

Source Protection Report

By Janet Stavinga, Chair

The Committee had a tour of the Britannia Water Purification Plant in Ottawa before our meeting on July 9. Municipal staff showed us how water from the Ottawa River is filtered, disinfected, tested and piped out as drinking water. The Britannia and Lemieux Island plants supply nearly 693,000 people in Ottawa with drinking water.

At our meeting, the Committee reviewed preliminary draft studies identifying

- **Highly Vulnerable Aquifers** — areas where groundwater is particularly vulnerable to contamination because of thin or porous soils; and
- **Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas** — areas where a lot of rainfall and snow melt is able to infiltrate and replenish groundwater.

The studies show 90% of the Mississippi-Rideau region is 'highly vulnerable' and 13% of the region provides 'significant recharge'. These results are important to private well owners because the studies look at the shallow aquifer which supplies most private wells. These regional-scale studies, meaning results are not property-specific, are on our website for review. We'd appreciate **comments by October 9**.

Last month the Committee reviewed groundwater studies for Almonte, Munster, Richmond and Westport and approved them for public consultation. **Open houses** will be held to share the results with the public and gather input by October 9, everyone is encouraged to attend!

- **July 20 – Richmond/Munster**, Richmond Fairgrounds, 6107 Perth Street (6pm to 9pm, presentation at 7pm)
- **July 21 – Westport Legion**, 10099 Cty Rd 10 (5:30pm to 8pm, presentation at 6:30pm)
- **July 22 – Almonte** Old Town Hall, 14 Bridge St (6pm to 9pm, presentation at 7pm)

In early June, about 130 people attended our open houses in Carp, Kemptville and Merrickville. Thanks to all who attended and provided valuable feedback and local knowledge that will help the Committee develop a draft Assessment Report later this fall.

The Province has posted a **Discussion Paper on Source Protection Plans** to solicit public input on what should be in the plans and how they should be developed. **Comments are due September 23**. For more info visit www.ebr.gov.on.ca and enter registry # 010-6726.

The Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee will not meet in August, but will reconvene on September 3, 2009 at 7pm, in Smiths Falls (meeting location to be confirmed). All are invited to attend the 6pm "meet & greet" for an opportunity to talk informally with Committee members.

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