

Media Release

For Immediate Release

August 12, 2008

Working Together to Protect Our Water

Proposed Terms of Reference for Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region Available for Public Comment

The Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Committee (SPC) has released their Proposed Terms of Reference for public review during a 30-day comment period which ends September 11, 2008.

The *terms of reference* is a work plan that outlines what will be studied and examined over the next several years in the preparation of plans aimed at protecting local drinking water sources. The source protection plans will mainly focus on municipal drinking water sources. Copies of the documents are available at Conservation Authority offices and are also posted online at www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca.

This comment period is the second opportunity made available for individuals, groups and municipalities to comment on the work plans. The SPC released draft documents in May 2008 and held six public meetings during a 35-day comment period. Based on comments received, the SPC has now revised the documents and, as required by the *Clean Water Act* and its regulations, is re-circulating them for further review and comment. By October 20, 2008, the Proposed Terms of Reference, along with all comments received during this round of consultation, will be submitted to the Ontario Minister of the Environment for approval.

The Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Committee (SPC) was established last year under Ontario's *Clean Water Act*. The SPC represents municipal, special interest group and business sectors, and First Nations across the region. The Committee is charged with guiding the source protection planning process over the next four years. This will include research, technical studies, public consultation and development of policies and recommendations to protect sources of drinking water. 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. Further information can be found at www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca.

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