

Source Water Protection Program Updates & Improvements



Watershed Monitoring Program –

Halifax Water has always conducted water quality sampling throughout the watersheds on an informal basis. As part of Halifax Water's commitment to continual improvement and safe drinking water, our monitoring program has recently been upgraded to include sampling of lakes and streams at key locations throughout all of our watershed areas, including Lake Major.

A variety of water quality parameters are measured on a monthly basis, including temperature, conductivity, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, bacteria levels, nutrient and organic matter concentrations, as well as total suspended sediments.

Additional targeted monitoring is being conducted for salt, metals, pesticides and petroleum hydrocarbons at a number of locations. Seasonal lake monitoring is also on track to begin in 2010.

This proactive approach in managing our watersheds will allow us to determine the current water quality status at each of the source water supplies, establish water quality goals, support management decision

making, and assess changes in the future.

For further information on Halifax Water's Watershed Monitoring Program, please contact Source Water Planner Terra Jamieson at 869-4267.

**Lake Major
Protected Water Area**

Please Help Keep Our Water Clean!



For Further Information
Call: 490-6940

Public Education and Awareness –

As part of Halifax Water's commitment to public education and awareness, community signage in the Lake Major Watershed is currently under review. Existing signs are to be updated, and new locations are also being identified for additional signage.

The new watershed signs are intended to improve awareness of where drinking water comes from and the importance of keeping it clean!

Halifax Water intends to have the new signs in place by the end of 2010. For

further information contact Watershed Manager Barry Geddes at 869-4304.

Source Water Protection Website –

Halifax Water recognizes the need for maintaining an effective online presence as the internet is becoming one of the main avenues for public communication.

Through Halifax Water's model of continuous improvement, a source water protection website is currently being developed to reflect program enhancements and keep the public updated on news, activities, and other important information regarding HRM's drinking water supply areas. Keep an eye on Halifax Water's website for changes in the coming months: www.halifaxwater.ca

Source Water Protection Report –

This summer, Halifax Water will be publishing our first source water protection report. The document highlights accomplishments and future initiatives that support the ongoing commitment to provide high-quality water and protect water supply areas. The report will be available online at www.halifaxwater.ca

Lake Major Watershed Community News



Adopt-a-Watershed Program –

Following the successes in 2008 and 2009, Halifax Water is pleased to announce that the Adopt-a-Watershed program is being offered again for 2010/11. Funding has been provided to Clean Nova Scotia to expand and deliver the program to communities in both the Lake Major and Middle Musquodoboit drinking water supply areas.

So far this year, five schools in the areas of Lake Major, North Preston, East Preston, Cherry Brook, and Westphal, as well as two schools in the Musquodoboit Valley have participated in watershed presentations, litter clean ups, and stream biology field trips to teach students about their environment and the importance of source water protection.

Upcoming Adopt-a-Watershed plans for the summer include participation in day camps and youth group activities. To learn more about the program, contact Clean Nova Scotia at 420-3474 or visit their website at www.clean.ns.ca

Public Notification – As a follow up to a Ministerial Order issued in March 2010, Halifax Water wishes to inform the public of the following amendments to the Lake Major Protected Water Area Regulations:

The order amends the Regulations in Schedule "A" subsections 7(2), (5), and (6), by striking out "Administrator" and substituting "Water Utility."

Under the amended regulations the Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board is still required to review and provide feedback on the proposed forestry plan. However, Halifax Water now has the responsibility of issuing the Forestry Approval to Operate.



The northeastern portion of the Lake Major Protected Water Area, which falls within the Salmon River Long Lake Wilderness Area, is exempt from the changes. All provincial wilderness areas are the responsibility of Nova Scotia Environment and protected from commercial activities such as forestry. The current Lake Major Protected Water Area Regulations can be found online at: www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/enpwlmr.htm

Profile of Terra Jamieson

Terra Jamieson joined Halifax Water's Source Water Protection team as Source Water Planner in July 2009. This is a newly created position to reflect Halifax Water's ongoing commitment to provide high quality water to their customers.

Terra hails from Truro and holds B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in environmental sciences from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Her M.Sc. research focused on the treatment of dairy farm manure runoff using constructed wetland technology. She recently completed her Ph.D. in Earth Sciences at the University of Waterloo. Terra's Ph.D. research involved using stable isotopes to quantify dissolved oxygen dynamics in the Grand River

Watershed. Findings from this work may be used to support watershed management decision making by the Grand River Conservation Authority as well as provide insight into the functioning of river systems impacted by urban and agricultural influences.

As Source Water Planner, Terra works with the Watershed Manager to develop, implement, and maintain source water protection plans for each of Halifax Water's water sources. Some of her daily duties include managing the source water monitoring program, environmental reporting, providing professional consultation to other staff and outside agencies on source water matters, source water protection program planning and reporting, as well as working to promote education and awareness of HRM's drinking water supplies.

Terra participates in the Lake Major, Pockwock Lake, and Bennery Lake watershed advisory boards and is looking into expanding Halifax Water's participation in advisory boards in other watersheds.

Prior to joining Halifax Water, Terra was employed with the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture as Water Resource Coordinator where she was responsible for obtaining grant funding and acted as project manager for a number of sustainable water management research projects and initiatives.

Terra finds her work with Halifax Water to be a challenging and rewarding opportunity to apply her skills as a water scientist in the pursuit of protecting public water supplies and promoting aquatic health.

How to Contact Us:

The Lake Major Watershed Newsletter is a publication of Halifax Water. Visit our website at www.halifaxwater.ca, contact Customer Service at 490-4820, email us at Cust_Inq@halifaxwater.ca, fax us at 490-4749, or write to us at P.O. Box 8388 RPO CSC, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 5M1