



2022 Annual Progress Report
Crowe Valley Source Protection Area



Prepared by the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority
for the Crowe Valley Source Protection Authority

February 16, 2023

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AR	Trent Assessment Report
DWSPP	Drinking Water Source Protection Program
E & O	Education and Outreach
MECP	Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
CV SP Area	Crowe Valley Source Protection Area
CV SPA	Crowe Valley Source Protection Authority
RMI	Risk Management Inspector
RMO	Risk Management Official
RMO/I	Risk Management Official / Inspector
RMP	Risk Management Plan
Threat	Significant Drinking Water Threat
SPC	Source Protection Committee
SPP	Trent Source Protection Plan
SPR	Source Protection Region
TCC	Trent Conservation Coalition
VA	Vulnerable Area

1. INTRODUCTION

This Annual Progress Report (Report) outlines the progress made in implementing the Trent Source Protection Plan (SPP) in the Crowe Valley Source Protection Area (CV SP Area) (from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022).

The CV SP Area includes parts of ten (10) municipalities and is one (1) of five (5) source protection areas that comprise the Trent Conservation Coalition (TCC) Source Protection Region (SPR) which was established under the *Clean Water Act, 2006 (Act)*.

2. OVERALL PROGRESS SCORE

The Trent Source Protection Plan came into effect January 1, 2015, and since then, all policies addressing Future Threats have been implemented, as have many of the policies that address Existing Threats. **As a result, the overall progress score is Progressing well / on target.**

In 2022, the TCC Source Protection Committee (SPC) continued to consider implementation challenges identified by staff, municipalities, and other implementing bodies. The SPC plays a strong role in policy decision-making and providing direction to staff to address these implementation challenges. Source Water Protection staff and the SPC will continue to be address these challenges on an ongoing basis as part of the Trent Work Plan. The Work Plan has a 5-year horizon and was developed in 2018 under Section 36 of the *Clean Water Act*, and approved by the Province. Amendments have been submitted to the Province for review, and comments from the Province were received early 2023. No major issues or required changes were identified – all are minor and will ultimately improve the effectiveness of the Trent Source Protection Plan.



Progressing well / on target: Most SPP policies were implemented or are progressing according to the timelines in the SPP and otherwise agreed upon by the SPC.


3. THE CROWE VALLEY SOURCE PROTECTION AREA

The Crowe Valley Source Protection Area (CV SP Area) covers 2,006 km² and encompasses the Crowe Valley Watershed. The CV SP Area includes portions of ten (10) municipalities. Three (3) municipalities have drinking water systems which are protected under the *Clean Water Act*: Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen (HBM), Municipality of Highlands East, and the Municipality of Marmora & Lake. Approximately 3,700 people rely on four (4) municipal drinking water systems owned by municipalities in the CV SP Area. One (1) of these drinking water systems draws from a surface water source (Marmora & Lake) and three (3) draw from groundwater sources (Township of HBM and Highlands East (2 wells)).

4. SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION


1. Source Protection Plan Policies

Three (3) municipalities in in the CV SP Area have Vulnerable Areas where significant drinking water threats (Threats) can occur and SPP policies apply.

	Progressing well / on target: Processes are in place for 100% of mandatory policies to address significant drinking water threats. All policies are considered implemented or in progress.
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2. Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

Municipalities are responsible for implementing 56 SPP policies. In 2022, municipalities reported that standard operating procedures were in place to ensure land use planning decisions, official plans, zoning by-laws, and emergency response plans complied with the SPP.

	Progressing well / on target: All municipalities had processes in place to ensure their day-to-day planning decisions protect their drinking water sources by conforming with the policies of the SPP.
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3. Sewage System Inspections

The *Ontario Building Code (OBC)* requires that sewage systems that are a Significant Drinking Water Threat be inspected once every five (5) years. This is referred to as a mandatory inspection program. Municipalities are responsible for inspections, except for in the Township of HBM, where Peterborough Public Health (PPH) carries out inspections.

	Progressing well / on target: 100% of on-site sewage systems were inspected in accordance with the TPP (5-year cycle). Of these, no major deficiencies or maintenance requirements were identified.
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4. Risk Management

Risk Management Officials (RMO) are responsible for implementing 39 policies in the Trent Source Protection Plan which use tools established under Part IV of the *Act*: Prohibition (s.57), Risk Management Plans (s.58), and Restricted Land Use (s.59).


Policy G-8(1) states that Risk Management Plans (RMPs) are to be in place (established or agreed to) within five (5) years (January 1, 2020). In 2020, The Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks extended the RMP compliance timeline until January 1, 2023. The TCC Source Protection Committee has developed an internal policy to have the outstanding RMPs completed by January 1, 2022.

As of December 31, 2022, all significant drinking water threats requiring Risk Management Plans have addressed the CV SPA.

Table 4: Status of Risk Management Plans (RMPs) by Type of Drinking Water Threat

Municipality	Type of drinking water threat	Number of threats identified	Number confirmed not to be a threat	RMPs complete and in place*	RMPs remaining / in progress
HBM	Establishment, operation or maintenance of a waste disposal site within the meaning of Part V of the EPA	1	1	0	0
	Application of agricultural source material to land	1	1	0	0
	Application of pesticide to land	2	2	0	0
	Handling and storage of fuel	14	12	2	0
	Handling and storage of an organic solvent	1	1	0	0
	Handling and storage of a dense non-aqueous phase liquid	9	8	1	0
Highlands East	Handling and storage of fuel	8	5	3	0
Marmora & Lake	Application of agricultural source material to land	1	1	0	0
	Application of commercial fertilizer to land	1	1	0	0
	Application of road salt	1	0	1	0
	Use of land as grazing or pasturing land, outdoor confinement area or farm-animal yard	1	1	0	0
Total		40	33	7	0

*The number of RMPs in place does not reflect the total number of RMPs established since the Trent Source Protection Plan came into effect. RMPs are no longer needed if the threat activity ceases to occur.

	Progressing well / on target: All required Risk Management Plans for confirmed Significant Drinking Water Threats have been established as of December 31, 2023.
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5. Education and Outreach Program

Ten (10) SPP policies rely on Education and Outreach (E &O) to influence behavior and encourage adoption of practices to protect municipal drinking water sources. Risk Management Plan (RMP) negotiations rely on education and outreach to ensure long-term adherence.

The 2022 E & O Program included:

- ✓ Delivery of E & O products to municipalities;
- ✓ Distribution of materials to stakeholders including landowners and tenants;
- ✓ DWSPP information available on Authority website and TCC Website;
- ✓ Increased use of social media platforms due to COVID-19 restrictions which limited in-person events and activities; and
- ✓ Creation of stickers to be placed on salt storage containers to increase general Drinking Water Source Protection awareness and promote smart and sparing use of salt near sources of municipal drinking water.

Municipalities and the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) have installed Drinking Water Protection Zone signs in vulnerable areas across the CV SP Area.

	Progressing well / on target: Delivery of E & O through Agreements with the Authority ensures municipal compliance with the SPP.
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6. Source Protection Plan Implementation Challenges

Section 36 of the *Act* includes the requirement for comprehensive, periodic reviews and updates to Source Protection Plans and Assessment Reports. To facilitate this update process, workplans must be developed and approved by the Province. The workplan for the Section 36 Update to the Trent Source Protection Plan was approved in 2019, and the proposed amendments were submitted to the province by the deadline of 2023. The amendments have been reviewed and comments were received in early 2023 (next year's reporting). The work plan includes the identification of policy implementation challenges, and the development of amended or new policies to address these challenges. Next steps are to proceed with pre-consultation with prescribed stakeholders and then conduct public consultation.

For more information about DWSP and the TCC, visit <http://www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca>

The Trent Source Protection Plan is available at www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca

Or contact:



Andrew McIntyre, Source Water Protection Specialist
Crowe Valley Conservation Authority
(613) 472-3137 | andrew.mcintyre@crowevalley.com