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# R V C A News Release

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## LOCAL CAs SALUTE WORLD WATER DAY, MARCH 12

KEMPTVILLE, MARCH 16, 2006 — Many places in the world simply do not receive the abundant, year-round supply of new fresh water that we do here in Eastern Ontario. Many areas of the world are forced to deal with drought, seasonal floods, poor water quality or other problems which can degrade human drinking water.

But will it always be like this in Eastern Ontario? Climate change, expanding urbanism, poor land use practices, abandoned wells, leaking landfills or septic systems can all have a cumulative effect on our family and our community drinking water supply. That's because water is in constant motion flowing in rivers or underground, evaporating into clouds, falling back to earth as rain or snow, being absorbed by plants, running off roads and city parks, and sometimes picking up some unsavoury hitchhikers along the way. The water we end up drinking has been around a long time, many thousands of years in fact, and has been changed, added to and altered by contact with many different surfaces and substances.

The government of Ontario is no longer satisfied to leave our source drinking water to chance and has requested Conservation Authorities to coordinate Source Water Protection plans through its Clean Water Act. The Mississippi Valley and Rideau Valley Conservation Authorities are currently working together to understand how water moves through the two valleys and how municipal wells and municipal intake pipes get replenished. Where exactly does the water come from? What is it in contact with? How much is there? The result, within five years, will be a community plan to protect municipal drinking water systems against contamination and depletion.

On World Water Day, when you take that first satisfying sip of coffee, take a moment to reflect on the very fortunate drinking water situation we have. Cheap, abundant, clean. Nature has been good to us. A little community investment in keeping it that way is pretty satisfying too.

- 30 -

More information:

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