



## Source Protection Authority & Source Protection Committee

Source Protection Authorities have been established to coordinate source protection programs across much of the province of Ontario.

In a Source Protection Region or Area, such as the Sault Ste. Marie Region Source Protection Area, the Source Protection Authority has facilitated the creation of a Source Protection Committee which represents diverse interests across the watershed.

In Sault Ste. Marie the existing Conservation Authority Board members are the members of the Source Protection Authority Board.

### Assessment Report

The second of the three key documents to be completed by the SPC is the Assessment Report.

The Assessment Report is a science-based report developed locally. It identifies the watersheds in the Source Protection Area, the vulnerable areas and assesses drinking water threats in each of the vulnerable areas in order to determine which constitute significant drinking water threats.

The SPC must consult with municipalities, First Nations and the public.

The role of the Source Protection Committee (SPC) is to guide the development of three key documents that complete the source protection planning process for the Sault Ste. Marie Region Source Protection Area.

The first of these documents was the Terms of Reference approved by the Minister of the Environment. The document represents the conditions for developing an Assessment Report and a Source Protection Plan.

In our area, the SPC is composed of a provincially appointed Chair (Mr. Subhash Verma, P. Eng.), plus

eight other members. Two municipal members were appointed by the City of Sault Ste. Marie and one representative was appointed by Prince Township. The remainder of members were appointed by the Source Protection Authority, one aggregates representative, one from the water distribution sector, one environmental representative and two members of the public.

Liaisons from Algoma Public Health and the Ministry of the Environment are represented at the SPC to share information.

The Proposed Assessment Report was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment for approval.

There will be an Updated/Amended Assessment Report submitted to the Ministry of the Environment for approval in May 2011.

The third and final document which is currently underway is the Source Protection Plan. As mandated by the *Clean Water Act, 2006* this document must be developed locally and must contain policies that:

1) Ensure that an activity never becomes a significant drinking water threat.

2) Ensure that, if an activity is being engaged in, that the activity ceases to be a significant drinking water threat.

These policies must address both existing threats as well as future threats.

The Source Protection Plan will be completed by 2012.



**SSMRCA**

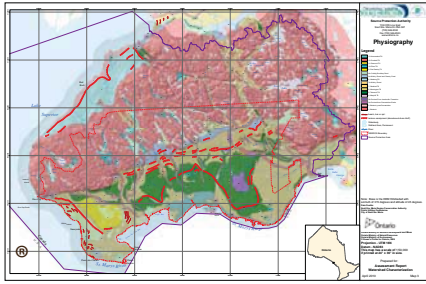
1100 Fifth Line East

Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 5K7

Tel: (705) 946-8530 Fax: (705) 946-8533

Email: nature@ssmrca.ca www.ssmrca.ca

## GIS in Drinking Water Source Protection Planning



*Watershed Characterization Chapter 1:  
Map 03, Physiography.*

In 2005, a provincial initiative enabled the Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority (SSMRCA) to build capacity in the area of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in the form of staff, computers and software to support the Drinking Water Source Protection Program.

The Sault Ste. Marie Region Source Protection Area has been defined with the assistance of the Ministry of Natural Resources - Peterborough Geomatics Centre. This area is one of 19 Source Protection Regions/Areas across the province of Ontario, established to develop local plans to protect municipal drinking water sources.

## 2011 Children's Source Water Festival

The Children's Source Water Festival is returning to the Fort Creek Conservation Area, September 27 - 29, 2011.

Grade 3, 4 & 5 students are given the opportunity to discover how their actions affect the watershed in which they live. This event features over twenty-five interactive hands on learning centres. Five water themes are covered that support the Ontario Curriculum: Water Protection, Water Technology, Water Conservation, Water Attitude and Water Science.

Locally, our Source Protection Area is the St. Marys River watershed and is comprised of the Root River system, Crystal, West Root, Little and Big Carp Rivers, Bennett Creek, East Davignon Creek, Central Creek, West Davignon Creek and Fort Creek watershed basins.

The St. Marys River watershed also includes Prince Township, Batchewana First Nation (Rankin Reserve) and the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Dennis Township and portions of Pennefather, Aweres, Jarvis and Duncan Townships and a small portion of Garden River First Nation. Within the Townships of Prince and Dennis the area also includes the shoreline of Lake Superior from the Thielman Creek watershed to the Big Carp River watershed.

As a result of studies and data gathering, the SSMRCA GIS staff have been able to produce various mapping products that are integral in Drinking Water Source Protection Planning. Some examples of the information

collected and mapped are: the Source Protection Area boundary, Well Head Protection Areas, Significant Ground Water Recharge Area, Intake Protection Zones, and Highly Vulnerable Aquifers.

The SSMRCA GIS service also provides information to local stakeholders such as municipal, provincial, federal governments and the public. GIS data sharing partnerships have been established with the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Township of Prince, Sault North Planning Board, Ontario Ministries of the Environment and Natural Resources and membership in Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange.

The SSMRCA is a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Community Geomatics Centre and it's Health and Social GIS sub-group. The sub-group members consist of Police, Fire, Emergency Services, Children's Aid, Ministry Services, Social Services, Algoma Public Health and the SSMRCA. The group employs assistance with data warehousing, data structure development, data analysis and display with spatial reference of the data.

The festival empowers children to take action in their community, in their schools and their homes by leading by example. The aim of the festival is to have children share their respect for the environment and show others how they can make a difference in helping to protect our drinking water sources.



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*Pioneer Water Race*