

News Release

NEW REPORT TO PROTECT LOCAL DRINKING WATER

RIDEAU VALLEY, October 13, 2010 — We all depend on water and now we know where it comes from before it reaches your tap. A new draft report shows where our local drinking water comes from and special areas where we need to protect it. Learn more and provide comments on our draft report at our upcoming public meetings, 4pm to 8pm with a presentation of key findings at 6:30pm:

October 26 (Carp Fairgrounds, 3790 Carp Road, Carp)

October 28 (Perth Legion, 26 Beckwith St. E., Perth)

November 1 (North Grenville Municipal Centre, 285 Cty Rd 44, Kemptville)

November 2 (Carleton Place Arena, 75 Neelin St, Carleton Place)

Key findings from this new report include:

- We have enough water in our local region to supply our water needs, including future growth projections. However, it is always important that people never waste water because it is such a vital resource and we can face seasonal shortages in certain areas depending on weather conditions.
- There are key areas where municipalities draw water out of lakes, rivers or underground aquifers to test and treat for municipal drinking water. In these areas, we need to ensure we are not undertaking risky land use activities that could release bacteria or a chemical because that could contaminate a source of municipal drinking water.
- We know what types of land use activities could pose a contamination risk and we know approximately how many of them are currently taking place in local vulnerable drinking water areas. Policies will be drafted next year to reduce the level of risk posed by these land uses. Policies could include safeguards that minimize the potential of a contaminant being released or limitations on certain land use activities.

We invite you to review our draft report and provide us with your comments and feedback by November 5, 2010. Your input will help shape the final report. You can review the Report on our website at www.mrsourcewater.ca or we can mail you a DVD copy. You can also view a hard copy at Mississippi Valley Conservation, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and many local municipal offices during regular business hours. Please visit our website or contact Sommer for more details.

This draft Assessment Report was prepared by the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee as a requirement under Ontario's Clean Water Act. The Committee is made up of 15 local people who represent municipalities, agriculture, industry, small business, environment, First Nations, and general public. They work closely with local municipalities to implement drinking water source protection at the local level. Ontario's Clean Water Act is part of the Government of Ontario's commitment to implement the recommendations from the Walkerton drinking water tragedy.

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