



Severn Sound Environmental Association

67 Fourth Street

Midland Ontario L4R 3S9

Tel: 705-527-5166 Fax: 705-527-5167

Web-site: www.severnsound.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New road signs help protect municipal drinking water sources

MIDLAND, Ontario (April 27, 2016) – Hundreds of new road signs to help identify municipal drinking water sources are being installed across Simcoe and Muskoka this spring. Many more of these drinking water protection zone signs will be installed across Ontario in 2016.

The signs mark locations where well-used roads cross into zones where municipal drinking water sources are the most vulnerable to contamination.

“The signs alert the public and emergency responders to the sections of road where accidental spills could travel quickly to our public drinking water sources and contaminate them,” said Deputy Mayor Lynn Dollin of Innsifil, who chairs the local source protection committee.

Municipalities in the Counties of Simcoe and Dufferin and the District of Muskoka will install 380 signs over the coming season. This is in addition to signs already present in other communities, including Barrie and the Township of Springwater. The signs are consistent with those being used across the province.

Installing the new road signs is one of many actions being undertaken to meet the objectives of the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan. The plan, developed under Ontario’s Clean Water Act, 2006, directs local efforts to protect and keep the sources of municipal water clean and plentiful.



Municipalities have been working with the Severn Sound Environmental Association, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority to implement policies in the plan since it came into effect in July 2015.

“The source protection plan focuses on prevention – making sure that contaminants don’t get into our municipal drinking water supplies, and protecting the most vulnerable areas,” said Ms. Dollin.

The location of drinking water protection zones is based on scientific research. The policies to protect these zones, set out in the Source Protection Plan, were developed in consultation with local communities to address known drinking water threats.

The initiative to protect sources of municipal drinking water is directed and funded by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change under the Clean Water Act. More information about our local source protection plan is available at ourwatershed.ca, by contacting the Severn Sound Environmental Association or your local municipality.

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Background:

South Georgian Bay/Lake Simcoe Communities with new Drinking Water Protection Zone Signs in spring 2016:

- Adjala-Tosorontio
- Clearview
- Collingwood
- Essa
- Georgian Bay
- Innisfil
- Midland
- Mulmur
- New Tecumseth
- Oro-Medonte
- Penetanguishene
- Severn
- Shelburne
- Tay
- Tiny
- Wasaga Beach
- County of Simcoe
- and District Municipality of Muskoka

Several other communities, including Barrie and Springwater, have previously installed Drinking Water Protection Zone Signs.

Map, South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region:



Municipal Contacts: Please contact Melissa Carruthers, SSEA, (contact information below) if you would like contact information for a specific municipality in the Severn Sound watershed.

About the Severn Sound Environmental Association:

The Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) is a Joint Services Board servicing the municipalities in the Severn Sound area. As a Source Protection Authority under the Ontario *Clean Water Act*, 2006, our role is to facilitate municipalities in implementing the Source Protection Plan. The mission of the SSEA is to sustain environmental quality and to ensure continued protection through implementing a legacy of wise stewardship of Severn Sound and its tributaries.

Media Contact:

Melissa Carruthers – Data Management Technician/ Risk Management Inspector, 705-527-5166 ext. 2015 mcarruthers@midland.ca or Keith Sherman – Executive Director, 705-527-5166 ext. 206 ksherman@midland.ca