

Source Protection Report

By Janet Stavinga, Chair

The Source Protection Committee (SPC) continues to review preliminary draft technical studies that show us where local municipal drinking water comes from and where it should be protected. At our May meeting, the Committee reviewed *preliminary draft surface water studies* for **Carleton Place, Perth and Smiths Falls**. These studies mapped the section of river or lake where the municipality takes its drinking water from — an area called an Intake Protection Zones (IPZ). The studies also showed how vulnerable the water is to contamination and what land use activities could pose a threat. The SPC decided to continue its deliberations at a future meeting and invite MOE technical staff to attend. **Open houses will be held later this summer** in Carleton Place, Perth and Smiths Falls to share the draft results with local residents and get their input. To read these preliminary draft studies visit www.mrsourcewater.ca or call Sommer at 1-800-267-3504 ext. 1147.

Last month the SPC reviewed **groundwater studies** for **Carp, Merrickville and Kemptville** and approved the study findings as draft for public consultation. Open houses have been organized to share these results with the public and solicit their input:

June 8 — **Carp Fairgrounds**, 3790 Carp Road, Carp

June 10 — **Merrickville Community Centre**, 106 Read Street, Merrickville

June (date to be announced) — **North Grenville Municipal Centre**,
285 County Road #44, Kemptville

All open houses are **6pm to 9pm** with a formal **presentation by staff at 7pm**. Light refreshments will be available and everyone is encouraged to attend!

The Committee will continue to review technical studies over the next few months. These findings will form an Assessment Report for the Mississippi and Rideau watersheds. The Assessment Report will contain scientific information about the watershed, local water quality and quantity and the identification of vulnerable source water areas and potential drinking water threats and issues. A *Draft Report* will be complete in early December. After two rounds of public consultation it will be submitted to the Province in April 2010 for approval. This science will tell us where source protection plan policies are needed to protect drinking water. The SPC will respond by developing a Source Protection Plan by August 2012.

Also at our May 7 meeting we heard a delegation from the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists who talked about adapting to climate change in the Mississippi Valley watershed. They highlighted a new publication called *From Impacts Toward Adaptation: Mississippi Watershed in a Changing Climate* (available from Mississippi Valley Conservation: www.mvc.on.ca or 613-259-2421).

A good news story in the Mississippi-Rideau region was the successful grant application of the Town of Smiths Falls to the Ministry of the Environment under the **Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program**. Smiths Falls received \$95,181 to remove and properly dispose of contaminated soil surrounding the site of their new municipal drinking water plant. This grant program was created by the *Clean Water Act* and provides grants for activities that protect municipal source water.

Our **next SPC meeting** is on Thursday, **June 4 at 7 pm** in Perth at the County of Lanark Council Chambers, 99 Christie Lake Road. Committee members will be there early for a "Meet and Greet" session from 6 pm. If you can join us, we'd love to see you! Visitors always welcome.

Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region

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