

**Private Drinking Water Protection Committee
Update Report for GSWA General Meeting
25 May 2015**

16 April 2015 – PDWP Committee met – Meeting Notes attached. Decision was made to conduct a public survey to determine the need for a grant program – attached.

30 April 2015 – Press Release went out on 30 April 2015 requesting participation in our survey - attached.

Stewardship Program Survey

The Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance (GSWA) has been exploring ways to protect and improve water quality on Sudbury area lakes and rivers. One major contributor to degraded water quality can be malfunctioning septic systems leaking effluent into the environment.

To maximize potential improvements to water quality with limited resources, GSWA's Private Drinking Water Protection Committee is exploring the possibility of offering a pilot grant program that would encourage residents living in close proximity to a waterbody to pump out their septic tank on a regular basis (once every 2 to 3 years for a primary residence and 3 to 5 years for a seasonal residence), or to replace a septic system that has been confirmed by the Sudbury District Health Unit to be ineffective.

Please complete our survey at the link on the GSWA website. This will help us assess the potential interest and scope of such a program. More details are contained in our Press Release.

28 July 2014 - Mandatory Septic Inspection

As a result of a recommendation from the Private Drinking Water Protection Committee, the GSWA Board of Directors made a formal request to the City of Greater Sudbury's Mayor and Councillors, through a letter dated 28 July 2014, to recommend:

- A mandatory Septic Inspection Program to require regular maintenance and inspection of all holding tanks, septic tanks, leaching beds (including outhouses and pit privies) in order to preserve fresh water resources, and protect the environment and public health and safety. Following the institution of the program, re-inspections would be repeated every 5 years.