

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

ACT FOR CLEAN WATER



Source Protection Report

By Janet Stavinga, Chair

Are you interested in the work of our Committee? Do you wish you could represent local industrial and commercial interests around the Committee table? There is a **vacant seat on the Committee** for a non-agricultural economic sector representative. **Application deadline is February 19, 2010.** Details are on our web site at www.mrsourcewater.ca, or available from Sommer at 1-800-267-3504 ext 1147 or sommer.robertson@mrsourcewater.ca.

Two years into our Committee's mandate, 2010 is shaping up to be a milestone year. We'll see the completion of our technical Assessment Report and the start of our Source Protection Plan. Many of the technical studies feeding into our Assessment Report have been underway since 2006 so completing this report is a significant accomplishment. The start of our Source Protection Plan this fall will mark the start of the final stage in Ontario's source protection planning process. Once Plans are complete, municipalities, provincial ministries and other key partners will begin implementing its policies to better protect our sources of drinking water - the ultimate goal of all this work!

This year's significant transition will mean a lot of public consultation, so get ready to mark your calendars. Surface water studies for the municipal drinking water systems in Ottawa (**Britannia and Lemieux Island**) were received as draft for public consultation at our January 7 meeting. Watch for **open house dates in late March**. Surface water studies for **Carleton Place, Perth and Smiths Falls** are scheduled to be presented at our **March 4 meeting** with open houses to follow. In June a draft Assessment Report should be completed, and once approved for public consultation, it will be posted for 35 days. We hope the public and interested stakeholders will review the content and provide suggestions to the Committee. Most of the information in this report will not be new to those who attended one of our many open houses last year, or will attend our open houses this spring, where technical study findings are presented to local communities.

In August the Committee will review your feedback and revise the report accordingly. That revised report will be posted for an additional 30 days. That feedback, along with the report, will be forwarded to the Ministry of the Environment for their consideration and approval.

Coming Up!

The next **Source Protection Committee** meeting is Thursday, **February 4** at 1 pm at the Rideau Valley Conservation Centre in Manotick. Everyone is welcome. Please check out our web site for agenda details at www.mrsourcewater.ca.

We plan to celebrate the New Year with a new look! Watch for next month's column to have a revamped style.

Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region

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