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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Money Available to Landowners and Businesses
to Help Protect Municipal Drinking Water Sources

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The Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP) is a \$28 million four-year commitment from the Provincial Government to help landowners, businesses and municipalities fund projects aimed at protecting sources of municipal drinking water. 2011 marks the introduction of the second phase of the program, *Early Response*, a continuation of the first phase, *Early Actions*.

“We’re very pleased to be partners in this important program”, says Lynn Dollin, Chair of the Source Protection Committee for the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region. “The response to Phase One was tremendous and we anticipate an equally strong response during Phase Two. This is good news for the quality of our drinking water.”

The types of projects that were delivered in Phase One included: public education and stewardship activities such as well decommissioning and upgrading, septic system inspections and upgrades, runoff and erosion control, pollution prevention reviews for businesses, and other best management practices. In Ontario over the past three years, more than 2,000 projects aimed at removing risks to drinking water sources were funded through this program; almost one quarter of these projects were undertaken in the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region.

Early Response is a voluntary program similar to *Early Actions*, but will address specific local drinking water threats identified in the Proposed Source Protection Assessment Report that was submitted to the Ontario Government this past fall.

The ODWSP funding program will be delivered through an application process. Landowners and businesses who are interested in *Early Response* funding should contact the Severn Sound Environmental Association, the watershed-based agency at the heart of program delivery in the Severn Sound area.

For more information, contact:
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