

## Cataraqui Source Protection Municipal Update November 2015

### Source Protection Road Signs

An October 27, 2015 email from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change provided the artwork and design specifications for source protection road signs. The [Cataraqui Source Protection Plan](#) (Policy 4.4.1-NB) includes that municipalities purchase, install and maintain these signs on municipal arterial roads that enter wellhead protection areas and more vulnerable intake protection zones. The purpose of the signs is to raise awareness of drinking water protection zones and to serve as a reminder to first responders in the event of an emergency or spill. A [summary of sign placement locations](#) was completed last November.



If there is interest to place a bulk sign order, please contact Holly Evans at the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority (CRCA) and we will explore options.

For roads under Provincial jurisdiction, including those in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation will begin sign installations shortly.

### Education and Outreach Matters

Successful implementation of the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan depends, to a certain extent, on appropriate messaging. People living and working in vulnerable areas are more likely to support source protection if there is a clear understanding of the reasons behind policies in the Plan, and knowledge about what they can do on an individual level to protect their drinking water.

**Reminder: The Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change is hosting an Education and Outreach Webinar on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to RSVP!**

The installation of source protection road signs provides a good opportunity to deliver local education and outreach campaigns. CRCA staff have some ideas that could be applied within specific vulnerable areas and we would be happy to share them with you. Please call or email for more information.

### Implementation

Please expect to receive an email from CRCA staff summarizing policy responsibilities and recommendations by the end of year. The idea is that this information, coupled with the interactive maps on the [cleanwatercataraqui.ca](#) website, will provide a full picture of what action(s) are required / recommended for your municipality over the next five years and help you to plan accordingly.

You will recall that Interim [Reporting Templates](#) were emailed to key source protection contacts. The templates are to be filled in and submitted to the Cataraqui Source Protection Authority by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Redesigned Website to Launch January 2016

An updated and easy to navigate website will be launched in January 2016. We anticipate that you will find the new format and updated content to be an excellent implementation resource.

## OP and ZBL

A sub-group of the Land Use Planning Working Group continues to meet regularly to prepare model source water protection wording for incorporation in Official Plans and Zoning By-laws across the Cataraqui Source Protection Area. The next meeting will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands municipal office. It is expected that the group will be prepared to share the wording with the broader Land Use Planning Working Group shortly. Please expect a circulation and a related invitation to a teleconference or in-person meeting.

## GW Assessment Guideline

A request for proposals will be issued to relevant firms within the month to prepare guidance needed to support policy 5.5.1-HR of the [Cataraqui Source Protection Plan](#). A hydrogeological expert will be retained to develop a summary of relevant research and a local assessment guideline. The guideline would be for use by proponents of development, planning approval authorities and the CRCA to: (1) Identify the presence, extent and impact on groundwater vulnerability of karst features on or adjacent to a property; and (2) Assess the vulnerability of the groundwater in a local area (i.e. property parcel or small group of contiguous parcels), based on typically available desktop and field data such as nearby well records, soil maps, and bedrock information, soil test pits and field surveys.

## The Next Phase of the Stewardship Program

Conservation Ontario is gathering information to help inform what the next phase of the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program could include. If you have suggestions, please contact CRCA staff; we'd love to hear from you.

## Source Water Protection Municipal Implementation Fund (SPMIF)

All grant recipients in the Cataraqui Source Protection Area were able to extend their funding from March 31, 2016 to March 31, 2017. Please note that as per the Ontario 23, 2015 message from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, grant recipients are able to request a funding agreement amendment to be able to use their funds for source protection road sign materials, if wanted. It's expected that these materials will be a relatively low cost. All other costs related to the signs (i.e. staff time, etc.) are already eligible.

The Ministry welcomes comments about SPMIF eligible items and timing until December 4<sup>th</sup>. Please send them to: [sourceprotectionfunding@ontario.ca](mailto:sourceprotectionfunding@ontario.ca)

## Regional RMO Update

CRCA staff have verified drinking water threats and are in the process of negotiating risk management plans as required. To date, risk management work to address existing activities is complete or nearly complete for the applicable intake protection zones (i.e. Sydenham, Brockville and Gananoque). The focus in the intake protection zones was on agriculture and managing small quantities of waste at local businesses and facilities. Efforts to negotiate risk management plans for home heating oil tanks, and the storage and handling of chemicals / small quantities of wastes in the two wellhead protection areas (i.e. Miller Manor and Cana) continue.

## Questions / Comments

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