

**SAUGEEN, GREY SAUBLE, NORTHERN BRUCE PENINSULA
SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING #99**

A G E N D A

November 28, 2025

12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Harmony Centre - 890 4th Ave East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2N7**

and Virtual Via Web/Ex

CALL TO ORDER

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Declaration of Pecuniary or Conflict of Interest
3. Adoption of Minutes of July 25, 2025 meeting
4. Matters Arising from the Minutes
5. Correspondence
6. Reports
 - Administration Report – Report 6a attached
 - Communications Report – Report 6b attached
7. New Business
 - Karst Study Update – Report 7a attached
 - SPC Acting Chair – Report 7b attached
8. Other Business
9. Next Meeting and Adjournment

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

MINUTES – MEETING # 98

MEETING: SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

DATE: July 25, 2025

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

LOCATION: SAUGEEN CONSERVATION & VIRTUALLY

CALL TO ORDER

Chair called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

In Attendance: Chair, Carl Kuhnke
Gord Timmerman, John Fruin, Dick Hibma, John Rodgers, Paul McQueen,
Harley Greenfield, Amy Harrison

Virtual Attendance: Andrew Barton, Dan Orr, Jim Hanna, Laura Collings (Ex-Officio, Ministry
of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), Dr. Hugh Simpson –
University of Guelph

Proxy Appointed By: NA

Others Present: Carl Seider, Project Manager, Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP)

Also in Attendance: Karen Gillan, Program Supervisor & Risk Management Inspector, DWSP,
Erik Downing, CAO, Saugeen Valley Conservation, Danielle Fisher, Centre
Wellington County, Chris Cossitt – Bruce Federation of Agriculture

Regrets: Troy Pelletier, Les Nichols, Tim Lanthier, CAO, Grey Sauble Conservation

The Chair introduced and welcomed Members and attendees.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.
SPC-25-282

Moved by John Fruin
Seconded by Amy Harrison

THAT the Agenda be adopted as distributed/amended.

Carried

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary or Conflict of Interest

Source Protection Committee (SPC) members were reminded to disclose any pecuniary interest that may arise during the course of the meeting. No disclosures of pecuniary interest were expressed at this time.

3. Adoption of Minutes

**Motion No.
SPC-25-283**

**Moved by John Rodgers
Seconded by Harley Greenfield**

THAT the Minutes of the March 28, 2025, Source Protection Committee meeting be adopted as distributed/amended.

Carried

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nothing raised

5. Correspondence

Chair Kuhnke shared that the Conservation Authorities will now fall under the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Kirsten Service is Director, previously were under the Ministry of Natural Resources.

6. Reports

Administration Report 6a

Mr. Seider gave an update on the status of several wells in the region. With regard to the Arran-Elderslie well, staff reviewed the hydrogeological report developed by Burnside & Associates, which included pumping test results for the proposed new Well #4 in Chesley. It was noted in this report that the status of the current groundwater model will need to be discussed with staff prior to updating the original model. The pump test results demonstrated that the new Well #4 draws water from the same deep overburden aquifer as the existing Well #3, which is located 56 metres to the West. It was also noted that the water quality results indicate that the aquifer is a secure groundwater source and is not GUDI. He emphasized with municipalities that we try not to be a roadblock to bringing systems online, keeping this office informed can keep the process moving forward.

The Town of the Blue Mountains is currently engaged in a Municipal Class EA for the construction of a new drinking water intake pipe leading into Georgian Bay for a new Water Treatment Plant in Craigeleith. There are currently four possible intake locations under consideration near Craigeleith Provincial Park. Work has been completed on possible delineation of vulnerable areas/IPZ mapping and preliminary assessment of threats.

The Municipality of South Bruce was unable to find/secure an alternative well site for the proposed new well in Teeswater, so are looking at the existing municipal well site as a possible location for the new well (approximately 50 metres East of the existing well). Consultants are currently finalizing the Class EA documents, with options for consideration.

There were no updates for Kincardine or West Grey.

If municipal representatives hear of new systems being considered to please let Mr. Seider know.

Mr. Seider noted that the Sec.34 Amendment Update has been approved. Staff will work with all affected parties to ensure timely implementation of the policy amendments. Work with Brockton has included suggested wording for by-laws to support their process. Member Hanna shared the process his municipality (Huron-Kinloss) undertook in their septic inspection policy. If you don't look, you don't know was a key learning/message as good treatment by private systems can avoid costly sewer installations in lakeshore communities and protects the water source. He encourages promotion of septic inspections especially in cottage areas where once seasonal living has become permanent home residences with increased water use and waste generation.

Mr. Seider spoke to the Auditor General – Safety of Non-Municipal Drinking Water System report. MECP has not fully assessed the feasibility of applying source water protection to non-municipal sources. There was a lively discussion amongst the members about the need to inspect drinking water systems as the failure to do so can lead to loss of life. A letter to the Minister acknowledging the report and planned feasibility study indicating the SPC's willingness to provide help and that regular updates be requested was put forth for consideration. Guest Chris Cossitt shared how many agricultural commodities require annual well water testing as part of Animal Care Components in order to sell their products to the end user. It is a trade and marketing component that also ensures that animals are using safe quality water supply. Member Barton added that the Minister of Health accepts the recommendations in the Auditor General's report and that the Health Units have sent a letter to partner in resources as they also need financial resources to meet the needs of their inspection role.

A motion was put forth based on the discussions by committee.

**Motion No.
SPC-25-284**

**Moved by Dick Hibma
Seconded by Jim Hanna**

That the Source Protection Committee will write a letter to MECP Director Kirsten Service about the Auditor General well sampling, drafted by Carl Seider for review by the committee and sent to the Ministry.

Carried

It was later noted that the following be added to the letter, need to decommission unused wells and get funding, stewardship funds help protect aquifers and have been successfully distributed by Conservation Authorities and the Drinking Water Source Protection program in the past.

Mr. Seider spoke to the Canadian Environment Protection Act Update, in accordance with Act, the Ministers are recommending that the Governor in Council make an order to add the class of

PFAS, excluding fluoropolymers, to Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the Act (list of toxic substances). PFAS have been an issue with fire suppression products historically.

Mr. Seider spoke to the Temporary Salt Storage at the Owen Sound Harbour, he conducted a site visit in a Risk Management capacity to determine if there were any potential drinking water threats based on this activity. Salt storage activities are currently not considered a significant drinking water threat in this location (IPZ-2 score 4).

Motion No.

Moved by Gord Timmerman

SPC-25-285

Seconded by John Fruin

THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee receives the Administrative Report 6a for information.

Carried

Communications Report 6b

Ms. Gillan gave an update on staff activities on their 25 Year Commemoration of the Walkerton Water Tragedy. Interviews with Chair Kuhnke and Justice O'Connor will be part of the larger series and commemoration campaign in Ontario. This includes interviews from others who have had various roles in conservation, water protection and the water industry. The social media campaign will run from July 7 to August 20, 2025. The Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival was held on May 21, 22 & 23. Ms. Gillan shared some of the water drops decorated by local students. It was a great event and SPC Members are encouraged to volunteer at future events, it would be greatly appreciated. The full-length video was shown following the report.

Motion No.

Moved by Amy Harrison

SPC-25-286

Seconded by Paul McQueen

THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee receives the Communications Report 6b for information.

Carried

8. New Business

Shallow Lake Karst Study - Report 7a

The Project Manager reviewed Report 7a and noted that back in 2009, Dr. Worthington's Review of the Kimberley and Shallow Lake Wellhead Protection Areas identified several limitations to the WHPA modelling because of the influence of karst around these drinking water systems.

Staff are currently reviewing of the data collected from the municipal Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and rainfall/snowmelt data over the past 5 years. Staff have updated the request for hourly turbidity data from the WTP operator for a number of selected dates over this period of time in an effort to determine possible times of travel for groundwater flows in the area surrounding Shallow Lake.

Next steps include the issuance of a Request for Proposals for a consulting contract to assist in reviewing the data collected and preparation of possible groundwater modelling work as part of the Kimberley and Shallow Lake Wellhead Protection Area review. General review of the Kimberley system was also discussed.

**Motion No.
SPC-25-287**

**Moved by John Fruin
Seconded by Amy Harrison**

THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee receives the Shallow Lake Report 7a for information and directs Staff to issue a Request for Proposals for consulting services for possible groundwater modelling work.

Carried

Battery Energy Storage Systems - Report 7b

The Project Manager reviewed Report 7b and spoke to the Tara Battery Energy Storage System (Tara BESS) is a 400-megawatt (MW), 1,600-megawatt hours (MWh) utility-scale battery energy storage project proposed in the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie. The municipality denied the BESS project on July 15, 2025. The committee discussed the process, concerns, and dangers associated with these facilities and lithium ion batteries. The need for checks and balances and local scrutiny was emphasized.

He also spoke about a similar 125MW BESS project that was considered by the Upper Thames Region SPA within a WHPA-D area with some considerations.

**Motion No.
SPC-25-288**

**Moved by Amy Harrison
Seconded by Harley Greenfield**

THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee receives Report #7b for information.

Carried

8. Other Business

Member Rodgers spoke about a project that the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association has received a \$50,000 grant from the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to develop best management practices for drinking water projects in karst areas. Partners on this project include Mel Luymes and Dr. Hugh Simpson.

Member Greenfield brought up a development in Crawford area for discussion.

Staff member Karen Gillan shared Minister Excellence in Agriculture Awards information and the new online system for private well water testing.

Chair Kuhnke shared that he has sold his home and will be moving from the area in November and as per regulations cannot Chair from outside the source protection region, he will plan to attend the next meeting.

9. Confirmation of Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next Committee meeting will be held on November 28, 2025, the location to be determined, probably Owen Sound area.

There being no further business, Chair Carl Kuhnke declared the meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

**Motion No.
SPC-25-289**

Moved by Gord Timmerman

THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee adjourns.

Carl Kuhnke
Chair

Karen Gillan
Recording Secretary (Acting)

REPORT #6a

TO: SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

DATE: NOVEMBER 28, 2025

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Municipal Well Updates

Arran Elderslie – Chesley Well

Staff spoke with the consultants working on the new Chesley Well project and discussed the need for a technical analysis of the new well location and adjustments required for the existing Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) delineation. It is anticipated that the new well will be incorporated into the existing WHPA delineation, with modifications to account for the increased draw and new/amended WHPA zones.

Kincardine – Tiverton Drinking Water System

The municipality has been instructed to further evaluate the option to connect to the water main from Kincardine. They are still in the comment period for the Class EA.

South Bruce – Teeswater

The proposed location of the new Teeswater well #2 is about 20-30 metres to the East of the existing Well #1. Based on this proposed location it is anticipated that a minor adjustment to the WHPA delineation will be required to account for the new well.



Town of the Blue Mountains – Craigleith

The Town continues to evaluate the potential intake locations for the proposed Craigleith water treatment facility. Technical studies are ongoing, along with communication and consultation with the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (as the proposed intake location falls within Ontario Parks property).

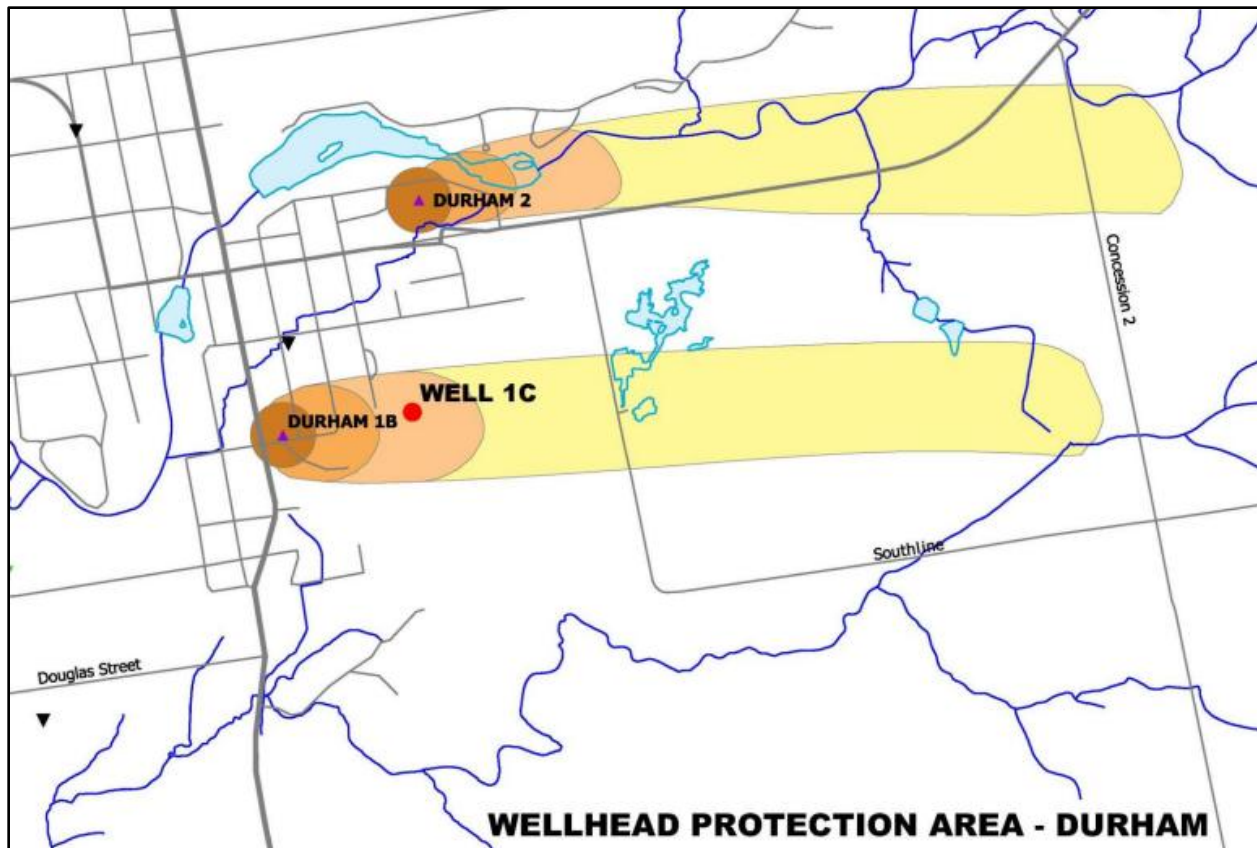
West Grey – Durham Well

On August 11, 2025, staff received an updated on the Class EA for the new well supply in Durham. The update noted that in October and November 2024, drilling and construction took place to construct a new well at Rockwood Terrace's site in Durham. A 300 mm dia. (Well #1C) was completed in bedrock at 71 m depth which is similar to other municipal wells. Downhole testing indicated virtually all flow to the well occurred below a depth of 45 m. More than 80% inflow came from three (3) major fractures at depths of 59 m, 63 m and 68 m. 72-hour pumping test was completed in December 2024, and water level was measured in neighbouring wells. No complaints of interference with private wells were received. Monitoring showed strong hydraulic connection between Well # 1C and existing municipal Well # 2 & 2A and subdued connection with Well # 1B. Testing indicated Well 1C will sustainably yield water supply at the test rate of 2160 m³/day.

Staff met with municipal staff and the consultants doing WHPA delineation work on September 22nd, 2025 to share modelling and available data for Durham. During this meeting staff also discussed any vulnerability and threats assessment work that has been undertaken in the area of the proposed new well, which can support the Source Protection Plan amendments for this new well.

Below is the location of the new well 1C:





Streamlining Environmental Permissions for Stormwater Management

A new regulation under the EPA to require proponents to self-register certain well-understood storm water management works online on the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR) instead of applying for an environmental compliance approval (ECA). This would apply to private stormwater management works only.

Construction of these works can begin immediately after registration instead of waiting up to a year for ministry approval. Proponents of these storm water management works are required to comply with the new regulation, which establishes rules to maintain environmental protection. Among other things, the regulation requires:

- a licensed engineering practitioner (LEP) prepare a storm water management works report that must be filed with the registration.
- that the storm water management works report prepared by the LEP include information and requirements for the design of the works, operation and maintenance of the works, monitoring requirements, where recommended, and erosion and sediment control measures
- proponents of these works to implement requirements set out in the storm water management works report and, in some cases, prepare and implement a spill contingency plan.

The regulation requires the LEP to determine whether the establishment of the storm water management works is or would be a significant drinking water threat, and if so, demonstrate how

the considerations included in the report are intended to achieve the objective of ensuring that the activity ceases to be or never becomes a significant drinking water threat. The regulation came into effect on September 1, 2025.

This change does not affect local Source Protection Plan policy (Policy 02-12 Stormwater Management Review), which asks municipalities to give due consideration to evaluating existing stormwater management facilities in vulnerable areas to ensure proper functioning with respect to water quality.

Provincial Funding Opportunity

MECP recently announced a call for applications for funding under the **Best Practices for Source Water Protection (BPSWP) program**. The objective of the BPSWP program is to assist Ontario communities, such as rural and northern communities and First Nations, to identify their sources of drinking water and associated risks, as well as to develop local source water protection action plans for managing and protecting their drinking water sources. Developing source water protection action plans is an important step in ensuring Ontario's communities can enjoy safe and clean drinking water.

The program will help protect drinking water sources and systems that are not included in a source protection plan and are not regulated under the Clean Water Act. Ontario provides guidance on best practices for source water protection, including information on how to identify areas where drinking water sources could be at risk and how to manage risks to drinking water sources.

Funding is available for projects starting before March 31, 2026, with all activities to be completed by February 2027. The maximum amount of funding available for a project is \$100,000 with a maximum of three project applications per applicant organization.

Bill 56, including Amendments to the Clean Water Act & Safe Drinking Water Act

The province is proposing changes to the Clean Water Act so that source protection authorities can approve routine updates to source protection plans. This includes the addition of a new well where protections to source water already exist.

The proposed amendment includes regulatory updates to enable the use of new drinking water sources faster to support growing communities including; simplifying consultation; expanding what counts as a minor change to a source protection plan; removing duplicate steps; and clarifying how approvals work.

Other updates include changes under the Safe Drinking Water Act to allow new wells or intakes to supply water before plan updates are finalized, where protections are already in place, and creating a new Minister's regulation to make rules for policies, annual reporting, and reviews more consistent and transparent.

It is anticipated that the changes will reduce administrative burden, maintain strong environmental and public health protections and ensure timely, effective safeguards for municipal drinking water

sources, with continued public and Indigenous consultation and ministry oversight for significant amendments.

Proposal to Amend Regulations for Sewage Works for On-Farm Housing

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) have posted proposal notices to adapt the regulatory frameworks for septic systems servicing on-farm housing. This proposed initiative would help support the province's agricultural sector and food-supply chain by allowing these systems to be established faster, while continuing to safeguard human health and maintain environmental protections.

Currently, septic systems with a design capacity exceeding 10,000 litres per day per property require an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) under the *Ontario Water Resources Act*, while smaller septic systems are governed by Ontario's Building Code. Two alternative regulatory pathways for small to medium-sized systems are as follows:

1. The first proposal is to transfer the regulation and enforcement of certain additional small-sized septic systems servicing on-farm worker housing from the *Ontario Water Resources Act* to the Ontario Building Code. Specifically, siting multiple Building Code-regulated septic systems on a single agricultural property, up to a cumulative limit of 50,000 litres per day would no longer require an ECA. Instead, proponents of these systems would be regulated under and be required to meet additional enhanced protective requirements proposed under the Building Code.
2. The second proposal is to allow proponents of certain septic systems servicing on-farm worker housing to self-register on the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR), instead of obtaining an ECA. This pathway is intended for septic systems with individual design capacities that range from 10,000 L/day to 25,000 litres per day or those that do not meet the requirements for regulation under the Building Code. The cumulative design capacity of systems on an agricultural property would be restricted to 50,000 litres per day when registering on the EASR. Qualified professionals such as a licensed engineering practitioner or professional geoscientist would be required to complete a site assessment and design the sewage works and prepare technical reports. These reports would include design details, effluent criteria and monitoring requirements, a water resource impact assessment, and operations and maintenance requirements.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee receives the Administrative Report 6a for information.

Respectfully submitted,



Carl Seider
Project Manager
Drinking Water Source Protection

REPORT #6b

TO: SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

DATE: November 28, 2025

SUBJECT: COMMUNICATIONS

Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association Pasture Meeting

On September 22, 2025, the Project Manager and Program Supervisor attended a Pasture Meeting hosted by the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association. It was a well-attended evening with good interactions. During social time before meeting, we fielded questions about wells, water testing, karst and how groundwater flows, which could be visually described using some Groundwater Models brought by Dr. Hugh Simpson. (see photo at right)



Dr. Hugh Simpson and Mel Luymes highlighted the Private Drinking Water & Karst BMP Project that we are partnering in to learn and develop best management practices for agriculture and protecting private wells in karst areas. The BMPs from this program link well with the non-municipal drinking water system Best Management Practices that have been distributed by the Ministry. Together we hope to create some useful collateral materials and provide education/outreach to increase awareness of karst, impacts on groundwater systems in karst areas, farming/land stewardship in these areas and protecting your private drinking water are key topics. The Grey Bruce Health Unit is also partnering on this project and will bring valuable expertise, and a network of resources.

Keith Reid from Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) also shared information about available stewardship funding from GSCA and the ALUS program.

SPC Member, John Rodgers speaking to the group about current projects in the Lion's Head area. (photo at right)



Water Topics in the News:

Attached to this report are some articles about water related activities for your review.
 \$5.1 Million Investment To Upgrade Durham Water System – Bayshore Broadcasting
 Creek feeding Lake Simcoe can get as salty as the ocean: Conservation Authority – Barrie Today
 GUEST COLUMN: Legal changes could help = reduce damage from road salt – Barrie Today

Social Media

The 25 Years of Source Water Protection in Ontario social media campaign concluded on August 20th, 2025. There was more engagement from the public on the social media channels for this campaign than some of the previous.



Learn more:

#SourceWaterON

#WaterWednesdays

#DrinkingWaterSources

RECOMMENDATION: THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee receives the Communications Report 6b for information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Gillan'.

Karen Gillan

Program Supervisor/Risk Management Inspector

Drinking Water Source Protection



\$5.1 Million Investment To Upgrade Durham Water System

[Nathan Shubert](#)
Aug 20, 2025 | 6:02 AM



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A \$5.1 million investment is being made to upgrade Durham’s water system.

The municipality of West Grey says the provincial government is contributing \$3.74 million to improve water infrastructure in the town, and the remaining \$1.36 million is being funded through Durham water and sewer user fees.

The work will include modernizing pipelines, improving water treatment facilities, and expanding service capacity to meet increasing demand.

Additionally, the municipality will rehabilitate a 50-year-old concrete reservoir, which has been deteriorating, as well as commission an existing unused storage tank to expand water storage.

Each project will be implemented in phases.

Mayor Kevin Eccles says, “This investment is about more than just pipes and pumps – it’s about ensuring that Durham families, businesses, and future residents have a safe, reliable water supply.”

The work will take place over the next three to four years.



AlphaBaby / Depositphotos.com

Latest News



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31m ago
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Creek feeding Lake Simcoe can get as salty as the ocean: Conservation Authority



[Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter](#)

Aug 17, 2025 2:30 PM



Don Goodyear, general manager of integrated watershed management for the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, left, and his colleague, Bill Thompson, manager of watershed plans and strategies, presented a report to Oro-Medonte Township council on chloride in the Lake Simcoe watershed Wednesday.

[Listen to this article](#)

00:06:19

Compared to urban centres, Oro-Medonte Township's contribution to winter salt concentration in Lake Simcoe is almost negligible.

In fact, according to the folks from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) who monitor the three streams in the township that flow into the lake, the township had just one instance where the

salt concentration level exceeded the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) chronic guideline level of 120 mg/litre.

It's a track record conservation authority officials would like to see elsewhere.

"This graph is kind of like the poster child for what's happening in many lakes in Southern Ontario with respect to chloride concentration," Don Goodyear, general manager of integrated watershed management for the LSRCA told Oro-Medonte council Wednesday during his presentation on chloride in the Lake Simcoe watershed.

On the graph, a line of blue dots trends upward every year since 1970, when concentration levels were about 10 mg/l. In 2024, the concentration level was 61.3 mg/l - a massive increase.

"That's chloride concentration measured in the lake at Atherley Narrows," he said. "The red line at the top of the graph (120 mg/l) is the chronic guideline from the CCME. If unchecked, that blue line eventually is going to cross the red line and, at that point, we're going to see ecological change in the lake.

"We're going to see some changes to how the lake behaves ecologically. We're going to see changes in how the lake behaves in terms of stratification.

"It could mean, you know, impacts to fisheries, more harmful algae blooms, things we don't want to see," he added.

Goodyear said most of the salt is coming from tributaries – streams and rivers – around the lake and it is increasing chloride concentrations at all of the conservation authority's monitoring stations.

"Everywhere across the watershed, chloride concentrations are going up," he said. "However, the impact of that increasing concentration is not the same across the watershed.

"Not surprisingly, urban areas are more impacted because of road densities and impervious surfaces."

In Oro-Medonte, one per cent of the samples exceeded the chronic guideline (120 mg/l). There were no samples that exceeded the acute guideline.

At the other end of the scale, for Western Creek in Newmarket, 94 per cent of the samples exceeded the chronic guidelines and 46 per cent of those samples exceeded the acute guidelines (640 mg/l).

"In the northern part of the watershed, including all of Oro-Medonte, there were very few exceedances of those chronic guidelines and the township clearly has actions in place to keep it that way, but there are some challenges," Goodyear said. "There's a small catchment down in Newmarket – the Western Creek catchment. It's an industrial, commercial, institutional block with a lot of hard surfaces, rooftops, roadways and parking lots.

"This is our worst case," he added.

He said results from the Western are always at or higher than the chronic level.

"We've got a new dubious threshold ... and that's the concentration of seawater," Goodyear said, indicating ocean salinity is 19,400 mg/l. "We exceeded that three times this past winter in Western Creek."

Not surprisingly, he said, the creek has a very poor rating in terms of ecological health.

"The fish and the bugs in this stream are not very healthy," he said.

With that, Goodyear handed over the presentation to Bill Thompson, the conservation authority's manager of watershed plans and strategies.

"The challenge we have is the more difficult one of balancing both maintaining public safety and maintaining the health of Lake Simcoe," Thompson said. "The good news is there are a number of guidance documents and best practices out there to help operators navigate that balance.

"But there are also some real barriers to adoption of some of these best practices."

The primary one is cost.

He said operators and municipalities don't want to pay more to do the work and they don't want to expose themselves to additional liability.

He walked council through a case study that illustrated how one contractor reduced not only his costs but also his environmental impact.

The case study was focused on the parking lot of a big box store. Over a 10-year period, from 2014 to 2024, two contractors worked on the parking lot with essentially the same equipment and the same

direction from the store’s management - keep the property safe, keep customers happy and keep the business afloat.

Described as a traditional contractor, the first contractor sent a truck out every time there was a winter weather event. Each time the contractor would spread a truckload of salt on the parking lot. If it was a significant weather event, they’d send the truck out twice and apply two truckloads of salt.

“The application rate we see in this parking lot is not different from what we see in other parking lots, so they’re kind of typical for what we see across the watershed,” Thompson said.

The second contractor took a different tack.

Instead of sending out a truck when there’s a winter event, they sent out a person who assessed the situation based on their professional opinion. Based on that assessment, they would set out a prescription for that parking lot on that day and those weather conditions.

“Our estimate is that contractor B saved about \$40,000 a year on material costs because of the salt they’re not using,” Thompson said.

“And, probably most important over the course of the 10-year study, there were no slips or trips involved and no complaints from either the property managers or the customers.

“This shows it can be done right - we can maintain surfaces in winter in a way that’s safe by using less salt.”

Comments (1)

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[Sandy Hessel](#) 21 minutes ago

Where is the Western Creek catchment area?

If you would like to apply to become a **Verified Commenter**, please [fill out this form](#).

Trending

GUEST COLUMN: Legal changes could help reduce damage from road salt

Jonathan Scott
about an hour ago



The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is calling on the province to take steps to address road salt pollution. | Image supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

[Listen to this article](#)

00:05:38

The following is from Jonathan Scott, who is chair of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) and a town councillor in Bradford West Gwillimbury.

It's been such a hot summer, it may seem odd to read a column about winter maintenance in August.

But, as the Stark motto goes, winter is coming.

Every winter in Ontario, our roads, parking lots and sidewalks are covered with road salt. It's an ingrained habit. For decades, we've equated "safe" with "salted," and our winter maintenance culture has leaned toward the idea that more salt is always better.

The problem is it's costing us the health of our lakes, rivers, and drinking water sources. Road salt is polluting our water.

In the Nottawasaga watershed, which stretches from Georgian Bay to the north edge of the Greater Toronto Area, chloride concentrations in some watercourses have more than tripled since the 1970s.

Left unchecked, these levels will exceed federal water-quality guidelines. That means serious risks to aquatic life, the health of our streams and wetlands, and, potentially, the safety of our drinking water and agricultural land.

Using less salt is not just an environmental win. It's an economic one. Less salt means lower material costs, fewer truckloads, and less wear and tear on infrastructure.

It means extending the life span of roads, sidewalks and vehicles. And it means less corrosion, fewer potholes, and lower costs for taxpayers.

Local municipalities aren't ignoring the problem. Many have invested in new technology, alternative de-icing mixtures and more precise application methods. My municipality of Bradford West Gwillimbury uses a mix of sand and salt, innovative application guidelines and technology, and we're investing more than \$2.1 million to create a snow storage and filtration system, to help filter pollutants out of snow meltwater before it leeches into our riverway.

These measures help. But a larger driver of chloride increases in our watershed isn't the salt spread by municipalities — it's the salt used by private contractors and property owners on their parking lots. And it's not because they don't care about our environment. It's fear of being sued.

In Ontario, if someone slips and falls, the contractor or property owner can be sued, even if they follow best practices for winter maintenance. Without clear legal protection, the safest business decision often seems to be “use more salt than you think you need, just to be sure.”

More salt means more perceived protection from lawsuits. But it also means more pollution, higher costs and unnecessary strain on infrastructure.

This is why the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's board of directors joined other municipalities and conservation authorities to call on the province to change the law for better environmental conservation by introducing a limited-liability framework.

That means we're urging the government to create a legal protection system that reduces legal risks for certified snow and ice contractors who follow salt management best practices. We're also asking for a provincial advisory committee — bringing together municipalities, the environmental sector, business and industry, and the insurance community — to design and promote those best practices.

This isn't an untested idea.

In New Hampshire, where a similar program offers a defence for contractors who are certified and in compliance with state-endorsed practices, salt use has dropped by as much as 40 per cent in some areas, without any rise in accidents.

Most importantly, this isn't about imposing new regulations. It's the opposite: It's about cutting red tape by giving contractors and property owners a clear, voluntary path to manage risk responsibly. If you follow the best practices, you get legal protection and peace of mind. If you choose not to, you may continue as you are today, but without the added protection.

It's a win-win-win. This approach lines up perfectly with the Ontario government's priorities of reducing red tape, supporting businesses and protecting the environment. And it's a rare opportunity to get ahead of a growing problem with a simple legal reform.

As winter approaches, we at the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority will be working with our partners at the Ontario Salt Pollution Coalition to take this message to Queen's Park. We've already met some of our local MPPs to advocate on this issue. If we act now, we can protect our waterways, support responsible contractors and save money — all without compromising winter safety.

Ontario has a chance to lead. The alternative is to keep dumping salt into our environment at unsustainable levels, paying the price later in degraded water quality, damaged infrastructure and rising maintenance bills.

As chair of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, I've seen first-hand how local governments, conservation authorities, and businesses can come together to tackle shared challenges. But chloride pollution isn't a problem any one municipality — or even one sector — can solve alone. We need a provincial framework that rewards doing the right thing.

Winter in Ontario is inevitable. Salt pollution doesn't have to be.

Related Local Links

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
[Details >](#)

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2125	Barrie police arrest five after jewelry store robbery, Hwy. 400 chase
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REPORT #7a

TO: SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

DATE: NOVEMBER 28, 2025

SUBJECT: KIMBERLEY/SHALLOW LAKE KARST STUDY UPDATE

Request for Proposals (RFP):

An RFP was posted on MERX on July 7, 2025, with a closing date of August 15, 2025. Three bids were received by the closing date, with BluMetric selected as the successful bid at the Source Protection Region Management Committee meeting on September 8, 2025.

A kick off meeting was held with the consultants on September 24th to provide an overview of the project and discuss data needs vs. gaps. Staff provided copies of previous groundwater/karst studies conducted in the area; namely

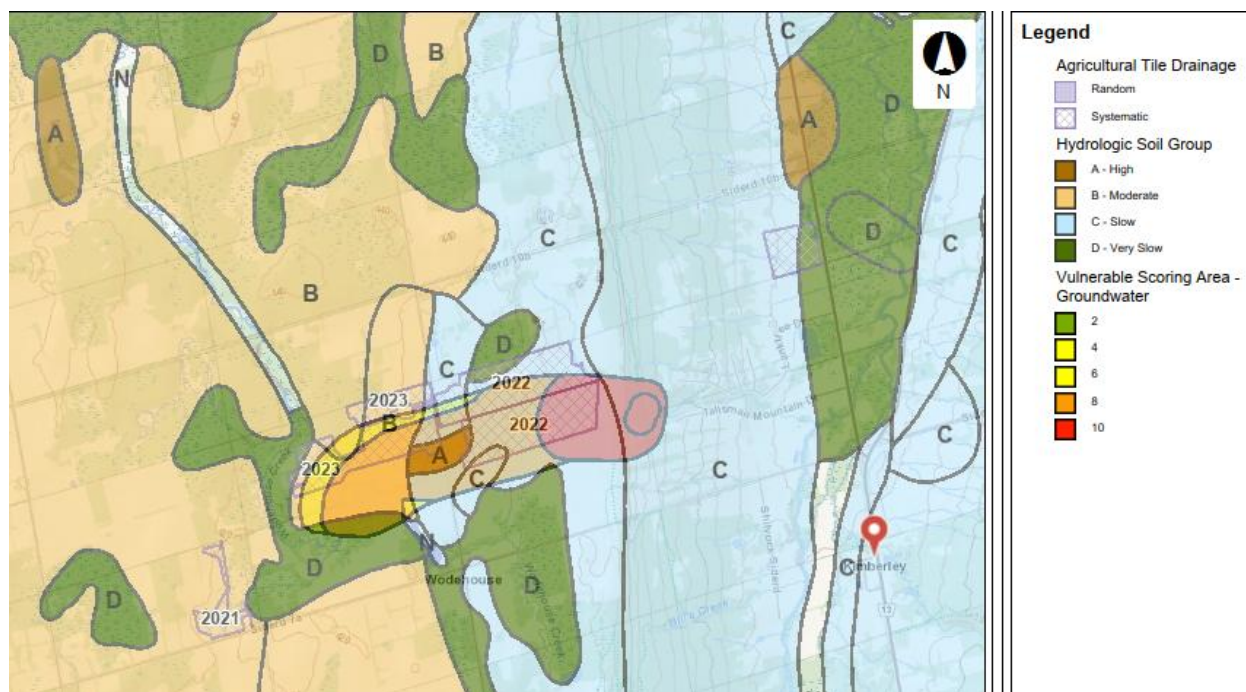
- Wodehouse Creek Study, Cowell 1975
- SPC Meeting Reports - Kimberly & Shallow Lake Reports
- Assessment of Groundwater Velocities - Walkerton Wells - Worthington 2002 (estimates for hydraulic conductivity for karst)
- Updated Karst Evaluation Report - South Wodehouse Creek Subdivision, 2009
- Supplementary Hydrogeological Evaluation, 2009
- Shallow Lake Karst Investigation Parts 1 & 2, 2006 & 2007

Staff provided recent data collected for stream flows and rainfall/snowmelt events (courtesy of GSCA water monitoring unit) in comparison to turbidity data at the water treatment plant for use in determining time-of-travel (ToT) estimates for the WHPA-E area.

Staff also discussed recent (August 2025) spikes in E.Coli and Total Coliforms that were observed in raw water samples taken in the springs feeding the Kimberley-Amik-Talisman (KAT) water treatment plant. It was noted that there had been recent applications of biosolids in the area, but the fact that pathogen levels in this product were extremely low, means that there must be other potential source affecting groundwater quality in the area.

The consultants provided information from the AgMaps website for the Kimberley system and noted some important observations. Systematic tile drains have recently (2022 and 2023) been installed within the WHPA for KAT system.

- The soil drainage information, based on hydrologic soil groups, indicates that the area generally has slow to moderate drainage, with one central zone noted as having high drainage potential.
- With the switch to cash crops, tile drainage would likely have been implemented to be able to plant earlier in the season and avoid compaction issues.



Possible policy options were also discussed, based on conversations with MECP technical staff, whereby the option to subdivide the WHPA-E into multiple zones (e.g. 2 and 4 hour ToT) with different policy considerations for the respective zones. This may be useful depending on the extent of the WHPA-E and possible groundwater impacts for activities in these zones.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee receives the Kimberley/Shallow Lake Karst Study Update Report 7a for information.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Seider
Project Manager
Drinking Water Source Protection

REPORT #7b

TO: SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

DATE: NOVEMBER 28, 2025

SUBJECT: SPC ACTING CHAIR APPOINTMENT

Staff will conduct the election of acting chair for the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee.

The term of the Acting Chair is from their election until such time when the Minister, MECP (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks), appoints a new chair.

Tim Lanthier, Chief Administrative Officer for Grey Sauble and Karen Gillan have been selected to act as scrutineers to assist with the election, if necessary.

The election of acting chair will be conducted as follows:

- a) The Chair shall ask for nominations for Acting Chair
- b) Eligible to vote are the current members of the Source Protection Committee present in person, or virtually (via text message)
- c) Each member has one vote
- d) Votes will be anonymous
- e) Proxy votes are allowed

The Chair will call for nominations from the floor (name of nominating member is required, but no seconder is required). The nominees will be asked if they are willing to stand for election.

Once there have been no further nominations after three calls, a motion to close nominations is required (requires a seconder).

Motion:

THAT nominations for Acting Chair be closed

Acclamation

If only one nomination has been made, the Chair will declare that [person] is appointed as Acting Chair by acclamation.

Election

Nominees will be invited to say a few words if they wish (maximum 5 minutes each).

Ballots will be distributed if there is more than one nominee. Members will select the name of the person they wish to vote for by writing it on the ballot. The Scrutineers will receive the votes and present the results to members. The Chair will announce the results, including number of votes.

A majority vote is required for election. A majority means a vote made by more than half of the members present. Proxy voting will be allowed. A majority may be obtained on the first ballot. If there are more than two nominees and none achieved a majority on this first vote, the name of the person with the lowest number of votes will drop off the ballot, a new ballot will be initiated, and another vote will be taken.

The Scrutineers will remove all names from the view of the members except the person elected.

Motion:

THAT the election ballots be destroyed.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee appoints Acting Chair (name) until such time as the Minister appoints a replacement Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl Seider', written over a horizontal line.

Carl Seider
Project Manager
Drinking Water Source Protection