

Steps taken to safeguard water

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driven and science-based.”

The first round of public consultation was completed last month—about a dozen residents turned out to an information session at the Civic Centre—with a second round scheduled for July. Plans are due to Minister of Environment by August 20, with implementation at the local level expected some time next year.

Self added that these policies only apply to municipal wells at this stage, and does not affect residents with private wells.

She said only lands directly around the well-heads will be affected by the new policies. Residents and property owners near municipal drinking water wells have been notified that they may be affected by this Plan.

Prohibition seems to be a word raising a red flag with a lot of people, said Self, adding its use on properties will be “the absolute last resort.”

“Wherever possible we would rather manage threats than prohibit them,” she said.

Water quality threats are: waste disposal sites, sewage from septic systems, untreated stormwater, industrial run-off, manure, fertilizer, pesticides, road and water softener salt—a significant threat in Halton Hills, storage of snow, fuel storage, DNAPLs (Dense Non Aqueous Phase Liquid) such as cleaning chemicals and solvents, organic solvents, chemicals to de-ice aircraft, and use of land for livestock. Water quantity threats include an activity that takes water without returning it to same aquifer or lake and an activity that reduce the recharge of an aquifer.

“There are no threat today to (local water supplies), I don’t see any threat in the future, but we do have to have the policies in place to prevent any threat,” said Halton Hills Councillor Dave Kentner, the local representative on the CTC Source Protection Com-

mittee.



Susan Self, (right) chair of the CTC Source Protection Committee and Halton Hills Councillor Dave Kentner. Photo by Cynthia Gamble

“People are going to have to start to think about the water, where it comes from and how the actions they take in the home or business affects that water,” said Kentner.

As an example, he explained, it could mean more sand on the roads during the winter rather than salt or whether a farmer in a well-head protection zone could use fertilizer.

“There is no threat at any time in Halton region to any well, but what we are talking about are the potential future threats

to those wells. So if we don’t allow a business who uses DNAPLs, which is a chemical used in dry cleaning right on top of a well-head then there’s never going to be a problem of DNAPLs getting into the well,” said Kentner.

He added his committee has been using Halton Region’s “futuristic” water management policies as guidance.

Halton Region Manager of Water Planning David Simpson agreed. The Region, he said, has been at the forefront of water protection policies—even before Walkerton—and has had an aquifer management plan in place since 1995.

“Halton Region has one of the most sophisticated water treatment systems in the province,” he said, adding Halton’s compliance with provincial standards is one of the highest in the GTA.

“Our water systems are not failing, and what’s being presented (by CTC Source Protection Committee) is the last piece to the Walkerton era where we are dealing with potential threats to drinking water source,” said Simpson.

For more information go to www.ctcswp.ca

View the video at:
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