

## Source water protection is a collective local effort to protect our drinking water!

Protection of municipal drinking water sources in Ontario has improved through technology, infrastructure and oversight. As the activities and industry on the landscape evolves and the climate changes, we must remain vigilant and continue with drinking water source protection measures to ensure that there continues to be safe water available for public consumption. Across Ontario, since the *Clean Water Act, 2006* and the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* came into effect this legal foundation has been strengthened by the actions of Source Protection Committees and other source protection/water professionals. The great progress to date has been made possible with the multiple layers of strong support and direct involvement of landowners, municipalities, agricultural and industry sectors, as well as other environmental and health related stakeholder groups. When everyone cares about the quality and protection of shared water sources, the ripple effect is a safe sustainable water supply.

With support from the province to update technical work, local Karst features are being studied to better understand how and where water moves in these areas of our region. The Committee continues to advocate for stewardship funding to keep pace with new technical rules or new areas affected by plan policies in order to get buy-in from landowners in these areas, who may not have been eligible during previous years.

Recently, the Province has proposed changes to boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities. This reconfiguration must align with the fundamental basis of Justice O'Connor's Walkerton Inquiry report recommendation to maintain watershed-based drinking water source protection at the local level. To ensure that source protection planning and implementation remain responsive to local issues and policy approaches, and to minimize the need for time consuming administrative changes and conformity exercises.

Furthermore, our Committee is committed to continuing to work with municipalities and local health authorities across the Region to apply similar approaches to protecting private and non-municipal drinking water systems through Provincial best management guidance materials.

Each year source protection areas/regions review their source protection plans to ensure they are being effective. The local activities and potential threats are routinely being monitored and inspected and individuals can feel confident, they are doing the right things to protect our shared drinking water sources. For 2026, we continue to strive forward, to learn more about our water sources in Karst areas, to continue to monitor property owner practices in the areas around drinking water sources and share education resources.



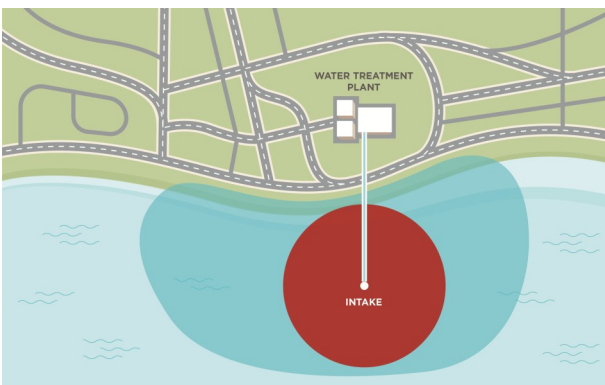
## 2025 Annual Progress Report Highlights

The Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee (SPC) has approved the 2025 Annual Progress Report to be submitted to the Province of Ontario. This progress report documents the achievements made together to implement local source protection plan policies that add protection to local municipal drinking water sources. You may view or download this report at [home.waterprotection.ca](https://home.waterprotection.ca) from the Resources Tab.

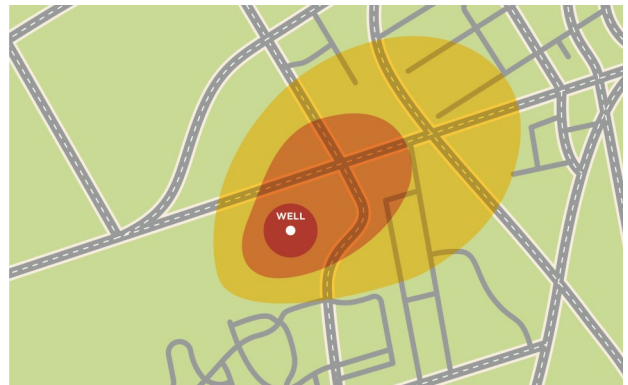
The following are highlights from the Annual Progress Report for 2025:

- In 2025, 9 Risk Management Plans were renewed or newly established across the Region and 25 were reviewed.
- There were 50 inspections carried out by Risk Management Inspectors for prohibited or regulated activities, with a 100% compliance rate
- 52 screening notices issued for land use planning applications by the Risk Management Officials
- 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 (20 fully implemented and 1 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.
- 100% of septic inspections have been completed as required under the Clean Water Act and Building Code Act within vulnerable source protection areas. In 2025, 67 septic systems were inspected, 20 of which required minor maintenance and 2 replaced. Staff have connected with municipalities to ensure ongoing mandatory septic inspections are completed as required. An increased number of inspections scheduled for 2026 as part of the second round. Septic systems are required to be inspected once every 5 years within vulnerable source protection areas.

## Intake Protection Zone (IPZ)



## Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA)



**SAUGEEN, GREY SAUBLE, NORTHERN BRUCE PENINSULA SOURCE PROTECTION REGION**

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