

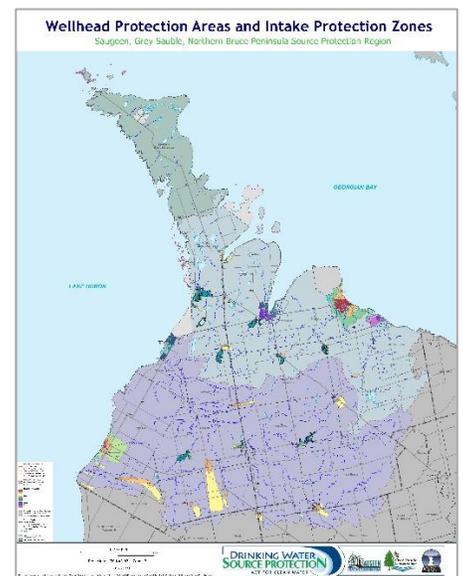


- **Local Support for GSCA**

In response to Provincial changes to Conservation Authority (CA) funding and Conservation Authority Act legislation, and at the BOD's direction, GSCA has been advocating to municipalities, Counties, stakeholders and partners, and the public, every day for the last four weeks. Despite a very tight timeline and other challenges including uncertainty, we have been successful in gaining active support for the GSCA position on funding and legislative concerns from the 8 member municipal councils and 2 county councils in our watershed, as well as active support from other partners and stakeholder groups.

- **Drinking Water Source Protection Roles and Municipal Implementation**

Carl Seider reviewed roles related to protecting municipal drinking water sources from potential threats. Our drinking water source protection region covers the area of North Bruce Peninsula (NBP), and the GSCA and Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority jurisdictions. The Source Protection Committee updates the Source Protection Plan, setting out policies for what can and cannot be done near water sources. Municipalities are accountable for the implementation of Part IV policies in the Plan. Finally, the Source Protection Authority which is collectively the CA Boards, the NBP Council and their respective staffs oversee implementation and reporting. In 2018 the province terminated provincial funding for municipal implementation, and the recently-proposed changes under Bill 108 indicate that the province may be moving toward having municipalities fund more activities. Karen Gillan was appointed as a Drinking Water Source Protection Risk Management Official and Risk Management Inspector.



- **Grey County Federation of Agriculture Delegation**

Hugh Simpson, President of the Grey County Federation of Agriculture, which represents 1500 farm families, highlighted that the Federation's members steward a large part of the land in the Watershed, bringing benefits to land, water and air as environmental influencers, and that this is one of the priorities of the Federation. He suggested that GSCA consider an Agricultural Advisory Committee, like those that exist with adjacent CAs.

- **Planning Act, Provincial Policy Statement and Natural Heritage**

Under the Planning Act and the related Provincial Policy Statement, municipalities must consider impacts from proposed developments on their Natural Heritage, on a watershed basis. As Conservation Authorities have a Natural Resources-related mandate and are already dealing with many applications for a CA regulatory permit, GSCA has been hired via agreements with its counties

and/or local municipalities to provide professional opinion letters on Natural Heritage as well. These agreements are being renewed, with the first renewal being Bruce County. The County and CAs are reviewing an updated draft agreement with proposed fee increases that will bring GSCA closer to full cost recovery for the work. Bruce County is also embarking on a County Wide Natural Study (similar to Green in Grey) and have a request for proposals out for this at the present time, and GSCA has been invited to sit on the Steering Committee.

- **Proposed Changes for Species at Risk**

Species at Risk and how they are treated is governed by the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and generally the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO) sets out the list of Species at Risk for Ontario (the SARO list). During Natural Heritage reviews, if GSCA sees a SAR or their habitat on a site proposed for development, it will be noted in the comments to the municipality. However, it is Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) who is accountable for enforcing/reviewing the SAR and they generally rely on the self-reporting of landowners. The province has proposed changes to the Endangered Species Act, and MECP put out a one-month opportunity for comments via the Environmental Registry of Ontario website, which closed on May 18th, 2019. Proposed changes appear to reduce the protection for SAR, however, the outcomes will depend upon how the changes are implemented.



- **Discussions with Metis Nation of Ontario**

GSCA has received a request from members of the Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to Waive Parking Fees for members of the MNO Community and allow MNO Community Members to hunt at Hibou Conservation Area, and GSCA was invited to enter into a written General Relationship Agreement with MNO. GSCA will reach out to propose that an informal and positive relationship be continued and grown, that GSCA be open to mutually-beneficial discussions between GSCA and the MNO about the trade of natural resource-related input and services for free parking or other benefits, and respectfully decline to offer a waiver of parking fees for MNO members on GSCA properties, and that MNO consider hunts at GSCA properties where hunting is a Permitted Use in accordance with Provincial hunting regulations, including those in the more rural areas near Hibou.

- **Combatting Emerald Ash Borer**

Per the request of scientists from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)/Canadian Forest Service (CFS), GSCA has endorsed the release of parasitoids to combat Emerald Ash Borer, as alternatives to chemical pesticides on GSCA properties. This will help to inform best management practices for controlling EAB populations, control the spread of EAB and to develop a Canadian population of the parasitoids for future releases. The parasitoids have been approved for release in Canada by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and have already been released in southern and eastern Ontario.



Emerald Ash Borer

- **Policy exception to permit in Georgian Bluffs**

The Board endorsed a policy exception to permit the proposed re-development of a site in the Springmount area of Georgian Bluffs, as the applicant has provided engineered and stamped documentation which provides reasonable due diligence that GSCA's overall regulatory objectives, including the protection of people and property, would be fulfilled.