ongoing protection for municipal source water by emphasizing minimizing the risk to water supplies from land use activities. We look forward to continuing with our partners into the future in our efforts to protect existing and future sources of Drinking Water."

Policies in the Source Protection Plans include a variety of approaches to manage and prevent risks to municipal drinking water. These approaches include education and outreach, the development of risk management plans, prohibitions of future instances of certain high-risk activities, land use planning, and monitoring. These policies will help to keep contaminants out of rivers, lakes, and groundwater aquifers that are sources of municipal drinking water.

The source protection planning process is directed and funded by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change in conjunction with municipalities. Local Conservation Authorities provide technical, communications and administrative support for the source protection planning process. For more information please visit our website: www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca

Contact:



Mark Peacock, P. Eng.
Director of Watershed Services
Ganaraska Region Conservation
Authority
(905) 885-8173 ext 226

Andrew Doiron, Program Coordinator
Drinking Water Source Protection
Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection
Region
(613) 394-3915 x 246

www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca