

## COMMITMENT TO OUR DRINKING WATER SOURCES

To ensure that there is an abundance of clean, safe water available across Ontario for present and future generations, the provincial government introduced the *Clean Water Act (CWA)* in 2006. This valuable water supply has the potential to be negatively impacted through our daily activities and land management practices and therefore must be protected against

possible depletion or contamination.

The CWA provides the framework in which our surface water and ground-water resources can be protected

prior to entering the drinking water system, the first safeguard of Justice Dennis O'Connor's multi-barrier approach.



## TAKING RESPONSIBILITY IN OUR COMMUNITY

Because water is a shared resource, it is also a shared responsibility of every community across Ontario to protect it from contamination and overuse. Conservation Authorities, municipalities and source protection committees have been working together with community stakeholders to complete the three phases of the source protection process to ultimately arrive at a source protection plan. Public consultation is required throughout all phases of the process.



## THE CLEAN WATER ACT AND THE SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM

The *Clean Water Act, 2006* (formerly Bill 43), received royal assent on October 19, 2006 and was proclaimed into law on July 3, 2007. The Act provides a legal basis for the implementation of Drinking Water Source Protection Planning by guiding the protection of existing and future sources of drinking water in Ontario. It aims to protect water at the source, which is the first step to a multi-barrier approach ensuring safe drinking water is available from source to tap in Ontario.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

The first task undertaken by the Source Protection Committee (SPC) was the development a work plan called the Terms of Reference (TOR), which coordinates the groundwork with reference to who will do the work, how long it will take and how much it will cost.





The initial phase of public consultation took place in the spring of 2008 and included posting a draft of the TOR on the internet for public comments as well as three public meetings to gather additional feedback and comments. The SPC then prepared a Proposed TOR followed by a second public consultation period which lasted 30 days. The Proposed TOR and a summary of all

comments received were submitted to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) for approval in October 2008. The final TOR was approved by MOE in April 2009,

and was posted on the MOE environmental Registry (EBR) website. The TOR guides the development of the Assessment Report (AR) and Source Protection Plans (SPP), due in 2010 and 2012 respectively.

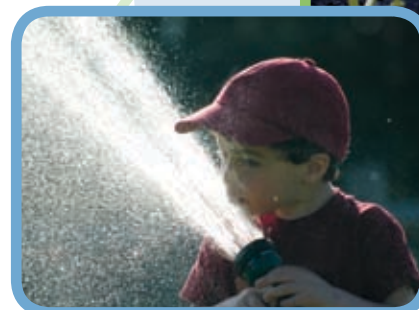


## THE ASSESSMENT REPORT

The Assessment Report (AR) is the next stage in the process. The AR is a science-based report derived from technical studies that have been in progress since 2005. The AR will be used in the development of the source protection plans and policies to protect our drinking water supplies. The technical studies are expected to be completed and received by the SPC in the fall of 2009. Each technical report has been prepared according to provincial regulations and MOE AR Technical Rules. The AR will undergo a public consultation process similar to that of the TOR.

### Assessment Report Development Plan

AR Tasks	Projected Completion
Initial Draft to the SPC	October 2009
Approval of Final Draft AR by SPC	November/December 2009
Two Public Consultation Periods	Nov./Dec 2009 & Jan./Feb. 2010
Submission of AR to Source Protection Authority (SPA)	February-March 2010
Submission of AR to MOE	April 14, 2010



## THE SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN

Following acceptance of the AR by the SPC, and with MOE approval, the Source Protection Planning stage can begin. The plan will build on information accumulated from the AR, setting out policies and risk management strategies that will address significant threats to the municipal drinking water supply. The Source Protection Plan is to be completed in 2012.



## SOURCE PROTECTION STUDIES MAKING UP THE ASSESSMENT REPORT

### *Watershed Characterization Report*

The Watershed Characterization report provides the initial baseline of information, and a general overview of the NPCA watershed. It is in the final stage of revision.



### *Conceptual and Tier 1 Budgets*

The Water Budget Conceptual Understanding Report was completed in 2007 and provides a preliminary assessment of the surface water and groundwater flows in the watershed. The Draft Tier 1 Water Budget and Water Quantity Stress Assessment were completed in June 2009 by the NPCA and are undergoing final revision. The Tier 1 report describes the hydrologic stresses of the sub-watersheds within the study area from a water quantity perspective.

### *Intake Protection Zone (IPZ) Delineations and Vulnerability Scoring*

Vulnerability studies have been completed for the six local Water Treatment Plants (WTPs). These reports characterized the WTP intakes, delineated the Intake Protection Zones (IPZs) and assigned vulnerability scores to each. These reports are being carried out by the Regional Municipality of Niagara (RMON).



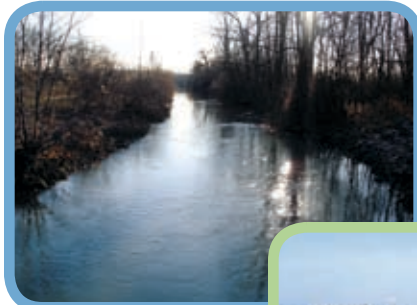
### *Issues Evaluation and Threats Assessments*

The Threats and Issues Evaluation is undergoing final revision for four of the WTPs, and two are pending. These reports examine existing water quality issues or known problems in the intake protection zones, and describe actual or potential threats that may impact the drinking water source. These reports are being conducted by the Regional Municipality of Niagara (RMON).

***Protect what matters most. Protect it at the source.***

## Acronyms

<b>AR:</b>	Assessment Report
<b>CWA:</b>	Clean Water Act (2006)
<b>EBR:</b>	Environmental Bill of Rights
<b>HVAs:</b>	Highly Vulnerable Aquifers
<b>IPZ:</b>	Intake Protection Zone
<b>MOE:</b>	Ministry of Environment
<b>NPCA:</b>	Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
<b>RMON:</b>	Regional Municipality of Niagara
<b>SGRAs:</b>	Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas
<b>SPA:</b>	Source Protection Authority
<b>SPC:</b>	Source Protection Committee
<b>SPP:</b>	Source Protection Plan
<b>TOR:</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>WTP:</b>	Water Treatment Plant



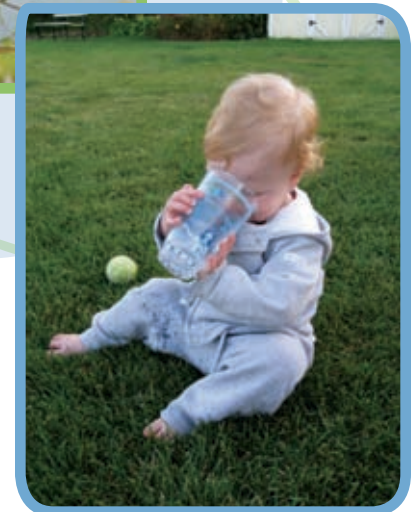
## ***Delineation of Highly Vulnerable Aquifers (HVAs) and Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas (SGRAs)***

Highly Vulnerable Aquifers (HVAs) are more susceptible and impacted by human activities at the ground surface. Therefore, under the *Clean Water Act* aquifers that are highly vulnerable must be identified.

Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas (SGRAs) are areas that are determined to be important in the recharge of groundwater systems. They are delineated through the development of water budgets. These reports will be completed by the NPCA in 2009.

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