

Media Release

For Immediate Release
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How will efforts to protect sources of municipal drinking water affect you?

A number of open houses are planned this fall so people living within the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region can check on progress being made to develop a plan to protect municipal drinking water sources. Anyone living close to a municipal drinking water system is encouraged to attend as preliminary maps of vulnerable areas, or areas particularly sensitive to pollution or overuse, will be on display.

Open houses are scheduled for:

Tuesday, October 6 from 3 to 6 PM at the Evinrude Centre, 91 Monaghan Road, Peterborough

Tuesday, November 3 from 3 to 6 PM in Campbellford (location yet to be determined)

Additional open houses may also be scheduled in late November/early December. Details will be posted at www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca.

There are 54 municipal drinking water systems within the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region – 35 municipal wells draw the drinking water supply from underground aquifers, and 19 surface water intakes draw water from inland lakes and rivers or Lake Ontario. The planning region extends across the Trent/Ganaraska River watersheds, covering a 14,500 square kilometre area stretching from Algonquin Park to Lake Ontario and the Bay of Quinte.

The initiative to protect sources of municipal drinking water is directed and funded by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. Technical studies for each municipal system will identify where extra care needs to be taken to protect local drinking water sources (lakes, rivers, underground aquifers). The reports will be used by the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Committee to draft policies to address potential threats to municipal drinking water sources. The Committee must develop Source Protection Plans by 2012.

The Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Committee (SPC), established under Ontario's *Clean Water Act*, is a local, multi-stakeholder committee representing municipal, special interest group and business sectors, and First Nations. Further information can be found at www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca.

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