

# Getting to the Source: PROTECTING OUR DRINKING WATER



## CTC SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE 2008 Progress Report



**CTC SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE**  
The CTC Source Protection Committee (SPC) officially convened on December 10, 2007 as a group of local representatives responsible for developing plans to protect municipal drinking water sources in the region. The committee consults broadly across the watershed to ensure the concerns of residents and land-owners are considered during each stage of the process.

The CTC Source Protection Committee chair (Susan Self of Uxbridge, Ontario) was appointed by the Ministry of the Environment and the remaining 21 SPC members were selected by the Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority to equally represent municipal, economic and public interest sectors from across the region.

For a complete list of committee members and their biographies, visit our SPC members section.

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

Source Water Protection was introduced in Ontario with the passage of the Clean Water Act, 2006. The Clean Water Act, 2006 is part of the Ontario government's commitment to ensure communities can identify potential risks to their drinking water supplies, and take appropriate actions to reduce these risks.

The Clean Water Act, 2006 is responsible for creating source protection committees across the province with a goal of preparing policies that protect municipal drinking water sources while considering local issues specific to each community.

The basis for these policies is the scientific work being completed in the Assessment Reports.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE EARLY 2009

- Completion of the Proposed Terms of Reference
- Seven public meetings held in the CTC
- Interim Watershed characterization reports completed
- Tiered water budgets\*
  - Tier two work studying water quantity-related threats for the CVSPA peer reviewed and under SPC review
  - Initial work studying water quantity-related threats for CLOSPA and TRSPA peer reviewed with plans to submit to the SPC in early 2009
- Surface water threats – Lake Ontario collaborative\*\*
  - Delineation of initial areas of protection around surface water intakes has been completed (these areas are named IPZ [intake protection zone] 1 and 2).
  - Delineation of a third area of protection around surface water intakes is underway (named IPZ 3).
- Municipalities have delineated areas of protection around municipal wells in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment.
- Highly vulnerable groundwater sources have been identified.

### \*WATER BUDGET WORK:

Water quantity studies are completed in a three-tiered process. Work begins at the tier-one level, with each higher level providing more in-depth results.

For more information on the assessment report work, visit us online at [www.ctcswp.ca](http://www.ctcswp.ca)

## TECHNICAL WORK IN 2009

Conservation authority staff are working with the SPC to complete the assessment report technical studies. It is anticipated that the assessment report work will be completed for public review in late 2009. This work will include:

- Tiered water budgets\*
  - Tier three-level water quantity studies will be conducted in Halton Hills and Orangeville.
  - Tier two water quantity studies are expected to be conducted in TRSPA. The specific areas of study is still being determined.
- Surface water threats – Lake Ontario Collaborative\*\*
  - Development of a lake model.
  - Calculation of potential threats on surface water intakes.
  - Collection and analysis of "pollutant"-loading data for the major tributaries.
- Revisions to the watershed characterization reports will be completed in late 2009 as part of the assessment report preparation.
- Potential threats within vulnerable areas will be examined.
- Specific risks to municipal drinking water sources will be identified.

### \*\*LAKE ONTARIO COLLABORATIVE:

The CTC leads a group of Source Protection Regions around Lake Ontario to develop comprehensive and consistent plans for this important drinking water source.

# THE SCIENCE OF SOURCE WATER WATER PROTECTION

The CTC SPC is responsible for three major pieces of work:

- The Terms of Reference
- Assessment Report
- Source Protection Plans

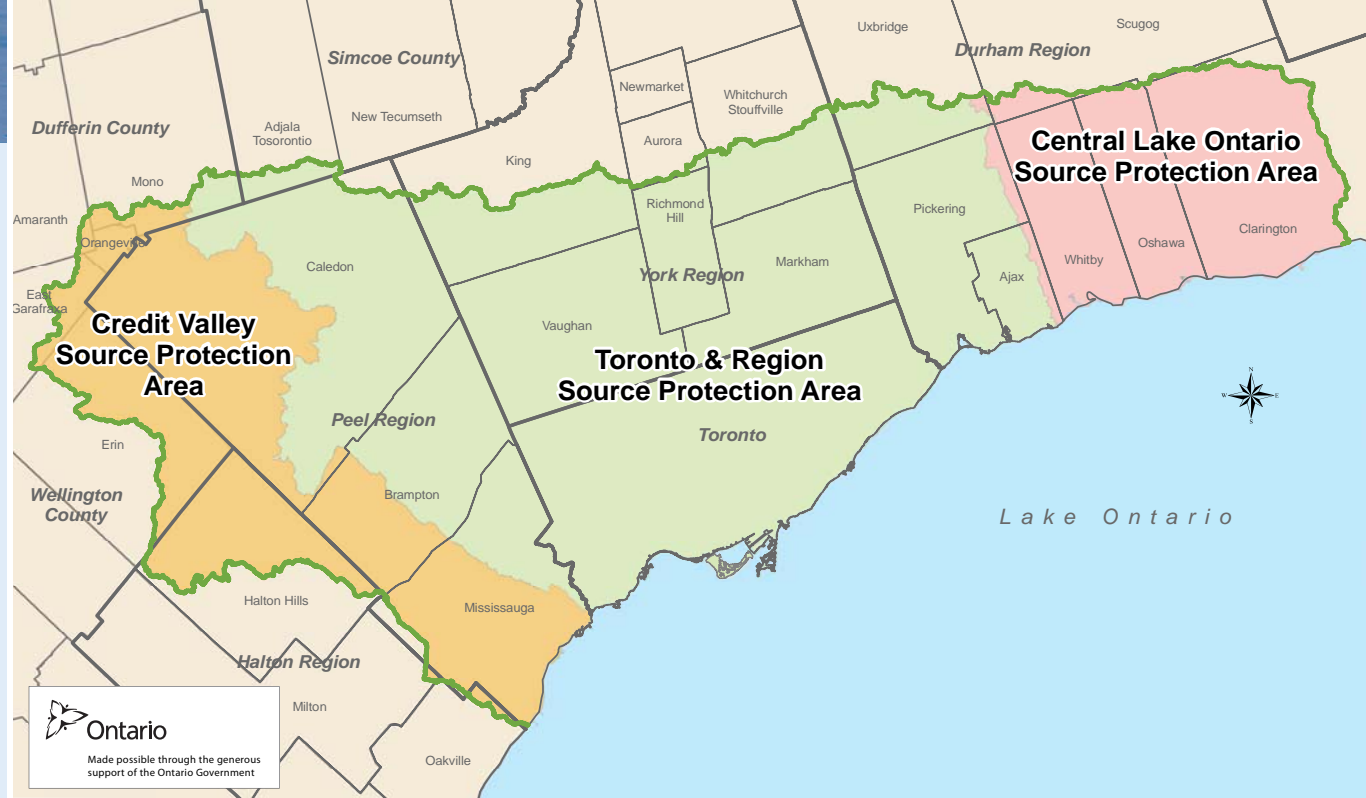
With the Terms of Reference completed, the committee's focus in 2009 will be on completing the scientific work of the Assessment Reports. This work will provide the scientific basis for developing source protection plans in the region.

The Assessment Report work will include:

1. Watershed characterization – provides a comprehensive description of the local watershed including natural characteristics, population distribution and land use.
2. Water budget and water quantity risk assessment – examines the amount of water in the watershed and determines the sustainability of groundwater sources.
3. Groundwater vulnerability analysis – studies groundwater sources in the region and determines their vulnerability to drinking water threats.
4. Surface water vulnerability – studies surface water sources in the region and determines their vulnerability to drinking water threats.
5. Threats and issues – Water Quality Threat Assessment – identifies specific drinking water threats that could potentially affect the quality of water in vulnerable areas.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE:

On December 22, 2008, Source Protection Authorities in the CTC submitted their Proposed Terms of Reference to the Ministry of the Environment for review and approval. The Terms of Reference acts as the "road map" for the completion of the source protection work. The Proposed Terms of Reference is available online at [www.ctcswp.ca](http://www.ctcswp.ca).



## CTC SOURCE PROTECTION REGION

The CTC Source Protection Region is a grouping of three source protection areas which encompasses 33 municipalities. The name CTC represents these three source protection areas and their Source Protection Authorities. These source protection areas follow the same boundaries of the three conservation authorities of the region.

Credit Valley Conservation Authority  
 Toronto and Region Conservation Authority  
 Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority

## THE MULTI-BARRIER APPROACH

The multi-barrier approach is an approach to protecting municipal drinking water sources that came out of the Walkerton Inquiry and the Clean Water Act, 2006. It takes all of the threats posed to drinking water into account and makes sure there are 'barriers' in place to either eliminate them or minimize their impact.

Protecting municipal drinking water sources is identified as the first barrier in this multi-barrier approach.

# ONTARIO DRINKING WATER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP) helps Ontario residents complete projects to protect municipal drinking water sources. Available for farmers, landowners, and small or medium businesses, the ODWSP can help you help your community. This is what good stewardship is all about.

Funds are available for projects including:

- Septic system inspections and upgrades
- Well decommissioning
- Runoff and erosion protection
- Pollution prevention surveys for small businesses

Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program funding is also available for education and outreach in your community. Visit [www.ctcswp.ca](http://www.ctcswp.ca) for more information on hosting local events or activities that promote municipal drinking water stewardship and the Clean Water Act, 2006.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

CTC SOURCE PROTECTION REGION  
[www.ctcswp.ca](http://www.ctcswp.ca)  
[sourcewater@trca.on.ca](mailto:sourcewater@trca.on.ca)  
 416.661.6600 Ext. 5752



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