

Ontario Water Action Group



For Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation
Grantee Symposium

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What is the Canadian Environmental Law Association?

- CELA is a public interest law group
- Founded in 1970 for the purposes of using and improving laws to protect public health and the environment
- Funded as a legal aid clinic specializing in environmental law

What is CELA? /2

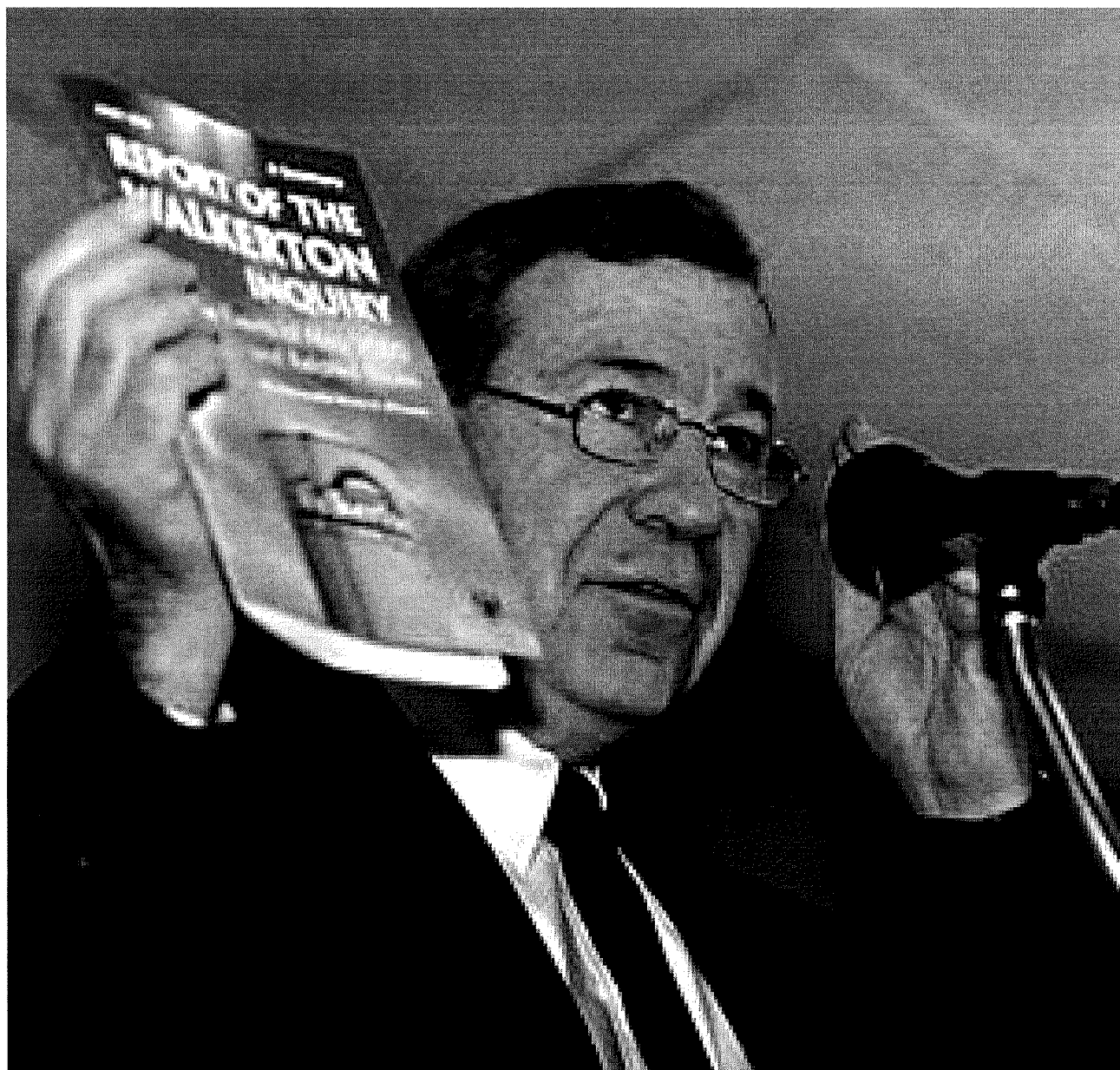
- CELA represents individuals and citizens' groups in the courts and before tribunals on environmental matters
- In addition, CELA staff members are involved in various initiatives related to law reform, public education, and community organization

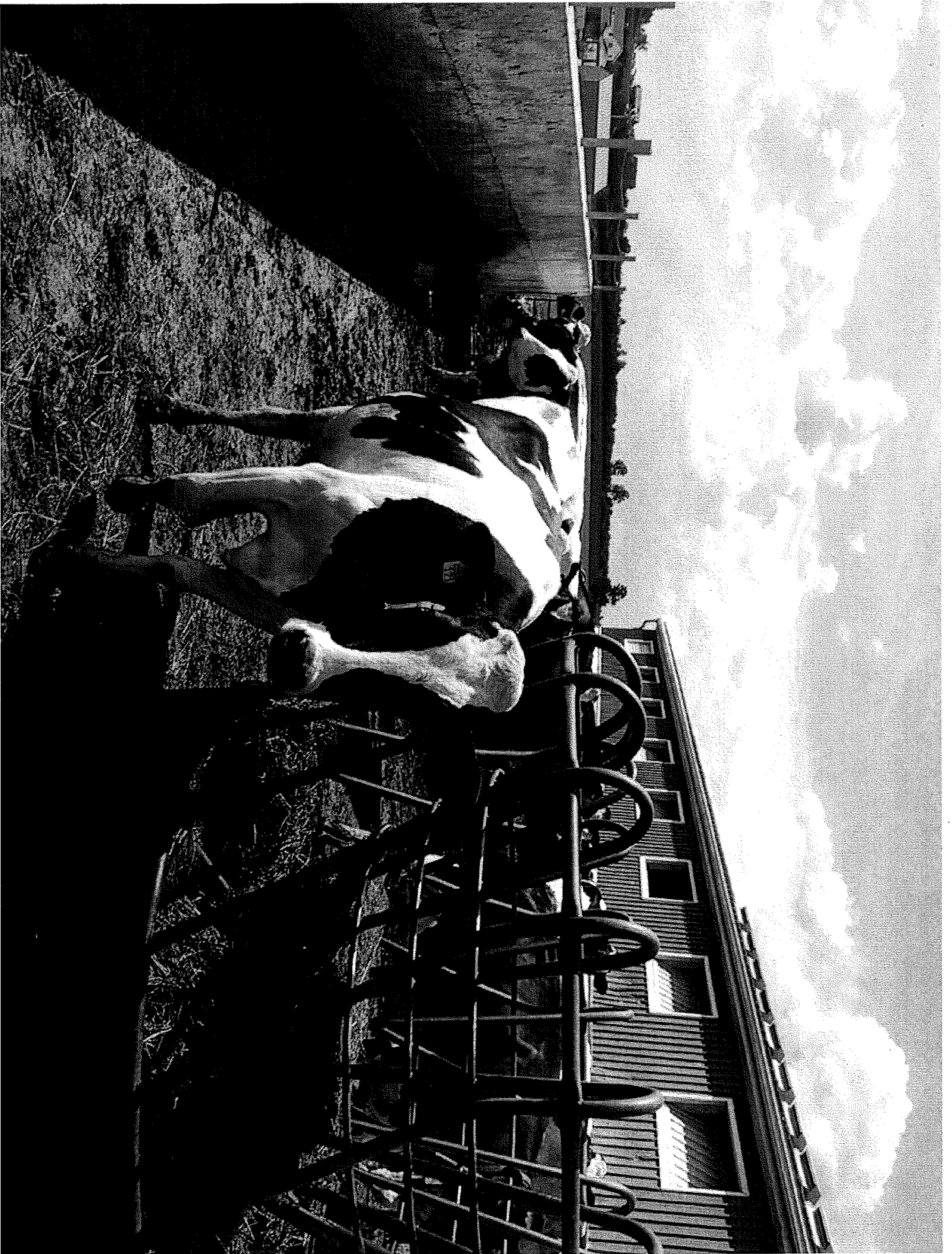
What is CELA? /3

- Past two decades: CELA's casework and law reform activities focused on drinking water quality & quantity issues
- CELA advocated passage of the SDWA since early 1980s
- Representing Concerned Walkerton Citizens during Walkerton Inquiry

What is CELA? /4

- Submitting model water legislation to entrench watershed planning and water conservation in Ontario
- Commenting on the Drinking Water Protection Regulations
- Participating as a member of Ontario's advisory committee on source protection planning and on nutrient management advisory committee





Aim of the Project

- To provide space and both substantive and procedural capacity for Ontario environmental organizations to exchange ideas and provide input into development of Ontario's watershed based source protection legislation
- To ensure that strong effective source protection legislation is introduced and passed in Ontario

Approaches

- Built on earlier project with GLU which organized water issues workshops around province
- Convened key water issues ENGO's and activists for meetings, workshops and conference calls
- Established one way push information bulletins and then a two way exchange listserve

Get Involved

Press Room

Publications

About the site

SEARCH

Towards Water Protection

Water Champions

Water Events

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Source water protection means protecting the systems (including watersheds, rivers, lakes and aquifers) on which we ultimately depend for water.

Many of our water sources are being depleted through over-consumption, wasteful practices, and a lack of understanding about how much water is available. They are also being degraded by toxic pollution and the destruction of natural areas.

Protecting the quality and quantity of water at its source is the only way to ensure it stays safe and healthy for the people and environments that depend on it.

LATEST NEWS

Federal committee to study Annex agreements ... more



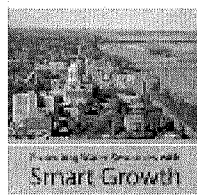
Provincial Council on drinking water requests public input ... more

New legislative session means busy fall
for water protection ... more

Environmental community releases
Statement of Expectations on source
water protection ... more

FEATURES

<http://www.thewaterhole.ca>



Protecting Water Resources with Smart Growth

This new report from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency compiles 75 policies designed to protect water resources and implement smart growth.

Approaches

- Worked from multiple directions
- Convened meetings with key policy makers
- Joint sign-on letters at key junctures
- Developed an ENGO “Statement of Expectations” of watershed legislation highlighting a dozen key consensus demands

Approaches

- Advocated joint Expectations position within provincial committees, in meetings with politicians and their staff etc.; used it repeatedly to provide feedback on proposals
- Encouraged and provided information for extensive input from citizens and organizations in Environmental Bill of Rights postings

Lessons Learned

- Encouraged diversity of perspectives and voices to be presented, while working for consistency in key messages
- Worked to identify barriers, eg for particular sectors, and suggested solutions for barriers
- Maintaining Waterhole website and a larger public information bulletin provides visibility and value

Lessons Learned

- Ensured breadth and diversity of groups' supporting common positions was/ is visible and repeated
- Take nothing for granted;
- gains need to be repeated

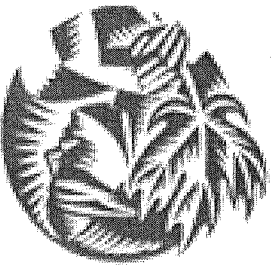


Results so far

- Clean Water Act introduced in December 2005
- Strong legislation; Observed improvements in scope and approach compared to earlier discussions
- Hoping for legislation to be passed before summer

Results so far

- Feedback that our efforts have made a significant difference to content and approach
- ENGO community benefiting from frequent and well informed exchange of perspectives; much appreciation expressed for the support and opportunity



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Canadian Environmental Law Association

Our Work

News & Events

Core Programs

Topical Collections

CELA in the Courts

FAQ

Newsletter

About CELA

Who We Are

Location of materials about protecting drinking water

Sources

Energy Costs and Low Income Ontario Residents

Collection of materials related to energy conservation and

affordable electricity pricing in Ontario

Nuclear Phase-Out

Collection of materials related to CELA's position in support

of nuclear phase-out in Canada

Partnership for Pesticide Reviews

www.cela.ca

US & Events

17 2004

da Must Build on

is Treaty

May 14 2004

CELA Requests

Environmental

Commissioner To

Investigate Ontario's

Refusal To Fix Deficient

Water Well Regulation

May 11 2004

Energy conservation

could save Ontario \$14

billion: new study

VIEW ALL NEWS AND

Thank You

