

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

ACT FOR CLEAN WATER



Source Protection Report

By Janet Stavinga, Chair

2009 has been a busy and productive year for the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee, but 2010 is shaping up to be an even busier one!

Many technical studies were completed this past year and the results presented to local communities at public open houses. There are a few more studies to complete in 2010 starting with **intake protection zone studies for the City of Ottawa's intakes on the Ottawa River** at Britannia and Lemieux Island. These two studies **will be presented to the Committee at our January 7, 2010 meeting**. These studies look at the intake pipes in the Ottawa River that the City uses to draw water out of the river to disinfect and pipe to homes and businesses as drinking water. The studies will show the area of the Ottawa River, adjacent shore lands and areas further upstream that could have the most immediate impact on the intakes. In the months to follow, similar studies will be completed for the municipal intakes in Carleton Place (Mississippi River), Perth (Tay River) and Smiths Falls (Rideau River). Watch for open houses in these communities to present the results to local residents. The final component of these studies will be completed this spring when consultants determine if there are any existing land use activities upstream of the intakes that could pose a potential significant threat to these water supplies.

What will we do with all this technical information? The milestone for 2010 will be the completion of an Assessment Report. This report will consolidate the findings and conclusions from all the technical studies. A draft water budget chapter was presented to our Committee at their December 3 meeting and was approved for inclusion in the preliminary draft assessment report. We anticipate a draft version of the entire report will be completed in the late spring at which time it will be posted for public comment. Public consultation details will be provided in this monthly column as well as newspaper ads. Watch for open houses to walk people through the report and solicit feedback and input. The Committee will consider all public comments and revise the report where possible to address concerns. Once revised, the report will be posted for a final round of public consultation and these comments along with the report will be submitted to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment for review and approval.

The Assessment Report will be a valuable resource for anyone interested in ground-water and surface water resources in our two watersheds, in particular, our partner municipalities. Starting in 2010 the Assessment Report will be used by the Committee to start drafting policies to protect sources of municipal drinking water and make recommendations on how sources of water supplying private wells and intakes could be protected. The Committee will work closely with all municipalities to develop this Source Protection Plan by August 2012. As usual there will be many opportunities for public input.

On behalf of the Committee I wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season and we look forward to meeting some of you at our meetings and open houses next year. The **next meeting** of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee is **Thursday, January 7 at 1pm** at the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority office in Manotick.

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