

It Starts With A Drop

World Water Day Youth Forum and Art Exhibition



**Calling Future Leaders:
Bright Ideas Wanted For Protecting
Drinking Water Sources**

**918 Bathurst St, Toronto
March 21, 2009
11:30 – 4:00**

YOUTH FORUM

With 7% of the world's renewable fresh water it is all too easy for Canadians to take our sources of drinking water for granted. Unfortunately catastrophes like Walkerton and North Battleford have taught us the very important lesson that while we may have some of the world's best sources to draw our drinking water from, taking it for granted can lead to dangerous and sometimes deadly, contamination.

The CTC Source Protection Committee and UNA-Canada's Youth4Water would like to invite your organization to select delegates to join Toronto's first ever Youth Forum on Drinking Water. This forum will bring together youth delegates, water experts and community leaders in an interactive afternoon of discussion on water related issues. The afternoon will provide delegates with information and tools that will allow them to become local experts in protecting drinking water sources and leaders in their schools, organizations and communities.

To ensure that this forum offers youth the opportunity for personal growth and interactive discussion attendance is limited to the first thirty delegates who register.

Youth delegates will have the opportunity to:

- 💧 Speak informally with experts in the environmental field. Individuals will share information on how youth can turn environmental passion into a lifelong pursuit
- 💧 Meet like-minded young leaders from other organizations and communities who share similar interests
- 💧 Share ideas and brainstorm for future events/activities that can be carried out across the region
- 💧 Connect with other organizations and learn of environmental opportunities and initiatives

For more information and to register for *It Starts With A Drop* Youth Forum see the attached information and visit www.ctcswp.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL ART EXHIBITION

The CTC Source Protection Committee also wants to support local organizations in creating activities in their community that help protect Lake Ontario drinking water and raise awareness of water conservation issues. We are offering \$1,000 in prizes for organizations who develop a collaborative art poster that expresses how they are connected to Lake Ontario, their watershed and the world's water supply.

One first place prize of \$500

Two runner-up prizes of \$250

All members of organizations are invited to work collaboratively and submit a piece of artwork that expresses their commitment to protecting drinking water sources and illustrates how our drinking water is connected to the world. Each organization that submits a piece of artwork **MUST** be represented by delegates at *It Starts With A Drop* youth forum on March 21, 2009 when prizes will be awarded.

Entries will be displayed at the forum, incorporated into future activities, shared online and displayed at public spaces around Ontario.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE YOUTH FORUM

Date: March 21, 2009

Location: 918 Bathurst St, Toronto

Forum Agenda:

11:30 – 12:30	<p>Lunch Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food will be served - Informal opportunity for youth to speak with environmental professionals and Source Protection Committee members
12:30 – 1:00	<p>Source Protection Committee Chair – Susan Self</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A look at our local watershed – how can you help?
1:00 – 1:45	<p>Key Note Speaker, Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Art exhibit prize awarded to the poster that best exhibits an understanding of the watershed approach to drinking water source protection
1:45 – 2:15	<p>Youth4Water – “Youth Perceptions of Water”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth4Water are a group of active youth who are committed to educating their community about local and international water related issues. Youth4Water will reveal a mural that they have developed along with the results of a youth perceptions survey which reflect how youth in the Toronto region think about water and water related concerns
2:15 – 3:30	<p>Breakout groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delegates will break into one of five brainstorm groups that focus discussion on issues and actions that will help to raise awareness and improve drinking water sources in our area. The five breakout groups will have the themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Plans and policy o Stewardship o Water Conservation o Stormwater Runoff o Toxic Products
3:15 – 3:45	<p>Regroup presentations and discussion of key ideas generated during breakout sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish 5 key actions that delegates can take back to their groups to implement across the region
3:45 – 4:00	<p>Wrap up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Five drops of water - What can we all do in our community to change perceptions of drinking water sources?

Lunch Session: Environmental professionals and Source Protection Committee members include:

- **Peter Orphanos**, Chair, Sierra Club Peel
- **Fred Ruf**, Source Protection Committee Member & former Director of Environmental Health in North York
- **Joanne Jeffery**, Manager, Watershed Stewardship and Outreach Education, Toronto and Region Source Protection Committee (TRCA)
- **Susan Self**, Chair of the CTC Source Protection Committee

INFORMATION ABOUT THE YOUTH FORUM

Location:

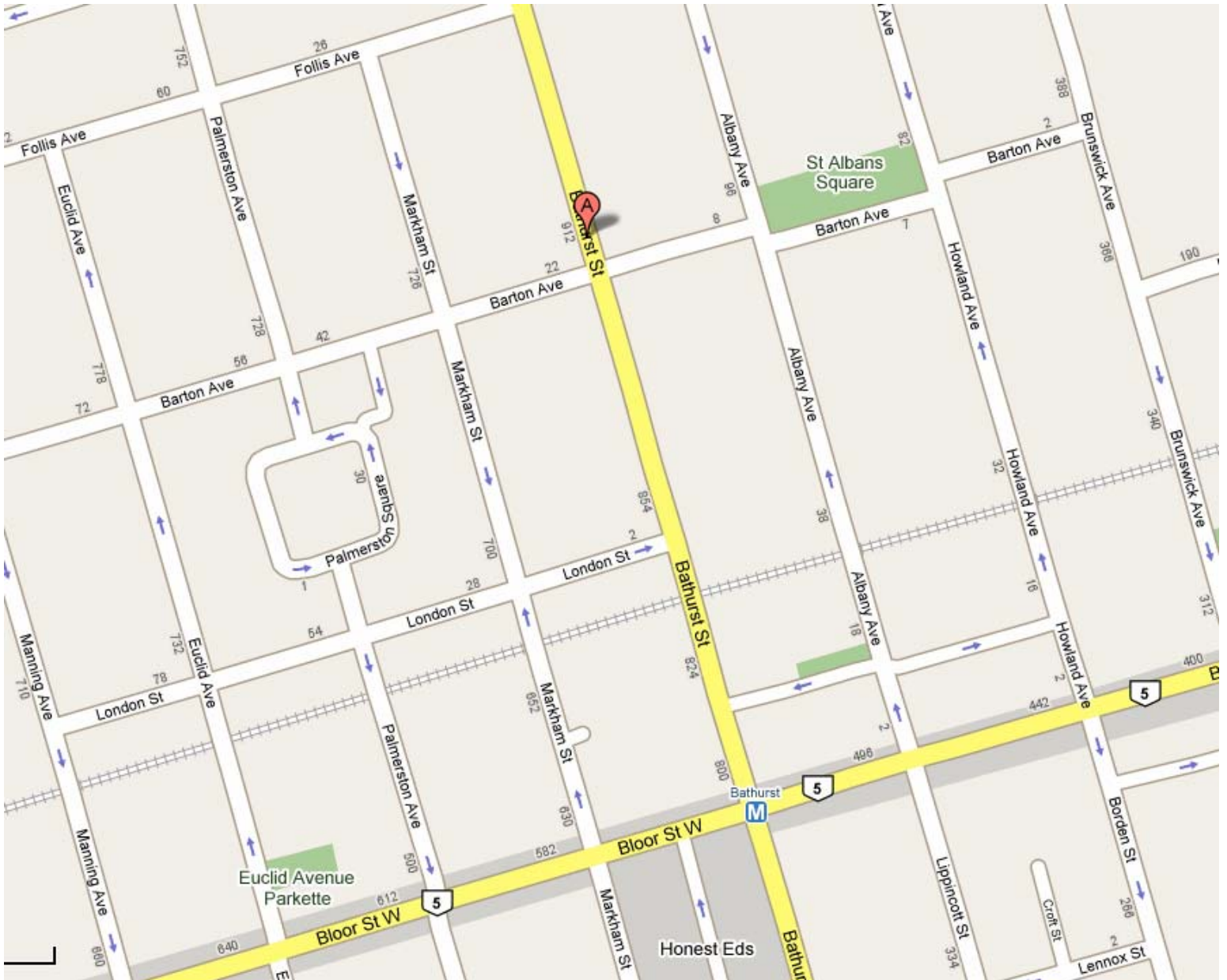
918 Bathurst St. Toronto

Directions:

From Bathurst Station walk one block North on Bathurst.

918 Bathurst is located on the West side of the street

Beside Barton Place Long Term Care Centre



INFORMATION ABOUT THE ART EXHIBITION

Theme: *It Starts With A Drop* – the watershed approach to drinking water protection

Contest Deadline: March 17, 2009

Eligibility: Organizations must have delegates registered to attend *It Starts With A Drop* Youth Forum on March 21, 2009. Entries will be accepted from groups with members aged 15 – 25.

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority will receive copyright approval allowing for the reproduction and use of artwork in future promotional materials.

The CTC Source Protection Committee is looking for youth groups with an interest in environmental issues to develop a collaborative piece that illustrates how Toronto's water is connected to the world and expresses the group's commitment to protecting drinking water sources.

Ideas to Incorporate into Your Poster:

- How do you connect with your watershed?
- Where does your tap water come from?
- In what ways do you Love Lake Ontario?

Please submit:

- One poster reproducible in 18" X 24" for your organization
 - o Submissions may be made electronically or in hardcopy. Hardcopy submissions are encouraged and will be scanned into a digital image for reproduction and distribution
 - o All members of organizations are encouraged to participate in the development of the poster (not limited to forum attendees)
 - o Poster materials and format are open to your discretion
 - o A description of your organization with information on past and future environmental activities accompanying submissions

How to develop successful entries:

- Contact Nicholas Schulz at sourcewater@trca.on.ca for an information package providing valuable fact sheets and information on drinking water issues
- Visit www.ctcswp.ca for information on source water protection and the CTC Source Protection Committee
- Examine how your community connects into its watershed and the world's water
- Use photos, paint, markers or other formats and express your environmental concerns in a clear manner
- Register delegates for the World Water Day Youth Forum at www.ctcswp.ca
- Submit your entry by March 17, 2009. Entries can be submitted:
 - o By Email: sourcewater@trca.on.ca
 - o By Mail: 70 Canuck Ave
Downsview, ON
M3K 2C5

ABOUT THE CTC SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE AND YOUTH4WATER

The CTC Source Protection Committee

The CTC Source Protection Committee (SPC) is a group of local representatives who are responsible for developing a plan for protecting drinking water in the CTC Region (which is composed of the Credit Valley, Toronto & Region and Central Lake Ontario Conservation Areas). Committee members come from a number of different sectors and represent a cross section of environmental interests.

The development of Source Protection Plans involves the whole of our region. It includes municipalities, farmers, businesses, industry, residents and others. The committee's role is to guide this collaborative process in a way that will identify the sources of drinking water, the threats to water quality and water supplies, and propose actions that can be taken to protect municipal drinking water supplies. The committee will oversee and provide input for the preparation of three major documents: the Terms of Reference, Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan.

Youth4Water

Youth4Water is The Ripple Effect's Youth Advisory Committee for the Greater Toronto Area. The members were selected from Toronto Community Housing Corporation and the Institute at Havergal College in September, 2007.

The committee meets on a weekly basis to explore local and global water issues including; conservation, sanitation, degradation, distribution, and the human right to water. Youth4Water is currently using this information to educate and inform their Canadian peers and fellow youth from around the world, via online forums, workshops, film screenings and presentations.