

# Waterloo Region Record

## Proposed groundwater protection rules fall short, councillor says

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Byline: Kevin Swayze, Record staff

Proposed groundwater protection rules don't take into account how industries used to use land near public wells, and what toxic legacies they may have left behind.

The concept baffled Coun. Ben Tucci, after being told at Cambridge council Monday there are thousands of properties Waterloo Region is considering putting new regulations on to protect Cambridge's groundwater supplies.

"You don't know what you don't know," Tucci said. "How can you call it source protection if you're not looking at the history of the sites?"

Waterloo Region and the Grand River Conservation Authority are developing new province-ordered source protection rules. The drinking water protection effort came out of the Walkerton contaminated water disaster in 2000.

The goal is to limit or prevent contamination of drinking water by creating protection zones around wells, said Eric Hodgins, a groundwater expert for the region. There are a combination of incentives for property owners to take extra care with chemicals and manure, along with rules banning uses in high-risk areas. It's based on current and proposed uses of land, not what the land had been used for in the past.

The new source protection rules highlight 795 properties around the main Middleton wells in south Galt, Tucci said. Just asking the property owners now using those sites if they have fuel or chemicals stored there, is insufficient, the councillor said. He says the history of those sites should be investigated. The first draft of groundwater protection plans are up for public review now, Hodgins said.

City staff will prepare a review from the city's point of view, including possible costs for storage of material such as road salt. It's a contaminant in some city wells now. Public meetings are planned for next spring, when final recommended groundwater protection rules - including possible development controls on some lands - are ready. The plan must be submitted to the province for review by August 2012.

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# Frontenac EMC - part of the Performance Group of Companies

## Council in favour of CA policies but questions who will pay

Thu Nov 24 2011  
Page: 1 / Front  
Section: News  
Byline: Craig Bakay  
Dateline: EMC NEWS  
Source: Frontenac EMC

EMC News -- Perhaps South Frontenac Mayor Gary Davison said it best: "there are a lot of great laws out there and everybody wants safe water . . . but who's going to pay?"

Davison was responding to a report from Planner/Deputy Clerk Lindsay Mills on a request from the three conservation authorities that govern the Township's source water for comments on their proposed policies at the regular Council meeting last week in Sydenham.

For his part, Mills was sympathetic to the CAs' proposed policies and requests, even saying the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority's "report is the best written report I've seen in a long time," but categorically questioned where the money for such policies would come from.

"You can't argue with their logic and it's all really good for educating people but it will require staff time," he said. "How are we going to do it."

Mills noted that all three conservation authority reports (CRCA, Quinte and Rideau) mentioned there are no significant immediate threats to Township drinking water sources and "the proposed policies appear to be reasonable and appropriate to protect these critically important water services" but recommended the Township accept the report and send its initial comments to the CAs only.

Council seemed to agree.

"Our Premier said he doesn't want any downloading and we don't either," said Coun. Ron Vandewal. "If they want reports, somebody else will have to pay.

"(But) a lot of this stuff we're doing already, like road salt management."

"Yes, a lot of it is just good housekeeping," said Davison. "(But) nobody knows where this ball is going to keep bouncing.

"We only know it will cost us more."

Coun. Larry York wanted to know if the Township's recreation areas would be affected.

"Anything that uses a well and/or recharge area will be affected," said Mills.

Although generally complimentary of the report's

policies, Davison did notice one area he thought a little restrictive -- agricultural fertilizers.

"I don't know how 2,500 kg of fertilizer is going to fly," Davison said. "You're not long using that on a commercial farm."

Policy No. 1 recommends amending the Township Official Plan to require submission of a disclosure form as part of any application under the Planning Act which would require that the owner disclose whether any uses, such as waste disposal sites, the handling and storage of greater than 250 kilograms of pesticides or 2,500 kilograms of commercial fertilizer will be used on the site.

# Stirling EMC - part of the Performance Group of Companies

## Source water protection discussed

Thu Nov 24 2011  
Page: 18  
Section: News  
Byline: Judy Backus  
Dateline: MARMORA  
Source: Stirling EMC

EMC News - Marmora - Source water protection was at the top of the agenda during the November 15 council meeting which was chaired by Deputy-reeve Rita Cimprich.

The receipt of the draft policies resulted in Environmental Services Manager Victor Reid asking for council's input "on whether or not these policies are implementable," the recommendation being that "council express concerns regarding the cumulative effects of the additional responsibilities placed on the municipality by Source Water Protection Policies."

On hand to provide information and answer questions were Source Water Protection Program Manager Keith Taylor, Technician Vicki Woolfrey and Communications Consultant Lucille Fragomeni.

Taylor provided an overview of the "difficult task of delivering water safely to the public," referring to one of the O'Connor Commission's key components, that being, "you have to start with a safe and plentiful supply of water."

With regard to the vulnerable areas identified in the area of the Deloro wellhead, Taylor reported that, with 80 per cent stewardship funding provided, all private septic systems, had been eliminated and were now hooked into the municipal sewage system.

The other threat noted in the Deloro area is the presence of home heating oil tanks, with 11 having been identified. He stressed the importance of doing everything possible to ensure they don't leak, with annual inspections being necessary. With regard to agricultural threats in the Deloro area, Taylor indicated that the land was not being used for farming at this time.

In summing up the Deloro portion of the issue, Taylor commented, "As far as Deloro is concerned, the level of effort to do the Source Protection Program for existing [threats] would probably be relatively minimal, but we also have to deal with future threats."

Vicki Woolfrey provided a summary for the Marmora system, with 20 threats having been identified on 19 parcels of land in the area stretching one kilometre north of the Marmora intake pipe located above the dam; 17 of those are septic systems. One agricultural parcel represents two threats, which would require input from a risk

management official. This would represent a new position, but one Woolfrey said could be shared by municipalities. That official would "negotiate a plan with the landowner to make sure that threat does not contaminate the local water resources and is adequately managed."

Councillor Linda Bracken, looking at the financial impact on Marmora and Lake, asked if there would be provincial funding available to help with the implementation, a question Taylor said was common.

He responded saying that to date, the province had fully funded the program to a total of \$200 million. He suggested once the program was up and running, it would become a regular part of municipal business. He went on to say Quinte Conservation had offered to provide the services of a risk management official, with three to be trained.

Taylor suggested with regard to Marmora and Lake, the areas involved were not huge and they were asking the province to help with the implementation transfer over the next few years. He suggested the province had put a great deal of money into the program, and didn't want to see it fail.

"This is a very important moment in history in terms of protecting water ... Everybody thinks this is all just related to Walkerton, but there have been several issues with drinking water in North America ...." He went on to say he felt it was important for the municipalities, when forwarding comments about the policies, to ask for help with the start up costs.

Discussion continued, ending with a decision to support the recommendation made by the Environmental Services Manager.

- Council members agreed with a recommendation put forward by Chief Building Official Reg McCurdy, that being to formalize an existing arrangement and enter an Animal Control Services Agreement with Animal Control Officer Fearnley Davies of Tweed. Davies has, for a number of years, provided the service.

- Santa Claus is coming to town December 3, and will be the star attraction in a parade, once again organized by members of the Marmora Crowe Valley Lions Club. Club President Russ Mitchell wrote to council asking for the use of the Community Centre following the parade so children

can enjoy hot dogs and hot chocolate and a visit with the jolly gent. Council members supported the request and agreed, as they have done in the past, to enter a float in the afternoon parade.

- A request from the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps for financial assistance relating to an upcoming dinner was turned down as per the municipality's donation policy. It was decided that a letter should be sent outlining the policy, with Councillor Linda Bracken then suggesting that perhaps there was some other way they might be of assistance.

- Council supported a resolution made by the Municipality of Centre Hastings regarding the proposed McDonald's to be located at the intersection of Highways #62 and #7. It asked that the Provincial Ministry of Transportation be encouraged to work with McDonald's to ensure that the project proceeds in a timely manner.

# Milton Canadian Champion

## Province should fund water protection plan: committee

Tue Dec 6 2011

Page: 1

Section: News

Byline: Christina Commisso, Canadian Champion, ccommisso@miltoncanadianchampion

A Regional committee wants the Province to cover any costs that could arise from a new water protection plan.

Wednesday, Halton's planning and public works committee reviewed an update on the Source Water Protection (SWP) policy that aims to safeguard the region's drinking water through new legislation.

Milton Councillor Colin Best put forward a motion that would see the Ministry of the Environment fund all costs that municipalities could incur as a result of the SWP plan. The motion was passed by the committee and will be considered by regional council December 14.

"This is a provincial initiative. If they want this system, they should pay for it. We have a great system," said Best.

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette echoed those sentiments.

"I could see this as another layer of government. When you hear some of the things they're looking at, there may be restrictions on land use policies," he said.

"If I'm a landowner or farmer, I'd be very concerned. I think this is going to be nothing more than a boondoggle by the time it comes out, as we're looking at more and more policies."

The SWP plans are a result of the Walkerton drinking water crisis. Following an inquiry, the Province implemented the Clean Water Act that includes the creation of SWP committees and policies.

More than 900 residents in the Halton/Hamilton area received letters this summer explaining how the committee is developing policies to protect drinking water and how those policies could affect current and future activities on their properties.

One example of a water threat is a private septic system located close to a well.

Halton's representative on the committee, and former Milton regional councillor, Barry Lee sent a letter to the committee regarding the potential costs associated with the new regulations.

"I am concerned that this source water protection exercise is failing to recognize the importance of work already done by provincial, federal and other agencies, as well as associated legislation," he wrote. "I would encourage you to engage AMO to put your concerns forward. Otherwise there is a great risk of

this proposed legislation being rubber stamped and we will all face the consequences."

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