

South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Drinking Water Sources Even Safer with Plan Approval

Midland – January 29, 2015 - Your drinking water is even safer now that the source protection plan for the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region has received approval from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. The plan was approved on January 26, 2015 and will take effect on July 1, 2015. The effective date comes some time after the approval date to allow municipalities and other implementing bodies the opportunity to undertake the necessary preparation for implementation.

“This is a momentous occasion for us”, says Lynn Dollin, Chair of the 22-person Source Protection Committee, responsible for developing the plan. “This drinking water source protection plan is an example of locally developed, inclusive, community-based decision making at its best. We are really pleased with the process that we took and with the final product.”

“Staff of the local watershed agencies (Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and Severn Sound Environmental Association) have invested massive effort into this process and should be commended,” Dollin added. “They have been working hard behind the scenes to ensure public consultation was given high priority. And it shows - our plan received unanimous support at the board level.”



Source Protection Committee Members meet with Minister Glen Murray (left to right: Dave Ritchie (Severn Sound Environmental Association Vice Chair), Minister Murray, Chair Lynn Dollin, John Hemsted, Colin Elliott)

Township of Severn Councillor Ron Stevens, Chair of the Severn Sound Source Protection Authority, congratulated the staff from the SSEA, all municipalities in the Severn Sound Watershed and the SPC, saying that he is "proud of the hard work, dedication and cooperation that I have personally witnessed during the entire process for the past 7 years. This is great news for the future of our municipal drinking water sources in the Severn Sound Watershed. Implementation of the source protection plan will help to safeguard our sources of municipal drinking water.”

Many Source Protection Committee members, most of whom have been involved in plan development since late 2007, are still willing to stay on the Source Protection Committee for another term of office. This shows their dedication to the process, their belief in the positive outcomes of what they are doing and their sincere interest in seeing the source protection planning process continue to move forward.

The source protection plan and its associated documents are available at www.ourwatershed.ca.

- 30 -

Contact: Keith Sherman, Executive Director, Severn Sound Environmental Association, 705-527-5166 or ksherman@midland.ca

67 Fourth Street ♦ Midland, ON ♦ L4R 3S9 ♦ Tel: 705-527-5166 ♦ Fax: 705-527-5167
www.severnsound.ca