

Media Release

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CONSERVATION ONTARIO PRESENTS TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON CLEAN WATER ACT

NEWMARKET, August 22, 2006. Conservation Ontario appeared before the Standing Committee on Social Policy in Walkerton to support the proposed *Clean Water Act* (Bill 43) and to recommend ways to strengthen it.

“The *Clean Water Act* is an important piece of legislation that can be further strengthened with four main amendments,” said Richard Hibma, Chair of Conservation Ontario.

Conservation Ontario represents the province’s 36 Conservation Authorities, local environmental agencies that manage Ontario watershed in partnership with government, local agencies and landowners.

Conservation Ontario recommended:

- integration of source water protection with existing water management programs;
- additional protection for rural, non-municipal sources of drinking water;
- more emphasis on non-regulatory tools such as education and voluntary watershed stewardship to implement source water protection plans; and
- sustainable, long-term funding to implement the proposed source water protection plans.

“We look forward to continued progress towards drinking water source protection in Ontario and our role in its development and implementation,” Mr. Hibma said.

Conservation Ontario’s written and verbal presentations to the Standing Committee can be found at: www.conservation-ontario.on.ca . Additional background information on source water protection and conservation authorities is also found here.

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