

## Thames, Sydenham & Region - Drinking Water Source Protection Update November, 2008

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This newsletter provides regular updates on progress on source water protection in the Thames, Sydenham & Region. For more information on any of the articles or to receive future issues, please contact Debra Kirk, Administrative Assistant, (519) 245-3710 Ext. 46 E-mail: [kirkd@thamesriver.on.ca](mailto:kirkd@thamesriver.on.ca).

### Terms of Reference

The first major task of the Source Protection Committee was to develop a work plan that will guide the source protection planning process for the next five years. The work plan – called the Terms of Reference was developed with input from municipalities, stakeholders and the public. The Terms of Reference outlines who does what, when it will happen and how much it will cost. It will guide us through the completion of the Assessment Report and the Source Protection Plan itself. There was a Terms of Reference document developed for each Source Protection Area in the region (one for each Conservation Authority area).

Notices were posted in local newspapers and on our region's website in the middle of August announcing the consultation for the draft proposed Terms of Reference documents. The draft proposed Terms of Reference documents were made available at that time on the website and at each of the Conservation Authority offices. Letters were sent out to all municipalities, First Nations, Great Lake agencies and neighbouring Source Protection regions as well.

In the first two weeks of September, four public open houses were held in Ridgetown, St. Marys, Wyoming and London. In addition, three municipal forums were held in Ridgetown, St. Marys and Wyoming. These led to the formal Public Meeting held in London on September 9. Approximately 20 people attended the public meeting.

The Source Protection Committee has reviewed the comments received and has revised and re-posted the Terms of Reference. Comments received prior to the November 17 deadline will be submitted to the Source Protection Authorities (Conservation Authorities) along with the proposed Terms of Reference. The Source Protection Authorities will then submit the Terms of Reference documents to the Minister of the Environment along with these comments.

### First Nations

- The Source Protection Committee is continuing with their efforts to engage the eight First Nations in the region. Following several meetings, two First Nations Public Forums and Two First Nations Council and staff Forums were held this September. Attendance was encouraging with almost 35 attending the sessions.
- The Source Protection Committee enjoyed a tour of the Water Treatment facility on the Walpole Island First Nation. Our thanks to Stacey Kicknosway, operator of the facility, for the interesting tour.
- A First Nation Liaison position has been created to assist with engaging First Nations. Derekica Snake from the Delaware First Nation accepted this position and will start her duties on November 3.



## Source Protection Newspaper Insert

A four page newspaper insert was distributed the last week of August. Approximately 180,000 copies were sent throughout the Source Protection region in 17 different publications. The newspaper insert helped to promote the public meetings held for the terms of reference and included information on: where does your water come from; what you can do to protect water sources; the water budget; the water cycle; development of the Source Protection Plan; and the Source Protection Committee.



## Drinking Water Stewardship Program

Details are still being worked out on amendments to the Drinking Water Stewardship Program. This program provides funding for early action stewardship activities near municipal well heads and surface water intakes. Eligible projects include:

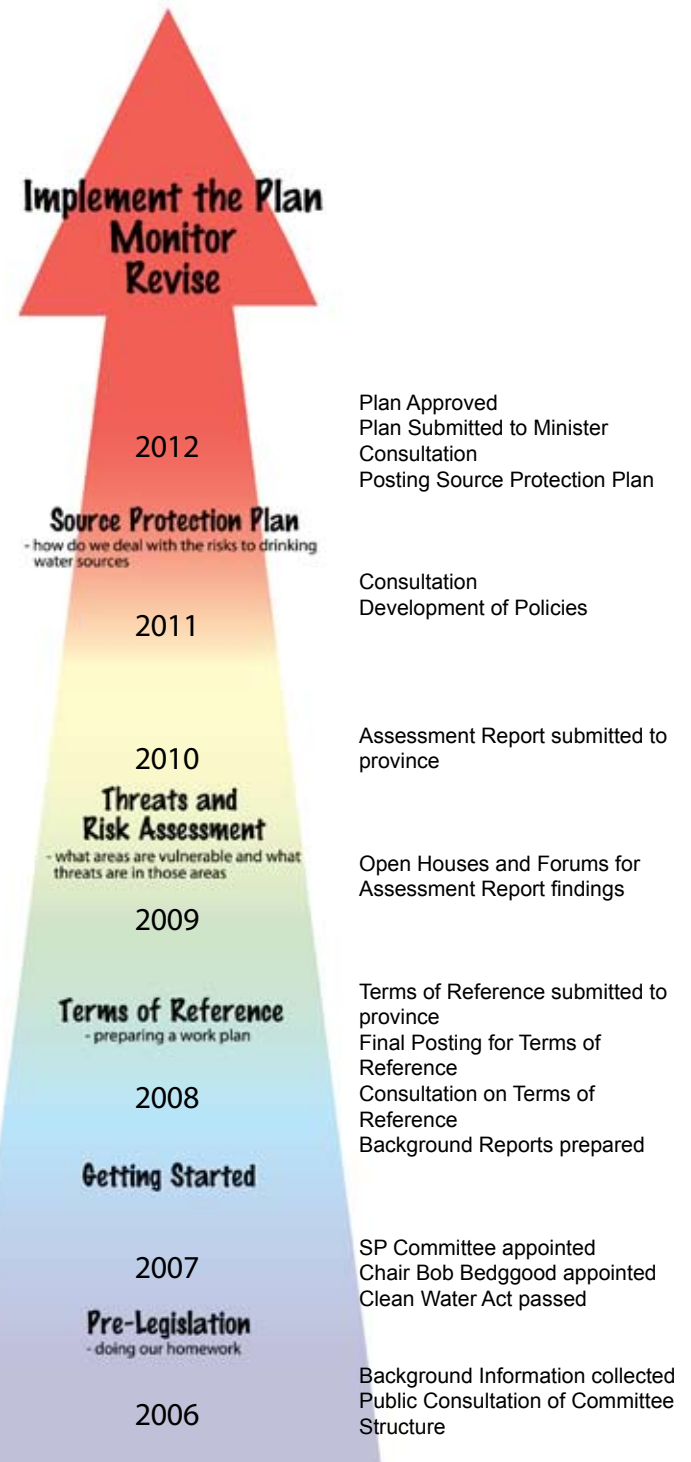
- Well Decommissioning and Upgrading
- Septic System Upgrades and Repairs
- Runoff and Erosion Protection
- Pollution Prevention Reviews
- Land Conservation (land purchase)

## Highlights of Changes

- Projects within Intake Protection Zone 1 for intakes or the two year travel time for Well Head Protection Areas are now eligible where these areas have been adopted by the municipalities for this purpose
- Grant Rates have increased for some projects
- Other organizations including municipalities are now eligible to apply for Outreach and Education Funds to promote the Drinking Water Stewardship Program
- Land Conservation Measures (land purchase) was added to the list of eligible projects
- First Nations are eligible to apply for Special Project funding to protect municipal drinking water sources or First Nation communal drinking water sources.

For more information, contact Linda Smith at 519 451-2800 ext. 224

# Development of the Source Protection Plan



Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (519) 354-7310  
St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (519) 245-3710  
Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (519) 451-2800

member of

