New Water Supply Sources Being Sought

The search is on for new sources of drinking water for the Port Perry / Prince Albert service area. Port Perry has experienced steady development growth in recent years. The service population in year 2008 was approximately 9,800 persons. The population forecast for the Port Perry/Prince Albert urban area will reach approximately 11,880 based on the Region of Durham Official Plan as approved under Official Plan Amendment No. 128. Additional sources of water, and more storage capacity will be needed to meet the expected demands on the existing system.

The system consists of three groundwater supply wells, a 2.13 ML water storage reservoir standpipe, and approximately 6.1 km of water mains. The existing municipal water supply plant has a total pumping capacity of 120 L/s (litres per second) using all three wells, but a firm capacity with the largest well out of service, of only 60 L/s. Future supply demands have been estimated at 105 L/s, so that at least another 45 L/s of supply is being sought. The existing 2.13 ML standpipe is deficient in capacity based on the recommended guidelines. The reservoir capacity deficiency has been augmented by utilizing the total pumping capacity of all three wells.

Customers in Port Perry and Prince Albert have experienced some unpleasant taste and colour in their drinking water. Raw water at each of the well sites is treated to satisfy the province’s Ontario Drinking Water Standards. Any new or additional source of water for options of either replacing or supplementing the three existing groundwater supply wells should be free of hydrogen sulphide and have low iron levels. An alternative or new water supply source is required to replace and/or supplement the existing water supply source.

New Water Supply Development Proceeds as a Class EA

Planning for a new water supply is proceeding as a schedule “C” Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA). Alternatives being considered for additional water supplies include: 1) Treatment of existing ground water; 2) New ground water source; 3) Lake Scugog water treatment plant; 4) Interconnection with Uxbridge supply; and 5) Interconnection with a Lake Ontario based supply. Alternatives under consideration for additional storage capacity for most of these alternatives include: a) In-ground low elevation; b) Standpipe; and c) In-ground high elevation.

As part of the Class EA planning process, a problem statement was developed. The rest of the project will be developed based on solving the Problem Statement. The full Problem Statement has been published in this newsletter.

To date, the natural, social and economic environments in the study area have been inventoried and potential impacts on the environment identified.

A preliminary evaluation of these alternatives has been completed and will be presented at the Public Information Centre on March 23. A preferred solution will be selected after obtaining your input and comments from other agencies.
Problem Statement

The Port Perry/Prince Albert urban area is supplied with drinking water provided by three existing wells, and also has a standpipe for water storage. Due to community growth and some aesthetic water quality issues, there is a need to develop a long term supply of potable water as well as sufficient storage. Specifically, the solution must:

• Provide increased capacity to support the Region of Durham Official Plan;
• Meet Ontario Drinking Water Standards for health related parameters;
• Generally meet aesthetic aspects of the Ontario Drinking Water Standards.

Community Consultation is an Important Part of the Process

The involvement of the community – residents, stakeholders, and those who may be potentially affected by the project is a key component of the Class EA planning process. Your participation will help ensure that the new or additional source of water meets the needs of the community. There will be a Public Information Centre to review the findings to date and to get your input. A notice for this meeting is included in this newsletter. Mark it on your calendar now, and help make the project a success. A similar meeting will also be held in April for First Nations participants.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE

Tuesday, March 23
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Scugog Community Recreation Centre
1655 Reach Street
Port Perry, Township of Scugog, Ontario

• Find out more about the alternatives for a new water supply
• Drop-in during any of the times noted and give us your thoughts and concerns.

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