

**STAFF REPORT:      Engineering & Public Works Department**



**REPORT TO:**            Engineering & Public Works Committee  
**MEETING DATE:**      June 10, 2008  
**REPORT NO.:**         EPW.08.68  
**SUBJECT:**             Source Water Protection Update  
**PREPARED BY:**       John Caswell, Manager of Water and  
   Wastewater Services

**A.    Recommendations**

THAT Council receive Report EPW.08.68 entitled "Source Water Protection Update" for their information.

**B.    Background**

The Town of The Blue Mountains is a member municipality in the Saugeen Valley Source Protection Area that was identified by the Province. This Source Protection Area covers most of Grey and Bruce Counties and is a partnership of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, and the Municipality of North Bruce Peninsula.

Regulations associated with the Clean Water Act 2006 establish the jurisdictions of these three organizations as Source Protection Areas and gave the Conservation Authority Boards and the Municipal Council additional responsibilities as Source Protection Authorities (SPA). There are nineteen of these Source Protection Areas throughout the Province of Ontario.

The Clean Water Act 2006, came into effect July 3, 2007, and requires Source Protection Plans to be developed for water sheds in Ontario. These approved Regulations set out requirements for Source Protection Committees (SPC) to be formed and give timelines for the preparation of the Terms of Reference, Assessment Report, and Source Protection Plans. A overview of the Drinking Water Source Protection, Act for Clean Water is appended to this Report (Attachment #1).

The Saugeen Valley Source Protection Area, of which we are part of, is guided by a sixteen person Source Protection Committee made up of Chairperson, Michael Trainer, Meaford Councillor, who lives in the Region and was appointed by the MOE; and fifteen local individuals representing various sectors. The SPC is responsible for guiding the development of major technical and planning documents related to the program. Shortly after the formation of the Source Protection Committee, members participated in a strategic planning session to develop a mission statement and guiding principles as outlines below:

Mission Statement:

Providing leadership to engage the entire community in developing comprehensive, responsible solutions to protect our water resources.

Guiding Principles:

- Comprehensive science-based research
- Recognizing and engaging all members of the community as valued stakeholders
- Informed decision-making through communication, education, and responsiveness to community enquiries
- Being open and transparent
- Sustainable and long-term decision-making

The Source Protection Committee is responsible for guiding the creation of three Drinking Water Source Protection Program documents. These are: the Terms of Reference, the Assessment Report, and the Source Protection Plan.

The Terms of Reference document is essentially a work plan that identifies what specific work items or tasks must be completed to development an Assessment Report and a Source Protection Plan (SPP) for each Source Protection Area.

The Terms of Reference must be submitted to the MOE by October 20, 2008. The Assessment Report is to be forwarded to the Director one year after the approval of the Terms of Reference which is estimated to be around November 2009.

The Source Protection Plan must be forwarded to the MOE before the fifth anniversary of the appointment of the SPC Chair which is August 20, 2012.

There have been many municipalities make written requests of the Provincial Government as to who will not only fund the ongoing assessments but the remedial works and tasks which may be identified in the various source protection areas. To date, the Provincial Government has funded the necessary consulting work that establishes drinking water system facilities and source water identification to date.

The Provincial Government has announced seven million dollars in funding under the Source Protection Program that is available on a first come, first serve basis to provide funding to persons or associations that have special projects which support the objectives of the Clean Water Act.

The Town will be reviewing any wells that are proposed to be used for communal purposes and will include these in the assessment.

### **C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan**

This Report furthers the Town's Strategic Plan Goal # 2, "Addressing the Town's municipal infrastructure needs" and #6 "providing a strong well managed municipal government".

**D. Environmental Impacts**

Source Water Protection is the investigation and compilation of any threats to watercourses that could have an ultimate impact on Georgian Bay and the drinking water source for the Town of The Blue Mountains.

**E. Budget Impact**

None.

**F. Attached**

1. Drinking Water Source Protection, Act for Clean Water

Respectfully submitted,

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John Caswell  
Manager of Water and Wastewater Services

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Reg Russwurm  
Director of Engineering and Public Works