

For Immediate Release
January 19, 2006

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS LOCAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT WATER CONTAMINATION

Windsor Water Quality Must Be Protected

WINDSOR – The McGuinty government is committed to protecting the province's water supply and understands the importance of clean, safe and abundant water, Environment Minister Laurel Broten said today while meeting with officials from Windsor and the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA).

“The McGuinty government believes that local communities and organizations are best positioned to protect and manage their drinking water sources,” said Broten. “I’m pleased to present this cheque to the conservation authority to help in their activities as custodians of the Essex watershed.”

In November 2005, the government committed \$67.5 million to local communities to help them be better prepared to protect their drinking water sources. As part of that five-year commitment, Minister Broten today presented ERCA with a cheque for \$245,405. This money will help the conservation authority ensure it has the staff and resources to work with communities to develop source protection plans.

“The Clean Water Act will be good news for Windsor and the Essex region,” said Tom Wilson, Chair of ERCA. “This funding is allowing us to do studies that will be the basis for a comprehensive system of water protection in our region.”

“Everyone has a right to clean water, and our government is committed to supporting local efforts to protect drinking water sources,” said Broten.

The Clean Water Act was introduced in the Legislature in December, 2005. If passed, it would ensure that communities are able to identify potential risks to their supply of drinking water, and take action to reduce or eliminate these risks. Municipalities, conservation authorities, landowners, farmers, industry, community groups and the public would all work together to meet common goals.

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