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Halton-Hamilton
Source Protection
Region

Notice of Public Consultation on the Updated Source Protection Plan and Assessment Reports For the Halton Region and Hamilton Region Source Protection Areas

You are encouraged to review the Updated Source Protection Plan and Assessment Reports for the Halton Region and Hamilton Region Source Protection Areas. The Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee released the documents for consultation with the public and other stakeholders.

The Plan builds on the assessments completed for our watersheds and includes policies developed to protect municipal drinking water sources in the Halton and Hamilton area. Policies now apply to an area of Georgetown and some policies were revised following consultation with the Ministry of the Environment.

We welcome your comments on the Plans until **April 4, 2014**. Your comments will be considered before the documents are finalized.

Review the Updated Proposed Plan and Assessment Reports

Visit our website at www.protectingwater.ca and follow the links to review or download a copy of the documents. The proposed revisions to the documents are highlighted to assist your review. Printed copies can be reviewed at the following municipal and conservation authority offices and at the Source Protection office from Monday to Friday during regular office hours:

- Halton-Hamilton Source Protection office, 4052 Milborough Line, Campbellville
- Conservation Halton, 2596 Britannia Road West, Burlington
- Hamilton Conservation Authority, 838 Mineral Springs Road, Ancaster
- Town of Halton Hills, Corporate Services Counter, 1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills

We also encourage you to attend the public meeting where staff and Committee members will be available to discuss the documents and the Drinking Water Source Protection Program. The meeting will be held **March 24, 2014 between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at:**

- Gellert Community Centre, 10241 Eighth Line, Georgetown

Provide comments on the documents in writing by April 4, 2014 to:

Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Office
4052 Milborough Line, R.R. #2 Campbellville, ON L0P 1B0

e-mail: sourceprotection@hrca.on.ca
fax: (905) 854-9220

Find out more at www.protectingwater.ca



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Bald eagles have been a rare sight in Southern Ontario since the mid-1900s. There is no evidence of nesting sites in Halton Hills, but there have been frequent sightings at Island Lake next to Orangeville and the Luther Marsh near Arthur.

Photo by Steve Di Monte, Change Your Life Photography in Georgetown

Ice on lakes forcing eagles to hunt food in new areas

By **PHIL GRAVELLE**
Special to The IFP

Recent bald eagle sightings in the Halton Hills area are likely the result of an unusually cold winter, with frozen lakes forcing the raptors to adjust their hunting patterns, according to specialists at Credit Valley Conservation (CVC).

"They are opportunists," said Christina Kovacs, a technician with the Significant Wildlife Program at CVC. "They like fish and waterfowl, but they will take anything they can get."

The waters of Silver Creek and the Credit River can provide food for eagles, and the forested areas of the Niagara Escarpment and the Credit watershed provide other opportunities, since they will feed on the carcasses of larger animals such as deer, said Kovacs.

"These are natural corridors that help with migration, and will benefit the species in the long term," said Scott Sampson, manager of CVC's Natural Heritage Program.

This is Southern Ontario's coldest winter in 20 years, and most lakes — even Lake Erie and Lake Huron — are largely covered with ice. Lake Ontario has open water, but heavy urban development on the north shore makes for poor eagle habitat, said Sampson.

While climate change is believed to be affecting some vegetation and wildlife territories, there is no definite link

with the eagle activity, he said.

Bald eagles have been a rare sight in Southern Ontario since the mid-1900s. There is no evidence of nesting sites in Halton Hills, but there have been frequent sightings at Island Lake next to Orangeville and the Luther Marsh near Arthur.

"The number of reports is increasing," said Sampson, noting that the first hatching of eagle chicks in decades took place at Cootes Paradise near Hamilton last year. "They are making a comeback since we got rid of DDT."

Eagles were once plentiful near Lake Ontario, but human settlement destroyed much of their habitat, and they were hunted as a dangerous predator. Protective Ontario legislation in 1890, and the American Bald Eagle Act in 1940, helped boost their population.

It dropped again to near extinction in the 1960s with the use of pesticides such as DDT, which weakens the egg shells. The bald eagle was declared a provincially endangered species in 1973.

That status was upgraded to a species of special concern, in 2006 for Northern Ontario, and in 2009 for Southern Ontario.

Raptors such as the eagle and osprey prefer to build their large nests on tall, old-growth trees overlooking water; but are often willing to use poles and platforms erected for them by conservation staff.