# Conservation Ontario Source Protection Planning Session

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# Public Expectations of InitialSource Protection Efforts

- Presentation to Conservation Ontario Source Protection Planning Session
- December 14, 2004

# Transparency from the beginning

- Right now, as CA's and municipalities develop work plans for initial information and capacity building, involve the public
- Don't want technical work to leave public behind
- Essential to carry whole community forward as a collective source protection building exercise

#### Whole Public

- Need to include public broadly defined
- Target business and industrial sectors, landowners, woodlot owners, farmers, politicians, municipal staff, educators, professionals, residents, rate-payer groups, stewardship and other conservation organizations, those involved in existing intiatives

## Access to all information

- ✓ Information access needs to be easy and non-intimidating
- Needs to be multi-faceted web based as well as walk-in availability
- Needs to be available on an as-we-go basis, without worrying about whether it's final or "signed off" can give qualifications theme of continuous improvement

# Ownership and Buy-in

- Source protection plan has to be the watershed public's plan
- Recognition essential maybe a watershed region logo for the plan in development from the very beginning
- Give people things to do right away to start source protection where they are and ask for reports back to show plan taking effect even before there snanapproved plan!

# Formation of source protection planning committees

- Right away need to give thought to how committee members will be selected
- ✓ Prior to legislation, at least start reaching out to and building appreciation of source protection planning, and capacity to participate in likely sectors and among interested public

# Types of Participation

- Right from the beginning, establish varied methods of participating in source protection planning as it is getting underway:
- To know about / read about
- To comment on
- To hear discussions on
- To have input into decisions

# Education and Outreach to community

- Needs to be targeted
- Reach specific audiences
- What is this going to mean for us?
- What is the vision for source protection in the watershed?
- What are the long term implications? Will it really work? How will the negatives be overcome? (Cost, time, complexity)

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# Getting community's professionals on board

- Source protection planning as a concept must become ingrained among several key professional groups
- Land use planners, hydrogeologists, engineers, water suppliers, developers, lawyers, real estate agents, academics, health professionals all including private and public
- Public health-involvementskey from outset 10

# Reaching interested public

- Potentially huge population
- Need to use a variety of mechanisms to reach people
- Flyers may be very effective and inexpensive make the message direct and specific to the watershed and the topic; not too generic

# Reaching Interested Public cont'd

- Make the message useful and in a handy format that people will keep
- Fridge magnet for watershed source protection's web site
- Email sign up list for announcements of developments and new material
- Calendar of upcoming steps
- Continual record of achievement

### NGO involvement

- How does this pertain to the issues we already work on?
- May be over-stretched OR may fear exclusion
- Will our input truly matter? How will we be included?
- Can groups and organizations be networked?
- Funding for certain positions on committees

## No time to waste

- Walkerton tragedy was May 2000
- Source protection is first barrier
- Justice O'Connor thought six months from date of his report could establish a framework we're two years beyond that now
- These are health issues

#### Interim Protection

- Right away the watershed entities (CA's, municipalities, First Nations and other governments, in particular) should develop a plan for interim protection
- How to identify need for interim protectionwhat criteria
- What kinds of steps will be taken
- If new tools are needed, plan to flag to province

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# Scope of the plan - building terms of reference

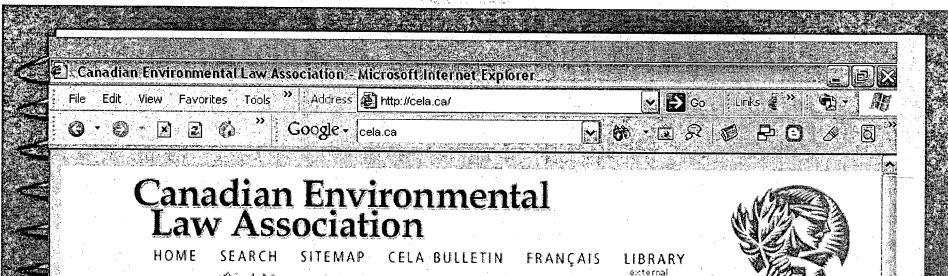
- While waiting for legislation from the province, build groundwork with above noted audiences about scope of source protection planning and implementation
- Ensure there is community appreciation of ground / surface waters; municipal / non-municipal systems and supplies; point / non-point threats

# Scope of the plan cont'd

- Start issuing descriptive work right away as it is developed
- "Here are our municipal systems; here is the number of people on private supplies; here is the variety of sources of drinking water"
- Ensure historical uses and future uses are clearly within the scope

## A plan for sustained momentum

- Plan and look for source protection benefits from the very start
- Build excitement and sense of community
- This is about where we each live and work
- This is about the legacy we are leaving our children
- This is our community's plan for a healthy vibrant future



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