
Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

3-Dimensional Features	Features that extend vertically below the ground surface (as opposed to 2 dimensional features that only exist on the ground surface). An aquifer is an example of a 3 dimensional hydrogeological feature.
Advantage	A relative term used to indicate that a particular condition is deemed to offer a benefit when compared to another condition.
Aerial Photography	Aerial photography is the taking of photographs from the air with a camera mounted, or hand held, on an aircraft, helicopter, balloon, rocket, kite, skydiver or similar vehicle.
Alternative	Both alternative methods and alternatives to a proposed undertaking.
Alternative Methods of Carrying out the Undertaking (Interchangeable with Alternative Methods)	Different ways of doing the same activity. Alternative methods could include consideration of one or more of the following alternative technologies; alternative methods of applying specific technologies; alternative sites for a proposed undertaking; alternative design methods; and alternative methods of operating any facilities associated with a proposed undertaking.
Alternatives To the Undertaking (Interchangeable with Alternatives To)	Functionally different ways of approaching and dealing with a problem or opportunity.
Archaeological potential	The possibility of the presence of physical remains of past human activity.
Area of Influence	As it relates to pumping groundwater from a well, the area surrounding a pumping or recharging well within which the water table or potentiometric surface has been changed due to the well's pumping or recharge.
Area-sensitive breeding birds	Include species of birds designated by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources that breed in urban forests.
Area-sensitive species	Species designated by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources that respond negatively to decreasing habitat patch size.

Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

Aquatic	Refers to an environment that consists of, relates to, or is in water; or to animals and plants living or growing in, on, or near the water.
Aquifer	Rock or soil in a formation that is saturated and sufficiently permeable to transmit water in sufficient quantities to serve as a source of water supply.
Aquitard	Rock or soil in a formation that is saturated but is not sufficiently permeable to transmit water in sufficient quantities to serve as a source of water supply.
Assimilative Capacity	Capacity of a natural body of water (lake, river, sea, etc.) to receive wastewaters and naturally treat those wastewaters without harmful effects and damage to aquatic life and humans who consume water from the water body.
Avoidance Measure	Taking actions that aim to prevent the occurrence of negative effects associated with the implementation of an alternative.
Baseline Conditions	The existing conditions that are the physical, chemical, biological, social, economic, and cultural setting in which the proposed project is to be located and where local impacts (both positive and negative) might be expected to occur.
Bedrock	The solid rock that underlies any unconsolidated sediment or soil.
Boreholes	A hole that is drilled into the subsurface by the cutting of soil and rock and removal of the cuttings from the hole.
Built Environment	The human-made surroundings that provide the setting for human activity.
Buffer	A protective barrier; any of various devices or pieces of material for reducing shock or damage due to contact.
Canada Land Inventory (CLI)	A comprehensive, multi-disciplinary land classification scheme and common mapping of all rural land in Canada.

Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem	A federal-provincial agreement that establishes common priorities, goals, and results for the restoration, protection and conservation of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem. The purpose of the agreement is to restore, protect and conserve the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem in order to assist in achieving the vision of a healthy, prosperous and sustainable Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem for present and future generations.
Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA)	CEAA establishes the legal parameters for the federal environmental assessment process and sets out the responsibilities and procedures for carrying out the environmental assessments of projects that involve federal government decision-making authorities.
Carbon Footprint	The total set of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions caused directly and indirectly by any given activity.
Category	A broader category, group or element of the environment used for classifying a given set of criteria.
Class Environmental Assessment	A Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) is approved under Ontario's <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> for a class of undertakings. There are currently 10 approved class environmental assessments (Class EAs) in Ontario. The preparation and approval of Class EAs is a streamlined process for projects or undertakings with predictable environmental impacts. See also Municipal Class Environmental Assessment.
Commitments	Represents a pledge from a proponent about a certain course of action, that is, "I will do this, at this time, in this way." Proponents document obligations and responsibilities, which they agree to follow, in environmental assessment documentation. The Minister of the Environment, with the agreement of Cabinet, has the authority to give approval to proceed with the undertaking. The commitments within the document are often made legally binding as a condition of approval.

Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

Community Liaison Forum (CLF)	The Community Liaison Forum is a non-voting liaison forum with representation from organizations and residents within the preliminary study area that makes recommendations related to the UYSS EA to the Project Team for their consideration. The purpose of the CLF is to provide a forum for focused discussion of project issues with a representative broadly based group of interested stakeholders. The Community Liaison Forum will help to identify public and stakeholder opportunities and concerns and assess the possible public response and feedback to project issues.
Compensation Measure	To counterbalance a negative environmental effect through replacement in kind, or provision of a substitute or reimbursement in order to offset or neutralize the negative effect.
Compliance Monitoring	An assessment of whether an undertaking has been constructed, implemented, and/or operated in accordance with the commitments made in the environmental assessment and the conditions of the <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> approval.
Confined Aquifer	An aquifer that is overlain by deposits with significantly lower permeability (i.e., confining bed or aquitard); thereby confining the waters therein.
Contingency Plans	A plan that includes specific strategies and actions to deal with specific variances to assumptions resulting in a particular problem, emergency or state of affairs.
Criteria / Criterion	A set of principles or standards used to compare and judge alternatives. (plural = "criteria", singular = "criterion")
Cultural Environment	The ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions, and values.

Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

Cultural Heritage Resource	Cultural heritage encompasses material culture, in the form of objects, structures, sites, landscapes and natural environment shaped by cultural practices and traditions over time, as well as living (or expressive) culture as evidenced in forms such as music, crafts, performing arts, literature, oral tradition and language. The emphasis is on cultural continuity from the past, through the present and into the future, with the recognition that culture is organic and evolving.
Cultural landscape	Distinct geographical areas or properties uniquely representing the combined work of nature and humans.
(Department of) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	DFO is the lead federal government department responsible for developing and implementing policies and programs in support of Canada's economic, ecological, and scientific interests in oceans and inland waters.
Disadvantage	A relative term used to indicate that a particular condition is deemed to be unfavourable or of an inferior condition when compared with another condition.
Displacement	An action that results in a change in the location of an activity or facility.
Disruption	An action that results in a negative change in the way people undertake activities, stopping the activity or negatively changing the schedule.
Disturbance	An action that negatively influences people's activities or enjoyment of those activities.
Drainage Basin	An area from which all precipitation flows to a single stream or set of streams.
Drawdown	A lowering of the water table of an unconfined aquifer or the potentiometric surface of a confined aquifer caused by pumping of groundwater from wells.
Easement	A legally recognized property right held by a person or a group to make use of land for a limited purpose, such as construction.

Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

Ecological Land Classification	A system to delineate natural regions based on ecological factors. In Ontario, the Ministry of Natural Resources defines ecological units on the basis of bedrock, climate, physiography, and corresponding vegetation, creating an Ecological Land Classification System.
Economic Environment	The economic conditions that influence the life of humans or a community, including factors such as employment, income, and wealth.
Effluent Limit	Limit or level of discharge water quality to be achieved by a sewage treatment plant.
Endangered	A species, landform or terrestrial feature that is at risk of becoming extinct because it is threatened by changing parameters.
Environment	<p>The <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> defines “environment” broadly to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) air, land or waterii) plant or animal life, including human lifeiii) social, economic, and cultural conditions influencing the life of humans or a communityiv) any building, structure, machine or other device or thing made by humansv) any solid, liquid, gas, odour, heat, sound, vibration, or radiation resulting directly or indirectly from the human activitiesvi) any part or combination of the foregoing and the interrelationships between any two or more of them, in or of Ontario

Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

Environmental Assessment (EA)	<p>A generic term for a study that assesses the potential environmental effects (positive or negative) of a proposal. Key components of an environmental assessment include consultation with government agencies and the public; consideration and evaluation of alternatives; and the management of potential environmental effects. Conducting an environmental assessment promotes good environmental planning before decisions are made about proceeding with a proposal.</p> <p>For the purposes of this Terms of Reference, an Environmental Assessment refers to the process and related documentation, including the submission of a Terms of Reference and final Environmental Assessment Report for approval by the Minister of the Environment, in accordance with the requirements of Part II of the <i>EA Act</i>.</p>
Environmental Assessment Act (EA Act)	<p>Legislation that defines a decision-making process used to promote good environmental planning by assessing the potential effects of certain activities on the environment. The purpose of the <i>EA Act</i> is the betterment of the people of the whole or any part of Ontario by providing for the protection, conservation and wise management in Ontario of the environment.</p>
Environmental Effect	<p>The effect that a proposed undertaking or its alternatives has or could potentially have on the environment, either positive or negative, direct or indirect, short- or long-term.</p>
Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	<p>A report that describes monitoring activities to identify environmental impacts from construction activities and adaptive initiatives to mitigate those impacts.</p>
Evaluation	<p>A formal process for comparatively assessing the advantages and disadvantages of alternatives (see Evaluation Methodology).</p>
Evaluation Methodology	<p>A formal process for comparatively assessing the advantages and disadvantages of alternatives and establishing an order of preference among alternatives.</p>
Geographic Information System (GIS)	<p>A system for creating, storing, analyzing and managing spatial data and associated attributes.</p>

Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

Gravity Sewers	Large networks of underground pipes that convey sanitary sewage and storm sewage from individual buildings to a treatment facility using gravity rather than mechanical devices such as pumps.
Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement	The Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (2005) is intended to provide strong protections for Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin waters and is founded on the principles of precaution, ecosystem protection, and recognition of cumulative impacts and climate change uncertainties.
Great Lakes Charter	The Great Lakes Charter and Annex (2001) establish a non-binding understanding between Ontario, Quebec and the eight Great Lakes States that sets out broad principles for the joint management of the Great Lakes.
Greenbelt Act, 2005	Enacted in 2005, provides for the establishment of the Greenbelt Plan.
Greenbelt Plan	Established under the authority of Section 3 of the <i>Greenbelt Act, 2005</i> . The Greenbelt Plan identifies where urbanization should not occur in order to provide permanent protection to the agricultural land base and the ecological features and functions occurring on this landscape.
Groundwater	Water below the surface of the ground that occupies a zone of the earth's mantle that is saturated with water.
Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (Growth Plan)	Established under the authority of subsection 7 (6) of the <i>Places to Grow Act, 2005</i> , the Growth Plan aims to manage growth and development in Ontario in a way that supports economic prosperity, protects the environment, and develops a culture of conservation.
Habitat	The physical location or type of environment in which an organism or biological population occurs or lives, grows, and carries out life processes.

Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

Harmful Alteration, Destruction or Disruption of Fish Habitat (HADD)	According to Section 35(1) of the <i>Fisheries Act</i> , no one is allowed to cause a HADD unless an authorization, according to Section 35(2) of the <i>Fisheries Act</i> , has been obtained. "No net loss of the productive capacity of existing fish habitat" is the conservation goal guiding an authorization to cause a HADD.
Headwaters	The source of water at the top of a drainage system.
Holland Marsh	Consists of 2900 ha of organic (muck) soil draining to the Holland River used for farming.
Impact Assessment	The process of studying and identifying the future consequences of a current or proposed action.
Indicator	An aspect of a criterion that characterizes the potential effects on the environment.
Indirect Emissions	Emissions from sources generally outside the boundary of an organization, area, facility, etc.
Individual Environmental Assessment (IEA)	See Environmental Assessment.
Intra-Basin Transfer	Under the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and the <i>OWRA</i> , intra-basin transfer is the transfer of water from the watershed of one of the Great Lakes into the watershed of another Great Lake.
Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008	Enacted in 2008, provides the authority for the Minister of the Environment to establish the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan. The purpose of the Act is to protect and restore the ecological health of the Lake Simcoe watershed.
Lake Simcoe Protection Plan	Established under the authority of <i>Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008</i> . The objectives of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, approved June 2009, include to protect, improve or restore the elements that contribute to the ecological health of the Lake Simcoe watershed, including, water quality, hydrology, key natural heritage features and their functions, and key hydrologic features and their functions.

Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA)	Established under the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i> (1946), the LSRCA prepares and delivers programs for the management of the renewable natural resources within watersheds in its jurisdiction.
<i>Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act</i>	Enacted in 1990, provides for the management, protection, preservation, and use of the waters of the lakes and rivers of Ontario and the land under them.
Laminar flow	Flow in a pipe or channel that flows in parallel layers, with no disruption between the layers. It is the opposite of turbulent flow.
Locally Significant Wetland	Wetlands identified as locally significant by the Ministry of Natural Resources using evaluation procedures established by the province, as amended from time to time.
Long List	The preliminary list of alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking.
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)	A provincial ministry committed to supporting Ontario's agricultural food sector, enforcing and improving food safety, protecting the environment, and strengthening Ontario's rural communities.
Ministry of Culture (MOC)	The Ministry of Culture encourages the arts and cultural industries, protects Ontario's heritage and advances the public library system in order to maximize their contribution to the province's economic and social vitality.
Minister of the Environment (Minister)	The Minister of the Environment is responsible under the <i>EA Act</i> for final approval of the ToR and the EA.
Ministry of the Environment (MOE)	The Ministry of the Environment is responsible for protecting air, land and water to ensure healthy communities, ecological protection, and sustainable development for present and future generations of Ontarians.
Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)	The Ministry of Natural Resources manages and protects Ontario's natural resources for wise use across the province.

Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

Mitigation measure/techniques	Action(s) that remove or alleviate to some degree the negative effects associated with the implementation of an alternative.
Monitoring	A systematic method for collecting information using standard observations according to a schedule and over a sustained period of time.
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Municipal Class EA)	Approved under the <i>EA Act</i> and prepared by the Municipal Engineers Association, the Municipal Class EA applies to municipal infrastructure projects including transit, roads, water, and wastewater projects. Projects under the Municipal Class EA are to be undertaken in accordance with an approved procedure.
Natural Environment	A term that encompasses all living and non-living things occurring naturally on Earth or some region thereof.
Net Effect	The remaining negative or positive effect of an alternative after the application of avoidance / mitigation / compensation / enhancement measures.
Net Effects Analysis	The process of determining and documenting the net effects associated with each indicator for each alternative being considered.
Net Present Worth Costs	Present worth (equivalent value at specific point in time) of cash inflows minus the present worth of cash outflows.
Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM)	An environmentally sensitive, geological landform in south central Ontario, covering 190,000 hectares and is delineated and protected by the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.
Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001 (ORMCA)	Enacted in 2001, provides the authority for the Minister of the Environment to establish the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.

Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP)	Established under the authority of Section 3 of the <i>Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001</i> . The purpose of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan is to provide land use and resource management planning direction to provincial ministers, ministries, and agencies, municipalities, municipal planning authorities, landowners and other stakeholders on how to protect the moraine's ecological and hydrological features and functions.
Ontario Archaeological Sites Database	An area where data is gathered in a standardized format with up to 70 fields of information available for any particular site. Included are detailed site location, type of site, history of research, disposition of the artifacts, and dates when excavated.
Ontario Geological Survey	A provincial government organization that helps implement government public policy by collecting and applying relevant information about Ontario's geology and geological resources, and helps attract mineral investment.
Ontario Municipal Board (OMB)	An independent, quasi-judicial administrative tribunal that oversees provincial regulations of municipal matters. The OMB acts as a tribunal that hears municipal planning disputes and seeks to resolve them through legal hearings, mediation and other means as may be appropriate.
Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC)	Provides customer-focused real estate services to the Ontario government, including strategic portfolio management, asset management, property and land management, and capital projects.
Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol	Contains a series of standardized methodologies for identifying sites, evaluating benthic macro invertebrates, fish communities, physical habitat, and water temperature in wadeable streams.
Ontario Water Resources Act (OWRA)	The <i>OWRA</i> provides for the conservation, protection and management of Ontario's waters and for their efficient and sustainable use to promote Ontario's long-term environmental, social and economic well-being.
Ontario Water Resources Commission (OWRC)	The predecessor agency of the Ministry of the Environment. The OWRC officially became the Ministry of the Environment in 1972.

Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

Permeability	Pertaining to the relative ease with which a medium can transmit a liquid under a hydraulic or potential gradient. For example, sand and gravel deposits have a high permeability and silt and clay deposits have a low permeability.
Physiographic region	Refers to a distinctive area of landscape that has its own topography and geology.
<i>Places To Grow Act, 2005</i>	Enacted in 2005, provides the authority for the Minister of Energy and Infrastructure to establish the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (the Growth Plan). The purpose of the <i>Places to Grow Act, 2005</i> is: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) to enable decisions about growth to be made in ways that sustain a robust economy, build strong communities and promote a healthy environment and a culture of conservationb) to promote a rational and balanced approach to decisions about growth that builds on community priorities, strengths and opportunities and makes efficient use of infrastructurec) to enable planning for growth in a manner that reflects a broad geographical perspective and is integrated across natural and municipal boundariesd) to ensure that a long-term vision and long-term goals guide decision-making about growth and provide for the co-ordination of growth policies among all levels of government
Potential Effect	An effect that is deemed possible to result from an activity or implementation of a particular alternative.
Potentiometric Surface	The surface that represents the level to which water will rise in a well.

Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

Preferred Alternative	<p>The alternative selected as the undertaking for which approval will be sought, based on an approach for identifying a preferred alternative, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Identify a recommended alternativeConsult review agencies and the public on the recommended alternativeConfirm or select the preferred alternative based on the comments received
Preliminary Study Area	<p>In reference to the UYSS EA, extends north to Lake Simcoe, east to Woodbine Avenue, south to 19th Avenue, and west to Bathurst Street. This preliminary study area is the area within which activities associated with the undertaking will occur and where potential environmental effects will be studied, and it currently includes the UYSS service area.</p>
Property Easements	<p>An easement is a legally established and recognized right that one party has to use property that is owned by someone else. The rights of the easement holder regarding usage of the property are specific and typically limited.</p>
Provincial Policy Statement (PPS)	<p>Updated in 2005, the PPS is issued under the authority of Section 3 of the <i>Planning Act</i>. The PPS provides direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development, and promotes the provincial "policy-led" planning system.</p>
Provincially Significant Candidate Earth Science (ES) Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)	<p>Areas of land and water containing natural landscapes or features that have been identified as having earth science values related to protection, scientific study or education, and identified as provincially significant by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources using evaluation procedures established by the Province, as amended from time to time.</p>
Provincially Significant Candidate Life Science(LS) Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)	<p>Areas of land and water containing natural landscapes or features that have been identified as having life science values related to protection, scientific study or education, and identified as provincially significant by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources using evaluation procedures established by the Province, as amended from time to time.</p>

Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW)	Wetlands identified as provincially significant by the Ministry of Natural Resources using evaluation procedures established by the province, as amended from time to time.
Permit to Take Water (PTTW)	The Permit to Take Water program is the principal means by which the Ontario Ministry of the Environment regulates the taking of water in the province. Water takings in Ontario are governed by Ontario Regulation 387/04 under the <i>Ontario Water Resources Act</i> .
Public	Means the general public, individual members of the public who may be affected by or have an interest in a project and special interest groups.
Pumping/Forcemain Based Sewer System	A sewer system that relies on the use of pumps and pressurized pipes (forcemain) to convey collected wastewater from urban areas to a wastewater treatment facility for disposal.
Pump Test	A test conducted to determine aquifer or well characteristics.
Rank	Of a specified order or position in relation to others in a series.
Ranking	To arrange (alternatives) according to their rank from first to last.
Rationale	Explanation of the logical reasons or principles employed in consciously arriving at a decision or estimate.
Reasonable Alternative	Defined for "Alternatives To the Undertaking" to be those alternatives that can address the purpose of the undertaking. Defined for "Alternative Methods of Carrying out the Undertaking" to be those alternative methods that can implement the preferred alternative.
Reasoned Argument / Trade-off Method	A comparative evaluation method based on net effects / advantages and disadvantages and explained in narrative terms (rationale). The process of examining the net effects and key trade-offs of each alternative in order to provide a clear rationale for the preferred alternative.

Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

Recommended Alternative(s)	An alternative or alternatives that are selected as first place based on the results of a comparative evaluation process.
Record of Consultation	Describes the consultation activities undertaken during the preparation of the EA Terms of Reference.
Replicable	Refers to evaluation methods that are sufficiently unambiguous such that the same or equivalent results would be obtained by the application of the method by different users.
Review agencies	Means government agencies, ministries, or public authorities or bodies whose mandates require them to have jurisdiction over matters affected or potentially affected by projects. This includes municipalities other than the proponent.
Review Agency Advisory Committee (RAAC)	A committee that provides a forum for in-depth discussion of project issues with agencies having regulatory authority. The RAAC will ensure the project team has effectively engaged the various levels of government that are responsible for commenting on the UYSS EA.
Right of Way (ROW)	Publicly owned land occupied by facilities such as roadways or public utilities. A public right-of-way by-law is designated under the <i>Highway Traffic Act</i> .
Sanitary Sewage	Liquid or waterborne waste, of industrial or commercial origin, or of domestic origin, including human body waste, toilet or other bathroom waste, and shower, tub, culinary, sink and laundry waste.
(UYSS) Service Area	Area to be serviced by the undertaking consisting of the growth portions of the Towns of Aurora, Newmarket, and East Gwillimbury, including Holland Landing, Queensville, and Sharon.
Screening	A process of applying criteria/criterion to alternatives and eliminating those that do not meet minimum conditions or categorical requirements from further consideration.

Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

Screening Criteria/Criterion	A set of minimum conditions or categorical requirements that an alternative must satisfy in order to be carried forward for further consideration.
Sewer System	A network of service branches, trunk and local sewers, pumping stations, and appurtenances all for purposes of conveying sewage. Sewage may be either sanitary sewage or storm sewage.
Short List	The result of applying a screening process to a list of alternatives. The "short list" represents those alternatives that met minimum conditions or requirements and will be carried forward for comparative evaluation.
Simcoe Lowlands	A physiographic region comprising flat floored valley features that generally correspond to current river systems. It is part of the Lake Simcoe watershed.
Social Environment	Represents the external conditions under which people engage in <i>social</i> activity within their community.
Species at Risk Act (SARA)	A Canadian Federal law that seeks to prevent Canadian indigenous species, subspecies, and distinct populations from becoming extirpated or extinct, to provide for the recovery of endangered or threatened species, and encourage the management of other species to prevent them from becoming at risk.
Species of Special Concern	A species is of special concern because of characteristics that make it particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events.
Stakeholder Sensitivity Analysis	A study that identifies key stakeholders/groups, describes key stakeholder issues/concerns, and provides inputs to a planned communication strategy for implementation during the project.
Storm Sewage	Water that is discharged from a surface as a result of rainfall, snow melt or snowfall.

Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

Surface Water	Water that exists above the substrate or soil surface, including runoff from precipitation events and snow melt, typically occurring in streams, creeks, rivers, lakes, ponds and wetlands.
Terms of Reference (ToR)	The first step in an application for approval to proceed with a project or undertaking under the <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> is the submission of a Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Environmental Assessment (EA). Public and agency consultation is required on the preparation and submission of the ToR to the Ministry of the Environment. Approval is required by the Minister of the Environment. If approved, the ToR provides a framework / work plan for the EA.
Terrestrial	Refers to animals and plants living or growing on the ground (land), as opposed to animals and plants living in aquatic environments. Specifically referring to habitats where the water table is rarely or briefly above the surface and where soils are not saturated with water.
Threatened species	A species that is listed or categorized as a "Threatened Species" on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' official species at risk list, as updated and amended from time to time.
Till	Glacial drift composed of an unconsolidated, heterogeneous mixture of clay, sand, pebbles, cobbles, and boulders.
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)	Established under the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i> (1946), the TRCA prepares and delivers programs for the management of the renewable natural resources within watersheds in its jurisdiction.
Traceability	The characteristic of an evaluation process that enables its implementation to be followed with ease.
Trade-offs	A balancing of attributes, all of which are not attainable at the same time. Giving up of one thing in return for another.
Unconfined Aquifer	An aquifer in which there are no confining beds (layers) between the zone of saturation and the surface (commonly referred to a water table aquifer).

Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

Undertaking	An enterprise, activity, proposal, plan or program in respect of a commercial or business enterprise or activity of a person or persons that has potential environmental effects and is assessed in accordance with the requirements of the <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> .
Upper York/upper York	Upper York is defined as the general area of York Region within the Lake Simcoe watershed.
Watercourse	A body of water having defined bed and banks with permanent or intermittent flow that may include rivers, creeks, streams, and springs.
Watersheds	An area that is drained by a river and its tributaries.
Water Quality Trading	An approach to achieving water quality targets or objectives in which a point source may offset with or purchase pollutant reduction credits from another point source in a defined geographic area (e.g. the same watershed) which can then be used to meet the point source's discharge requirements for the same pollutant. Water quality trading will be further defined by regulations (rules, requirements, conditions, etc.) if enabled through regulation.
Wetland	Lands that are seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water, as well as lands where the water table is close to or at the surface. In either case the presence of abundant water has caused the formation of soils saturated with water and has favoured the dominance of either hydrophytic plants or water tolerant plants. The four major types of wetlands are swamps, marshes, bogs, and fens.
York Durham Sewage System (YDSS)	A centralized wastewater collection and treatment system for both York and Durham Regions.
York-Peel-Durham-Toronto (YPDT) Groundwater Management Study	A multi-agency, collaborative approach to collecting, analyzing and disseminating water resource data as a basis for effective stewardship of water resources.

Glossary of Terms

For the Proposed Terms of Reference and Work Plans

York Region's Planning for Tomorrow A growth initiative conducted by the York Region that ensures that a minimum of 40 percent of approved growth occurs through intensification in existing built up areas.

York Region's Sustainability Strategy A framework for integrating Economy, Environment and Communities through establishing the case for sustainability by emphasizing engagement, monitoring and continuous improvement.

York Region's Water Efficiency Program (Water for Tomorrow) An innovative and award-winning water-efficiency program that provides tools to York Region residents for conserving water in the home, garden and at work.
