

# Bill aims to avert future water crises

## Will affect those with private sources of water

BY CAROL MULLIGAN  
The Sudbury Star

Sudburians are being urged to read, understand and have their say on draft legislation to pro-

tect Ontario's sources of drinking water before it becomes law.

The Clean Water Act was introduced Monday for first reading in the Ontario legislature by Environment Minister Laurel Broten.

The act is designed to avert water contamination crises such as the one in Walkerton more than five years ago that killed seven people and made thousands sick.

The act is especially signifi-

cant to people in Sudbury because as many as 10 per cent of us get our water from a private source such as a lakes or well, says Judy Sewell, source water protection coordinator with the Nickel District Conservation Authority.

The NDCA will receive about \$500,000 in funding in the fiscal year ending in June to conduct a source water protection plan, said Sewell.

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## CLEAN WATER ACT

The proposed act will:

- **Direct communities** to look at any activity that could threaten water quality and act to reduce or remove it;
- **Allow local authorities** to act before a water threat develops;
- **Require communities** to participate in finding solutions through full public consultation.

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## Weather Forecast



Today: Cloudy, flurries

High: -10    Low: -15

Tomorrow: Cloudy, flurries

High: -7    Low: -13

Friday: Cloudy, flurries

High: -4    Low: -12

Weather map on Page A9

## Quote of the day

"Now is the time to simply return them, no questions asked, and with our thanks."

— Andrea Lea

Sudbury Regional Hospital. The hospital offering an amnesty in hope of recovering 94 missing wheelchairs.

# WATER: take about three years

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It will take about three years to complete the plan, however, and it could take as long as five years for the act to be fully implemented.

The source water protection plan will be developed by the source water protection committee, a group of about 16 people from industry, agriculture, business, homeowners and other sectors of the community.

The guidelines for their appointment, as well as their mandate, will be outlined in provincial legislation as the bill proceeds to its final reading some time next year.

The Clean Water Act will require communities to work together to create and carry out a plan to protect drinking

water sources such as streams, rivers, lakes and groundwater from contamination.

That plan will be devised by first identifying water sources in the community, pinpointing activities that could threaten water quality, then taking action to reduce or remove those threats.

The Clean Water Act is part of the province's commitment to implement recommendations from the Walkerton Inquiry.

Jennifer Salo is a communications specialist with the NDCA. She said the Clean Water Act aims to prevent water problems before they occur, and anyone who wants to is encouraged to be a part of the process.

The draft law is posted on Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights website "for everyone to read and comment."

People have until Feb. 3 to comment on the draft legislation.

of self-defence is to get away from your attacker and find an escape route. Engaging in a violent confrontation, especially with someone bigger and stronger, will only lead to injury, and possibly death, she said.

"We are not going to allow that day to be forgotten," said Greater Sudbury Mayor David Courtemanche, who gathered with about 15 others in a meeting room at the Women's Centre.

"As the mayor, as a citizen and as a man in our community, I understand all of us have a role and responsibility to play in terms of addressing violence in our community."

Courtemanche said he could not fully understand what women who are victims of violence go through. But he said he feels a responsibility to support organizations, individuals and law enforcement officers who deal with the problem.

Marc Lepine entered l'École Polytechnique de Montreal on Dec. 6, 1989, and used a Sturm Ruger Mini-14 hunting rifle to kill 14 women and wound 13 others.

## Foodland Ontario 2006 Calendar Correction Notice

Please note that, in the editing process, an inaccuracy occurred in the month of August that should be noted and corrected. The Civic Holiday is on Monday, August 7th, not Tuesday, August 1st.

The publisher of the calendar regrets any inconvenience that this may cause.