Twenty years ago, works were underway to prepare the MOE's 1991 Interim Water Quality Guidelines. This simple document outlined a different approach to dealing with Ontario stormwater runoff. In essence, the document dealt with the need to address the quality of urban runoff as it reaches our stream and rivers while the need for quantity control remained a concern. As a first step, the Interim Water Quality Guidelines targeted sediment removal to address both fishery and stormwater quality concerns. Aesthetics was also another target. The document promoted a holistic approach to stormwater, giving equal importance to the control of peak flow, volume, quality, preservation and enhancement of fish habitat.

From this single document came several documents including Watershed Planning, the Natural Channel Design, Erosion Controls, Environmental Assessment for Public and Private Undertaking, MOE Stormwater Management manuals and guidelines, etc. To meet the Interim Water Quality Guidelines, several changes had to take place. Urban planning took a greener design which incorporates a vegetation plan, an erosion and control plan, an area for water quality ponds, a recharge of the ground water, and a buffer zone along streams and rivers to name only a few. Transportation also integrated designs which address the quality of highway runoff, wildlife crossing, fish habi- tat, landscaping along highway corridors, etc. Public education took giant steps both at the school and at the public participation level. Changes were made at elementary, secondary, college and university levels. Grade five students "took to the street" and painted fish logos at catchbasins along urban streets, homes were retrofitted with rain barrels, high school students participated in the raising and release of fish in urban stream.

But the biggest impact of the 1991 MOE's interim quality guidelines is the recognition that engineering alone cannot provide all the solutions; that successful stormwater management requires a multi-disciplinary focus.

Recognizing that new concerns and issues have arisen since the 1991 Interim Water Quality Guideline, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Conservation Authorities, and Ryerson University will be hosting a three-day conference to identify those needs.

In future, homes may have cisterns to collect rainwater for reuse and green roof technologies exist today which promote groundwater recharge and the control of pollutants at the source. The future may also see treatment of stormwater for more than TSS and associated pollutants while strengthening the linkage between land, air and water. Already municipalities are adopting by-laws controlling the use of pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, while large corporations such as a major Ontario Utility company are undertaking a massive program to deal with dry weather spills at all their transformer stations.

This call for papers focuses on ideas, scientific findings, education, policies, criteria, land use changes, changes in practice, new regulation changes. The four theme areas and an abstract template are provided here.

I personally thank you in advance and look forward to reading your abstract.

John Tran
Conference Coordinator