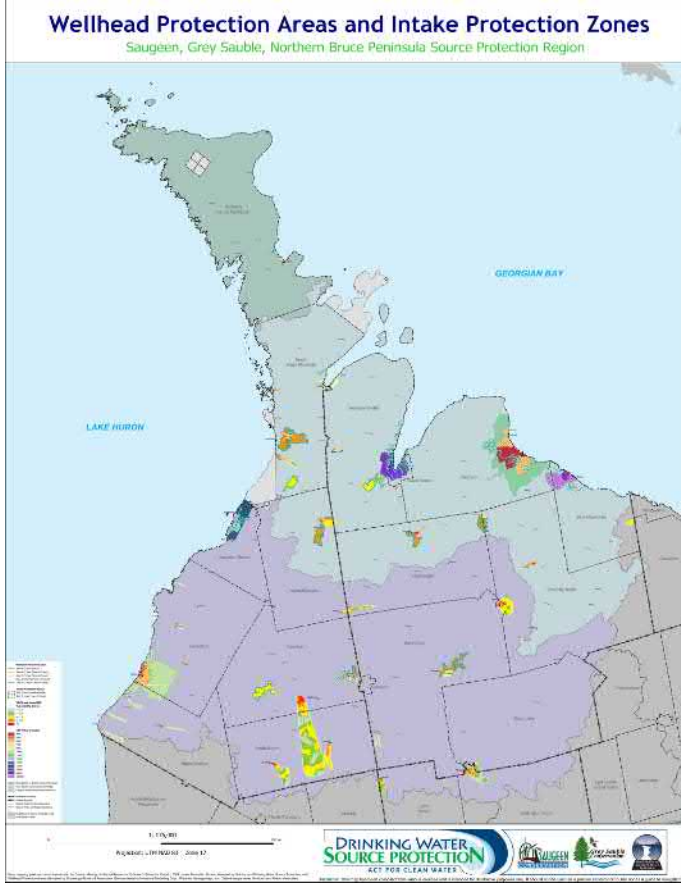


2022 Source Protection Annual Progress Report

I. Introduction

This annual progress report outlines the progress made in implementing our source protection plan for the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region, as required by the Clean Water Act, 2006 and associated regulations. With our Region's Source Protection Plan coming into effect in July of 2016, we have now completed the established 5-year timeline for implementation of our significant drinking water threat policies. Plans are currently underway for the renewal and replacement of Source Protection Committee members over the next couple years as required under the Clean Water Act, 2006. On November 7, 2022, we received Minister's Approval on the Section 36 Source Protection Plan amendments in accordance with the Section 36 Order issued when the initial plan was approved. These Plan amendments addressed recently updated 2021 Technical Rule changes and were in line with previous consultations with municipalities, RMOs and other key stakeholder groups.



II. A message from your local Source Protection Committee

Our progress score on achieving source protection plan objectives this reporting period:

- P: Progressing Well/On Target** – The majority of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.
- S: Satisfactory** – Some of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.
- L: Limited progress** – A few of source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.

The great progress to date on source protection plan implementation was made possible with the strong support and direct involvement of municipalities, agricultural and industry sectors, as well as other environmental and health related stakeholder groups. While the program has reached a major milestone whereby 100% of significant threat policies have been implemented, there is still a need to ensure that any outstanding municipal plan/by-law amendments or renewal of risk management plans are fully implemented as required under the plan. The recent Minister's Approval on the Section 36 Source Protection Plan amendments marks another significant milestone in the evolution of the source protection plan and ultimate goal to ensure that activities cease to be, or never become significant threats to municipal sources of drinking water. The Minister's letter mentions that future amendments to the plan can be made through locally initiated amendments under Section 34 to address new or expanding drinking water systems, new scientific or technical information, revisions to address implementation challenges, and any other updates deemed necessary to protect the source of drinking water. Information related to potential climate change implications will also be assessed in coordination with interested municipalities and key partners within the Region. The Committee strongly advocates for continued provincial funding to protect current and future generations. Without the ongoing provision of financial resources, including annual cost of living increases, the significant progress achieved in the development and implementation of the source protection plan would be greatly diminished.

III. Our Watershed

To learn more, please read our assessment report(s) and source protection plan(s).

The Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region is comprised of three Source Protection Areas. These areas are the Saugeen Valley Source Protection Area, the Grey Sauble Source Protection Area and the Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Area. The Region represents approximately 8400 km² and has approximately 160,000 residents. Our Source Protection Region also includes the Chippewas of Saugeen, who have reserve land outside of Southampton, the Chippewas of Nawash, who have the Neyaashiinigmiing reserve in the Cape Croker area and the Métis Nation of Ontario.

The Saugeen Source Protection Area (Saugeen SPA) is comprised of the watershed that represents the jurisdiction of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority. The Municipality of West Grey is the most populated municipality in this SPA. With the exception of Hanover, each municipality is comprised of settlement areas surrounded by extensive rural areas. The vast majority of the Saugeen SPA averages less than 20 people per km². The lowest population densities occur in the farmlands away from Lake Huron and in the eastern portions of the SPA. Between the 15 municipalities located in this SPA, there are a total of 21 municipal drinking water systems. These systems include the Arran-Elderslie Drinking Water System (DWS), Walkerton DWS, Chepstow DWS, Lake Rosalind DWS, Markdale Well Supply, Hanover Water Treatment Plant, Lakeshore DWS, Village of Ripley Well Supply, Scott Point DWS, Underwood DWS, Tiverton DWS, Armow DWS, Kincardine DWS, Minto Pines Subdivision DWS, Clifford Well Supply, Southampton Water Treatment Plant, Mildmay Well Supply, Teeswater Well Supply, Mount Forest DWS, Durham Well Supply and the Neustadt Well Supply.

The Grey Sauble Source Protection Area (Grey Sauble SPA) is comprised of the watershed that represents the jurisdiction of the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority. The City of Owen Sound is the most populated municipality in the Grey Sauble SPA, where there are more than 880 people per km². Similar concentrations can be found in the larger urban centres such as Markdale, Meaford and Thornbury. That being said, the vast majority of the Grey Sauble SPA averages less than 20 people per km². Between the 8 municipalities located in this SPA, there are a total of 15 municipal drinking water systems. These systems include the Tara Drinking Water System (DWS), Thornbury DWS, Chatsworth DWS, Walters Falls DWS, Pottawatomi Village Water Treatment Plant, Shallow Lake Water Treatment Plant, East Linton Water Treatment Plant, Kimberly-Amik-Talisman Well Supply, Meaford PUC Water Treatment Plant, R.H. Neath Water Treatment Plant, Amabel-Sauble DWS, Foreman Water Works, Huron Woods Water Supply Works, Oliphant Water System and the Warton Water Treatment Plant.

The Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Area (NBP SPA) is comprised of the area that falls under the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula, with the exception of some small areas along the bottom portion of the municipality that are covered under the Grey Sauble SPA. Lion's Head and Tobermory are the largest settlement areas in the NBP SPA. There are extensive rural areas and cottage developments on the Lake Huron and Georgian Bay shorelines and some inland lakes, with an average of five people per km². Within this SPA, there are two drinking water systems, these are the Tobermory Community Centre/ Fire Hall/ Municipal Concession Stand, and the Lion's Head Water Treatment Plant.

IV. At a Glance: Progress on Source Protection Plan Implementation

1. Source Protection Plan Policies and Addressing Significant Risks

P: Progressing Well/On Target

The Source Protection Plan is comprised of 62 policies that address significant drinking water threats directly, and 57 policies that address other areas such as the general, transport pathways and monitoring policies. 100% of the policies that address significant drinking water threats are implemented, or have been evaluated and determined that no further action is required. Of these, 97% of the policies have been fully implemented, and 3% require no further action, which includes Policy 02-06 Building Code Changes Related to On-site Sewage Systems (addressed through existing Building Code requirements) and Policy 06-02 NASM Plan Approvals (was directed at OMAFRA instead of MECP environmental compliance approvals).

Of the policies not specifically associated with significant drinking water risks, only one policy has not been fully implemented - G-04 Amend Official Plan and Zoning By-Law, as there remains a couple municipalities that have yet to complete their amendments. These amendments are underway, but were delayed due to pandemic restrictions which affected public consultations efforts.

2. Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

The Region contains almost the full extents of Grey County and Bruce County, as well as small portions of the Counties of Wellington and Huron. There are 25 municipalities (including upper-, lower, and single-tier), within our source protection region, 21 of which have vulnerable areas where significant drinking water threat policies apply.

P: Progressing Well/ On Target

100% of the municipalities in our source protection region have processes in place to ensure that their day-to-day planning decisions conform with our source protection plans.

Municipalities in our source protection region are also required to take the next step to review and update their Official Plans and Zoning By-Laws, where applicable, to ensure that they conform with the local source protection plans. This is to be done the next time they undertake an Official Plan review under the Planning Act. Of the 21 municipalities required to complete the Official Plan conformity exercise, 100% have amended or are in the process of amending their Official Plans (19 fully implemented and 2 in-progress). Of the 17 municipalities required to complete the Zoning by-law conformity exercise, 100% have amended or are in the process of amending their Zoning by-laws. Staff have been working with municipalities to ensure that all required Official Plan and Zoning by-law amendments are completed in a timely manner. Due to recent impacts affecting consultation processes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a few municipalities have extended their Official Plan/ Zoning by-law amendments into 2023.

3. Septic Inspections

P: Progressing Well/On Target

99% of on-site sewage systems have been inspected in accordance with the Ontario Building Code. Inspection results have found that the majority (98%) are functioning as designed or carrying out required pump-outs. 2% of the systems required major maintenance, which have been addressed. These included replacement of tank covers and tank replacements.

All municipalities within our source protection region are aware of the requirements to implement a mandatory on-site sewage maintenance inspection program within vulnerable source protection areas as specified under the Building Code (Ontario Regulation 332/12 under the Building Code Act). Septics are required to be inspected once every 5 years within vulnerable source protection areas.

An additional 84 septic systems were inspected in 2022 as part of the 2nd round of septic inspections. An increasing number of inspections are scheduled for 2023 as part of the 2nd round.

4. Risk Management Plans

P: Progressing Well/On Target

As of December 31, 2022, 160 risk management plans were established in our source protection region. An estimated total of 164 risk management plans are required across the Region, with the remaining 4 plans in the process of being completed (pending final sign-off). In 2022, staff also began 5-year renewals of existing risk management plans, with a total of 38 plans renewed or transferred to new owners/tenants. In 2023, it is anticipated that there will be an increase in the total number of RMPs required to address amendments for salt storage and handling threats.

There have been 246 inspections carried out by a Risk Management Inspectors for prohibited or regulated activities. There is a 100% compliance rate with the risk management plans established in our source protection region.

5. Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

P: Progressing Well/ On Target

Ontario ministries are reviewing previously issued provincial approvals (i.e., prescribed instruments, such as environmental compliance approvals under the Environmental Protection Act) where they have been identified as a tool in our plan to address existing activities that pose a significant risk to sources of drinking water. The provincial approvals are being amended or revoked where necessary to conform with plan policies. Our policies set out a timeline of 3 years to complete the review and make any necessary changes.

The ministries have completed this for 100% of previously issued provincial approvals in our source protection region. This detailed review included 37 of drinking water licenses and drinking water works permits, 11 Nutrient Management Strategies and Non-Agricultural Source Material Plans, 1 waste disposal site, 42 hauled sewage permits, and 10 sewage works/wastewater.

Since 2016, a detailed review of 3 waste disposal sites was completed, 12 hauled sewage permits and 1 Water Taking Permit, which were all determined not to be a significant drinking water threat (SDWT). Also, 18 wastewater/sewage works were reviewed with 10 identified as not a SDWT and 8 as a SDWT, where no additional conditions were needed. Also, 13 Nutrients Management Strategies (NMS) and Non-Agricultural Source Material (NASM) Plans were identified for review, 8 were determined not to be SDWT, with 4 NMS and 1 NASM Plan identified as a SDWT.

In 2022 detailed reviews were completed for 1 wastewater/sewage works, and 1 fuel storage at a drinking water plant with SDWT to be managed through an existing Prescribed Instrument. Furthermore, 4 hauled sewage permits were reviewed but determined to not be a SDWT.

6. Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour

There are a total of 152 Drinking Water Protection Zone signs that have been installed in our source protection region. 138 signs were installed by Municipalities and Counties, as well as 14 by the Ministry of Transportation on provincial highways.

The installation of these road signs have greatly increased public awareness of source protection zones across the region and have resulted in increased communications from the public regarding clarification on source protection areas and related source protection policies. They have also increased notifications of potential activities that could affect vulnerable source water protection areas.

Additionally, the risk management process has greatly increased awareness across the region. Through direct interactions with affected landowners, understanding of the program is growing along with an understanding of the need to protect drinking water sources.

7. Source Protection Plan Policies: Summary of Delays

Not applicable to our source protection region/area.

8. Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions

In our source protection region/area, no issues have been identified in our local science-based assessment reports regarding the quality of the sources of municipal drinking water.

Under monitoring policy M-29 the municipality of Brockton continues to monitor nitrate levels for wells 7 and 9. Results of this monitoring have shown that nitrate levels have decreased and continue to decrease below the Maximum Allowable Concentration of 10 mg/L as per O. Reg. 169/03: Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards (ODWQS).

As part of the proposed Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Phase 2 Technical Rules review of salt application threat circumstances, staff conducted a preliminary review of an additional 12 drinking water systems where salt application threats could apply (in addition to the Durham and Mount Forest Wells). Of these, 8 systems measured sodium levels above the aesthetic standard for sodium (greater than 20 mg/L). As part of the approved Sec.36 Source Protection Plan amendments in 2022, salt application/storage threat policies would now apply to additional areas.

9. Science-based Assessment Reports: Work Plans

In 2022 staff participated in meetings with the municipality of Brockton and the Lake Rosalind/Marl Lake Cottagers Association to discuss local studies showing high E.coli and Total Coliform results for raw water samples in the lakes and nearby streams. As part of proposed Sec.34 Source Protection Plan review and 2021 Technical Rule changes, staff reviewed WHPA-E delineation and vulnerability scores associated with unique soil and drainage conditions around these lakes. The Lake Rosalind WHPA-E zone surrounds the lakes which would enable an amendment to septic policies to apply to Moderate/Low risk threats in these areas.

With respect to Technical Rule 30.1, a Tier 3 Water Budget was completed for the Lake Rosalind and Ruhl Lake systems in the municipality of Brockton. There was sufficient information available to complete the Tier 3 Water Budget and resulting WHPA-Q protection zone for the Lake Rosalind drinking water system.

10. More from the Watershed

To learn more about our source protection region/area, visit our website at:

Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula

In 2022 staff engaged with municipal staff, councils and landowners across the Region. Through council meetings, site visits, risk management related activities and public events, there were many opportunities to assess source protection plan implementation successes and challenges including policy effectiveness. This public engagement was key to completion of the proposed Sec.36 amendments to the local Source Protection Plan.

Support materials supplied by Conservation Ontario have resulted in increased engagement on social media platforms. Visit the link below to learn more:

<https://conservationontario.ca/conservation-authorities/source-water-protection/>



Drinking Water Source Protection

Source Protection Plan Amendments Approved

Section 36 Source Protection Plan amendments submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) were approved for the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, and Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Regions. The Source Protection Plan sets out policies that use a variety of approaches to protect municipal drinking water sources, including education and outreach, the development of risk management plans, prohibition, land use planning, and monitoring. These policies will help keep contaminants out of our aquifers, rivers and lakes that are sources of drinking water. For more information, visit: [Source Protection Plan Amendments Approved! – Drinking Water Source Protection \(waterprotection.ca\)](http://waterprotection.ca)



Salt Responsibly this Winter

Conservation Ontario and local source protection authorities have launched a Salt Responsibly Campaign to raise awareness about road salt issues and promote better road salt management while keeping people safe when traveling.

Tips to Salt Responsibly:

1. Spread salt sparingly and evenly.
2. Shovel or plow before applying salt.
3. Clean up salt spills.
4. Keep the lid on your salt container closed to protect it from rain/snow.

For more information, visit: [Drinking Water Source Protection - Salt Responsibly \(arcgis.com\)](http://arcgis.com)



Staff with their new Salt Responsibly stickers