

News Release

DRINKING WATER OPEN HOUSES IN ALMONTE, RICHMOND AND WESTPORT

RIDEAU VALLEY, July 6, 2009 — Drinking Water Open Houses are fast approaching in these three communities. You will find out about recent local groundwater studies which show:

- Where Almonte, Munster, Richmond and Westport's municipal drinking water comes from;
- Where it might be vulnerable to contamination; and
- What types of land use activities could pose a risk of contamination if located in these vulnerable areas.

Open houses are being co-hosted by the municipality and the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region. Your comments on these draft studies are most welcome and will be accepted until October 9, 2009.

Almonte Open House	Munster/Richmond Open House	Westport Open House
July 22	July 20	July 21
Almonte Old Town Hall	Richmond Fairgrounds	Westport Legion
14 Bridge Street	6107 Perth Street (Dining Hall)	10099 County Road 10
6pm to 9pm	6pm to 9pm	5:30pm to 8pm
Presentation at 7 pm	Presentation at 7 pm	Presentation at 6:30 pm

These technical studies were done under the *Clean Water Act* and show us where extra care needs to be taken to protect local drinking water sources (lakes, rivers, underground aquifers). The reports will be used by the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee to draft land use policies to address potential threats. The Committee must develop a Source Protection Plan by 2012.

In early June, open houses were held in Carp, Kemptville and Merrickville to present draft study results for their municipal drinking water systems. In the fall, open houses will be held in Carleton Place, Lanark, Perth, Smiths Falls and urban Ottawa.

There are 13 municipal drinking water systems in the Mississippi-Rideau area — eight draw water from underground aquifers using wells (Almonte, Carp, Kemptville, Lanark, Merrickville, Munster, Richmond and Westport) and five take water from local rivers (Carleton Place, Perth, Smiths Falls and urban Ottawa — Britannia & Lemieux Island). These municipal systems treat and distribute potable drinking water to people living in those towns and villages.

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More information:

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