



Media Release

'Landowners can protect water in many ways, according to new program'

November 1, 2007

Protecting drinking water may be easier than you think. There are many steps landowners can take that will benefit the water you and your family drink. Chris Van Esbroeck, Education Specialist with the new Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Stewardship Program, encourages property owners to ask themselves a series of questions:

Do you have chemicals such as paints, gasoline or pesticides on your property?

Are they properly stored?

Do you dispose of these chemicals at your local hazardous waste facility?

Do you wash your car at home where chemical runoff can make its way into drinking water sources? Or, do you wash your car at a designated car wash station?

Do you use environmentally friendly pesticides on your lawn? Do you clean up after your pets?

"These are some of the ways you can make a significant impact on protecting drinking water quality," according to Van Esbroeck.

Other projects may require more significant efforts. In these cases there may be grants available to assist landowners to implement beneficial management practices. Funding is available for well decommissioning and upgrading, septic system inspections and upgrades, and runoff and erosion projects. The grant rates for these projects vary. In some cases funding for projects and can be topped up by other programs such as the Huron Clean Water Project and the cost-share programs associated with the Environmental Farm Plan.

Another funding opportunity is available to small and medium sized businesses for Pollution Prevention Reviews. These assessments will give business owners a better understanding of how they can improve the way they handle, store or dispose of materials that may pose a risk to drinking water sources.

For information about the Source Protection Stewardship program contact Chris Van Esbroeck or Dallas Campbell at (519) 335-3557 or visit the website at www.sourceprotectionstewardship.on.ca.

For information please contact:

Jayne Thompson, Communications Coordinator
Maitland Valley Conservation Authority
519-335-3557
jthompson@mvca.on.ca

or

Kate Monk, Supervisor of Stewardship and Conservation Lands
Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
519 235-2610 or 1-888-286-2610
kmonk@abca.on.ca