

News Release

MISSISSIPPI-RIDEAU SOURCE WATER PROTECTION STUDIES IN PERTH, SMITHS FALLS AND CARLETON PLACE

MANOTICK, June 6, 2006 — The Mississippi Valley and Rideau Valley Conservation Authorities along with their local municipalities will be investing \$155,500 to undertake technical studies aimed at protecting local municipal drinking water systems that draw their water from local rivers.

“Right now in Ontario, conservation authorities and municipalities are using leading-edge research and technology to build the most comprehensive maps ever of our surface and groundwater supply” said Environment Minister Laurel Broten during her funding announcement. “If we are going to effectively protect our drinking water, we need to know how much we have in reserve, how it replenishes itself, and what poses a threat to our supply.”

Specifically, the money will be used to investigate the municipal water systems in Perth, Smiths Falls and Carleton Place which draw water from surface sources like rivers and lakes. Through aerial photography, contour mapping and computer modelling, capture zones will be mapped showing the size of the area from which each intake pipe draws its drinking water for the community.

“We all need long-term sources of clean, safe drinking water,” said Brian Stratton, Source Water Protection Project Manager for the Mississippi Valley and Rideau Valley Conservation Authorities. “This funding is allowing us and our partner municipalities to undertake the necessary studies that will provide the scientific basis for developing watershed-based source water protection plans that make sense for local communities.”

Ontario’s 36 Conservation Authorities have been charged with coordinating new watershed-based source water protection work at the local level. Mississippi Valley Conservation and the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority are working together to carry out source water protection work locally. The development of source water protection plans as a result of proposed legislation (*Clean Water Act*, 2005) could take up to five years depending on the complexity of the watersheds.

For more information on source water protection visit the Ministry of Environment’s website at www.ontario.ca/cleanwater or your local conservation authority website at www.mrsourcewater.ca.

- 30 -

More information:
Sommer Casgrain-Robertson
Communication Specialist, Source Water Protection
Mississippi Valley Conservation & Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
613-692-3571 or 1-800-267-3504 ext 1147
sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca

