



**South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region**

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**To:** Steffen Walma, Chair, Severn Sound Source Protection Authority

**From:** Lynn Dollin, Chair, South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee

**CC:** Bill Thompson, Project Manager, South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region

**Date:** April 18, 2019

**Re:** **Source Protection Committee Update**

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Chair Walma and Members:

It's my pleasure to bring you a brief update from the Source Protection Committee since the last Source Protection Authority Board meeting in October.

For some of you, this is the first meeting of the Board in its Source Protection Role. To those of you, welcome. I am the Chair of the Source Protection Committee, a group of 22 dedicated members, representing a range of interests from across the Source Protection Region. The committee is made up of an equal number of members representing economic, public, and municipal interests, as well as one member representing First Nations. Of particular importance to you are John Boucher and Herb Proudley who represent municipalities in your watershed on the committee.

This committee has been in place for over a decade now, with many of the same members that we started with. Over this time we have met frequently as a committee, as well as with external experts and guests, to try and hammer out the Source Protection Plan – making sure the science is right, and that the policies developed to protect municipal sources of drinking water are effective. In more recent years, the Committee has met less frequently, and play a role primarily in ensuring the plan is implemented, and the policies we developed remain effective.

At our most recent meeting, in late March, the committee reviewed the progress made by those implementing the Plan. On the whole, progress is impressive, with over 2000 significant drinking water threats addressed to-date. The committee is concerned however about the number of Risk Management Plans left to establish. Experience from Risk Management Officials indicates that it can take up to two years to successfully negotiate plans with landowners, so the committee is concerned in seeing that less than half of all of the necessary plans have been negotiated, with a little less than a year left until the deadline.

It's important to recognize that this Region is unique however. Given the geographic size of the area, the number of municipalities, and the decentralized nature of municipal drinking water systems, our Region has the greatest number of drinking water systems of any of our peers across the province, and the greatest number of threats to be addressed. Given the size of the workload, it is perhaps not

surprising how long it is taking to be completed. We continue to appreciate the great cooperation we receive from staff at the SSEA.

As Chair of the Source Protection Committee, I also maintain regular communication with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, as well as my fellow Chairs across the province. At the last meeting of this Board, I said that we had heard very little from the province since the election in June. Recently however, we did receive confirmation from senior provincial staff last week of their continued support for the program, and intent to fund it in the current fiscal year.

Thank you for your time,

Lynn Dollin  
Chair