

Water, septic uses discussed at Carlisle meeting

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Following the enactment of the Clean Water Act in 2006, the Hamilton and Halton communities have come together to form a Source Protection Committee. Information regarding the Clean Water Act, source protection program funding, and septic system management was presented to the community Thursday (January 24) evening.

Approximately 30 area residents attended the event at the Carlisle Community Centre to learn about the Act for clean and safe drinking water sources for Carlisle. Following a one-hour open house session, three presentations were made.

Rebecca Hall of the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region kicked off her presentation about the Clean Water Act. The main purpose of the act is to provide clean and safe drinking water to all residents, she stressed. "Everyone is entitled to clean water, and that is our purposed."

Following the water-related tragedy in Walkerton, where the municipal water supply was contaminated with a dangerous strain of E. coli bacteria which affected thousands of community residents, the Clean Water Act was established to ensure that communities are able to protect their drinking water supplies through the development of source protection plans for its watersheds.

Although those in attendance were disappointed to hear that the Act currently applies only municipal wells, the information provided at the open house was well received.

Questions, many regarding St. Marys Cement's proposal to build a quarry on 11th Concession East and Milborough Line, related to potential threats to the community's water supply.

According to Katherine Rentsch of Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre, threats to Carlisle's municipal water could include septic systems, gas stations and, possibly, the quarry. The Source Protection Committee would, in time, develop a plan that would protect the land surrounding the municipal well. This land is

referred to as a 'capture zone' within the Hamilton and Halton areas.

Four community wells are currently supplying some Carlisle residents with water, but many residents rely on private wells for their water supply. Data collected from monitoring wells is used to get a better appreciation of how water travels in the area.

The plan is expected to take roughly five years to develop. A community resident noted, "We'll all be dead by then," insinuating that if St. Marys is given the go ahead, the possible effects the quarry might have on the water supply may be evident earlier than the five years it will take the for plan to be implemented.

Later in the evening, Rentsch spoke to residents about the importance of monitoring and maintaining private septic systems. Residents learned of the various septic system configurations as well as some septic system dos and don'ts.

The impact of a "failed" septic system, she explained, can have a tremendous effect on the community's water supply. "There's always someone downstream from you," she reminded those in attendance.

Information regarding the Source Protection Committee is available online at www.protectingwater.ca. In-depth coverage of Wednesday's open house will be featured in the February 1 issue of the Flamborough Review.



<http://www.flamboroughreview.com/news/article/150118>



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