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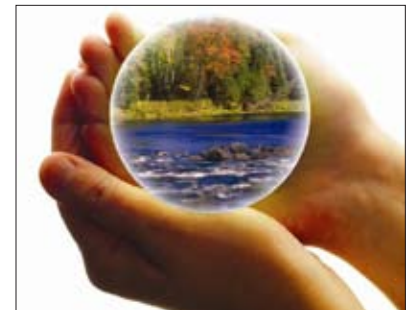
Water: It's In Our Hands

Sudbury's 3rd Annual Water Gathering will be taking place Thursday, November 5, in the Vale Inco Cavern at Science North from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and learn about water-related initiatives in Greater Sudbury and discover how your daily actions can help keep our water clean.

A joint initiative of the Drinking Water Source Protection Program, Lake Water Quality Program, Junction Creek Stewardship Committee, Cooperative Freshwater Ecology Unit and Sudbury Children's Water Festival, the Water Gathering highlights the efforts of these groups to ensure that there is clean water now and in the future. Representatives from each program will provide an update on their current initiatives and be available to answer questions from the public.

In addition, this year's event will feature a keynote presentation by Al Douglas, Coordinator of the Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaptation Resources, which will focus on the impact of climate change on our water resources.

Attendance for the past two years has been approximately 150 people, and this year, attendees will once again have the opportunity to win some great door prizes. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and admission is free.



Assessment Report Update

Since the approval of the Greater Sudbury Source Protection Area Terms of Reference in June, the Source Protection team has been working on the next step of the source protection process – the Assessment Report.

A technical document that looks at the watershed in its entirety, the Assessment Report provides information about ground and surface water characteristics for each municipal drinking water system. This report will bring together key findings about the source water in the Greater Sudbury Source Protection Area and include information about the

amount of water available for drinking and the quality of the water.

The completed Assessment Report will contain the technical and scientific information the Source Protection Committee requires to develop the Source Protection Plan, including:

- watershed characterization
- groundwater vulnerability
- surface water vulnerability
- water quantity threats and issues
- water quality threats and issues

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Assessment Report

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This document will identify vulnerable areas for both groundwater and surface water sources, along with activities and conditions that pose a risk to the quality of drinking water sources within the Source Protection Area. Identified risks to water quality and quantity will be ranked as low, moderate or significant threats on a scale

of 0 to 100, with significant threats scoring 80 or above. The priority risks identified in the Assessment Report will be the first ones considered during the development of the Source Protection Plan.

Once the draft Assessment Report is completed, it will be posted on the Source Water Sudbury website for the public to review and comment

upon. This review period will begin in February for 35 days and include two public open houses in March, where staff will discuss the findings of the technical studies and the report with Greater Sudbury residents. Comments received from the public during these open houses will be reviewed and the Assessment Report revised before it is submitted to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment on June 8, 2010.



Best Management: Stormwater Runoff

When it rains, excess water that isn't absorbed into the ground runs across the surface and is directed into storm sewers by downspouts, driveways, roads, sidewalks, roofs, decks and other surfaces. These storm sewers may release the runoff into surface waters such as rivers, creeks and lakes.

As the excess water travels from downspouts, across lawns, gardens and hard surfaces, it can become polluted by picking up a variety of contaminants, which can include motor oil, antifreeze, chemical pesticides, fertilizers, salt and pet waste. Storm sewers leading to surface waters release the untreated runoff into the water, along with any pollutants that may have been picked up.

To help reduce the amount of stormwater runoff travelling into surface waters, there are a number of things homeowners can take to utilize

stormwater on their property.

Downspout Disconnection: If you have a downspout that is connected directly to a sewer, try directing it to an area where the water can soak into the ground, such as your lawn, a gravel driveway or a rain barrel.

Rain Barrel: Rain barrels collect and store stormwater, preventing it from entering sewers. Use the stored water for your lawn or garden. Rain barrels can be purchased at a hardware store, or, to make your own rain barrel, click here.

Rain Gardens: These capture runoff, allowing it to soak slowly into the ground and helping to prevent pollution and flooding.

Urban Forest: Trees can capture approximately 25 per cent of rainfall, significantly reducing stormwater

volume. In addition, they clean the air, provide shade and beautify the community.

