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Nickel District
Conservation
Authority

Assessment Report

The Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority officially submitted the Proposed Assessment Report to the Minister of the Environment for review on June 8, 2010. The Assessment Report identifies the drinking water threats to be addressed in the Source Protection Plan, vulnerable areas around municipal drinking water sources, how the water moves within the watersheds, how much water is withdrawn, and areas where there may be water shortages.

A total of 67 significant threats, as defined by the *Clean Water Act*, were identified in the Greater Sudbury Source Protection Area for the purposes of the Assessment Report. Identified threats include, but are not limited to, septic systems, municipal wastewater lift stations, storm sewers and application of road salt. Source protection staff are currently working to identify moderate and low threats for Greater Sudbury's drinking water systems.

Ten Years After Walkerton

May marked the 10th anniversary of the Walkerton drinking water tragedy, which caused approximately 2,500 people to become ill and resulted in the deaths of seven people. The effects of these tragic events are still being felt by the residents of Walkerton and have changed the way residents of Ontario think about their drinking water.

In the years since Walkerton, the Ontario government has overhauled the system of managing and protecting drinking water within the province with new legislation and programs, including the *Clean Water Act* and the Source Protection Program.

Two public consultation periods were held prior to submission of the Assessment Report and the public was provided with the opportunity to submit comments on the report. Approximately three dozen residents attended two public meetings and staff received eight comments during the public consultation period expressing concerns about potential threats to local drinking water sources. A copy of the comments received and staff responses was included in the submission to the MOE.

With the Proposed Assessment Report submitted, staff will continue to update the information contained within the Report, while working with the Source Protection Committee to draft the Source Protection Plan for Greater Sudbury. The Source Protection Plan, which is to be completed in August 2012, will outline the steps to be taken to reduce the risks posed by the significant threats identified in the Assessment Report.

The local Source Protection Committee is prepared to begin developing a Source Protection Plan to protect local municipal sources of drinking water from contamination and prevent a tragedy like the one in Walkerton 10 years ago.



Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

Greater Sudbury's municipal water supply is drawn from groundwater and surface water sources, both of which rely on precipitation for replenishment. When the weather is hot and dry with low precipitation amounts, the water supply can be used faster than it is being replenished. Water conservation practices can not only help protect the quantity of local water supplies, but using less water can help you save money.

Environment Canada offers many conservation tips for around the home. Some of the outdoor tips they suggest include:

1. Lawn watering and other outdoor uses can account for up to 50 per cent of home water use. Studies show that as much as half of this outdoor use is wasteful. As a general rule, 2 to 3 cm of water per week is adequate. (Remember Greater Sudbury's outdoor watering by-law: home addresses that end with an odd number are permitted to water lawns, gardens, trees and shrubs on odd-numbered dates of the month. Home addresses that end with an even number are permitted to water lawns, gardens, trees and shrubs on even-numbered dates of the month.)
2. Don't overwater your landscape. It can cause yellowing leaves or poor plant health. Give plants only the amount of water that they need.



3. Use low-angle or pulsating sprinklers that produce large fat droplets of water. Sprinklers that spray the water high into the air or produce a mist or fine spray lose much of the water through evaporation.
4. Set sprinklers to water the lawn, not sidewalks and driveways.
5. Check your sprinkler or irrigation systems regularly for any leaks, and fix them.
6. Be sure your hose has an automatic shutoff nozzle to ensure water is not wasted when the hose is left unattended.
7. Using a running hose to wash your car can waste about 400 litres of water. Using a bucket with a sponge plus a trigger nozzle on the hose will save you about 300 litres.
8. If you own a pool, be sure to use a pool cover when it's not in use. This will cut down on evaporation losses and will keep it cleaner and warmer. Check equipment such as filtration systems and water inlets on a regular basis for signs of leaks.
9. Collect rain water in an old barrel or other large container that is outfitted with a spigot and a suitable cover, and use the water on your garden. Use this water as an alternative to turning on the hose for newly transplanted material, window boxes, flower pots and container gardens.

More water conservation tips for inside and outside the house can be found on Environment Canada's website at http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/reseau/watertips_e.html

Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program

The Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program, which provides financial assistance to property owners in areas that may be affected by the *Clean Water Act*, is accepting applications for the current funding year. To learn more about the program, eligibility requirements and funding deadlines, visit www.sourcewatersudbury.ca or call Jessica Brunelle at 674-5249.