



Nickel District
Conservation
Authority

SOURCE WATER
PROTECTION

SWP NEWS

February 2007, Issue 6

CLEAN WATER ACT PASSED

The Clean Water Act was introduced in December 2005 and has now become enabling legislation to give communities the tools they need to protect drinking water at its source.

The Source Water Protection Clean Water Act (Bill 43) received Royal Assent on October 19, 2006. The Act will help protect our sources of drinking water by addressing threats to the quantity and quality of the water in our lakes, rivers and groundwater wells.



For the first time, communities are required to identify and protect their drinking water sources. This will be done by developing a Source Water Protection Plan.

In the Sudbury Region, the plan will be coordinated by the Nickel District Conservation Authority and developed in collaboration

with the City of Greater Sudbury and area stakeholders to create a locally driven, science-based plan.

The NDCA source water protection team is working closely with City of Greater Sudbury staff, local experts, and technical consultants to collect data about threats to groundwater and surface water and compile this information into an assessment report.

There will also be the creation of a Source Protection Committee (SPC).

The SPC will consist of people from local groups including the municipal, health, environment, industry and agriculture sectors.

This committee will use the information from the assessment report to develop strategies to protect drinking water via the Source Water Protection Plan. ♣

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NEW TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Sharon Bennett is the new Technical Advisor for the Source Water Protection Team. Her first day on the job was November 27, 2006.

Originally from Burlington Ontario, she lived in British Columbia for eight years while she completed both her Bachelors of Science in Environmental Sciences and Masters of Science in Watershed Management at the University of British Columbia.



Her previous work experience includes working for Fisheries and Oceans Canada, private consulting and the Earthwatch Institute.

She will be providing technical support for the assessment report and working closely with Judy Sewell Project Manager for Source Water Protection.

She recently moved to Sudbury with her partner Scott and their sled dog Shadow in May 2006. Sharon enjoys outdoor activities such as dog sledding and cross-country skiing. ♣

NEW COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Nathalie Gara-Boivin is the new Communications Specialist and recently joined the NDCA team on December 11, 2006.

Originally from Toronto, Nathalie spent five years in Ottawa and graduated with an Honours B.A. in Environmental Studies and Geography from the University of Ottawa.



She completed a post-graduate diploma in Ecotourism Management at Sir Sandford Fleming College.

She moved to Sudbury in September 2004, as the

coordinator of the Sudbury Basin Environmental Networking Initiative.

While there she worked with a variety of stakeholders in the private, non-profit, and municipal sectors to increase environmental networking through capacity building workshops, environmental educational talks in both French and English, created an environmental guide "Keen to be Green" and was Head of Programming for the 2006 Earth Day Festival.

Nathalie recently returned from travels in India, Hungary, Croatia and Ecuador. ♣

DID YOU KNOW?

Approximately 91% of Sudburians obtain their water from the municipal water supply system, which is a mix of surface water (lakes and rivers) and groundwater (wells).

Surface Water intake zones for drinking water are Ramsey Lake, and the Wanapitei and Vermilion Rivers .

22 municipal water wells supply groundwater to: Capreol, Dowling, Falconbridge, Garson, Levack, Onaping, Valley East (9 wells), Azilda and Chelmsford.

Approximately 30%-35% of Sudburians obtain their drinking water from groundwater.

The Wanapitei River is 293 kilometres long, and the Vermilion River is 252 kilometres long. ♣



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SPOT THE SIGNS

The City of Greater Sudbury would like you to be “Well Aware” of our Wellhead Protection Areas which are areas that contribute water to our municipal wells.

Signs were placed along roadways to help residents identify sensitive areas and to increase public awareness about the need to protect our drinking water.

Look for these signs on Municipal Roads in various parts of the City including the Valley, Levack, Hanmer and Onaping.

These signs have been placed in areas that are within the 50 day Time of Travel (ToT) for water to enter the capture zone of a municipal well. Time of Travel means the estimated time it takes for any potential contaminant to travel into a well.

Potential threats to drinking water include:

- ◆ household chemicals including cleaning products and paints;
- ◆ oil, gas, and solvents;
- ◆ underground storage tanks;
- ◆ fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides;
- ◆ septic systems and de-icing chemicals.

You can help ensure that our drinking water is safe by protecting it at its source by doing the following:

- ◆ Properly disposing of household hazardous waste at the depot located at 1853 Frobisher or by calling the Toxic Taxi for a free pick-up 560-9019
- ◆ Reducing your use of pesticides and fertilizers
- ◆ Ensuring proper car maintenance to prevent oil or gasoline spills. ◆



WATER WORDS

Source Water Protection Committee (SPC):

a group of local stakeholders from many sectors such as health, agriculture, municipal, environment, industry and non-governmental that will develop a Source Water Protection Plan.

Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA):

encompasses the area around a municipal well from which the

well draws water, and for which special protective measures are required to ensure the long-term viability of the municipal water supply.

Time of Travel (ToT):

the estimated time it takes for any potential contaminant to travel into a well. Time of Travel was calculated for the Sudbury wells for 50 days, 2 years, 10 years and 25 years. ◆





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PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS

The City of Greater Sudbury and the Nickel District Conservation Authority will be holding Public Information Sessions about Wellhead Protection Areas for area residents. This will be a great opportunity to learn about source water protection concepts. You will also have the chance to view our source water protection watershed display. NDCA source water protection and City water and wastewater staff will be on hand to answer questions and give you more information.

Clean drinking water is essential to healthy living; keeping it clean at the source is in everybody's best interest. 💧

Public Information Session dates to be announced soon!



FREE PRESENTATION

For more information, if you're interested in a presentation on Source Water Protection or to subscribe to our quarterly newsletter please contact:

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