

For Immediate Release  
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## **ONTARIO GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS LOCAL EFFORTS TO PROTECT WATER SOURCES**

### *Grants For Scientific Studies Support Local Water Protection Planning*

BROCKTON — The McGuinty government is safeguarding the health of Ontario families and communities by protecting the natural sources of our drinking water, Environment Minister Laurel Broten said today while meeting with officials from the Municipality of Brockton and the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA).

“Local communities are in the best position to develop water protection plans that work for them,” said Broten. “We know their decisions must be based on sound science. This is why we are supporting research and planning efforts in both rural and urban communities across the province.”

Earlier this month over \$1.4 million was provided to the SCVA to coordinate studies to assess and inventory threats to local municipal drinking water supplies. This is part of the \$67.5 million the government committed for source protection planning in November 2005; close to \$10 million in grants is going to municipalities and their partners this year. In total, the SVCA has received over \$3.2 million over the past two years to help ensure it is ready to work with communities to develop source protection plans.

“The Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority does vital work across many municipalities and I am pleased that we are taking action and providing funding to keep our people and watersheds healthy and allowing our communities to grow and prosper,” said Carol Mitchell, MPP for Huron-Bruce.

“Water resources are truly a community resource,” said Doug Freiburger, Chairman of SVCA. “This funding is allowing us to undertake studies that will help the communities in our region decide what they need to do to protect their water.”

“A safe, secure water supply is a crucial factor in ensuring healthy, prosperous communities,” said Charlie Bagnato, Mayor of the Municipality of Brockton. “We are working with the province and our partners in the region to protect our water now and into the future.”

The proposed Clean Water Act was introduced following broad consultations with municipalities, agriculture, conservation authorities, industry, non-governmental organizations, public health officials, water experts and the public. 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.

Today's announcement is just one way the McGuinty government is delivering on our commitment to improve the health of working families across Ontario. By keeping our water clean and helping industry to create less air pollution we're making the environment better for our children and all Ontario families. We all win when we invest in the environment.

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