

Champion Country

Covering Rural Halton
& Wellington County



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Another season over

Glen Eden Adventure Centre's Danielle Charlton and Josh Rivette pack away some of the more than 300 pairs of snowboarding boots in the centre's rental shop as skiing and snowboarding season came to a close last week.

CH praises Ontario's water protection plan

Province's White Paper gets big thumbs up

Conservation Halton is applauding the Ontario government's recent actions to make water source protection mandatory throughout the province.

On February 12, the Ontario government released its White Paper on Watershed-Based Source Protection Planning, which outlined a detailed approach to getting water source protection plans underway.

The White Paper will be used as a basis for consultation on the proposed framework for water source planning. The paper also describes the legislative framework and timing for the process along with addressing water-taking issues.

"We support the development of a source protection plan for our watershed," said Conservation Halton (CH) CAO Theresa Maguire-Garber.

"Water source areas such as creeks, headwaters and wetlands that are connected to ground water need to be protected to ensure the quality and quantity of our drinking water."

Even though many residents in the watershed get their drinking water from Lake Ontario, Ms Maguire-Garber said all our creeks eventually end up in the lake.

"This is a pro-active, long-term plan that

is the first step of a multi-barrier approach to safe drinking water and healthy natural eco-systems," she said.

CH said it's committed to working together with all stakeholders in the development of a water source protection plan. Ontario conservation authorities offer a framework for municipalities to make collective decisions on a watershed basis.

"There are three key areas that need to be determined for water source protection," said Robert Edmondson, director of Watershed Management Services. "These include the technical side with such things as level of analysis and tools required, how it will be done and by whom, and where the funding will come from."

CH part of meetings

The Ministry of the Environment held public meetings on the White Paper in March. CH was invited to participate March 2 in a meeting held in Kitchener.

During the past three months, Conservation Ontario, the organization representing Ontario's 36 conservation authorities, has been serving on government committees on this issue.

The Ministry of the Environment is expecting legislation to be introduced after public consultations this spring and passed by fall.

For more information on water source protection planning, call CH at (905) 336-1158.

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