



2023 Annual Progress Report

Crowe Valley Source Protection Area



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

March 2024

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, 2023, to December 31, 2023).

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.**

2023 marked the completion of the TCC's Section 36 amendments, which represents a culmination of technical work completed from 2018-2023. Major updates to the Trent Source Protection Plan, Assessment Report and Explanatory Document were required and completed as part of this process. Public consultation took place across the TCC Region from September 1st - 30th, 2023. The Section 36 amendment package was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks at the end of 2023 for final review and approval. The TCC Source Protection Committee (SPC) continued to consider other 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 address identified challenges on an ongoing basis, with major challenges being addressed in the next cycle of the Trent Work Plan. It is expected that the next Work Plan will be similar to the current one, with a 5-year horizon.



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 - Overall Implementation

Three (3) municipalities in in the CV SP Area have Vulnerable Areas where significant drinking water threats (Threats) can occur and SPP policies apply. All mandatory policies have been implemented or considered and determined to be not applicable.

	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 a total of 55 policies in the Trent Source Protection Plan. In 2023, 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 Source Protection Plan.

	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. Note: this is set to change after November 17th, 2024, with septic system permitting and inspection services being transferred from PPH to local municipalities.

	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.


In 2023 all significant drinking water threats requiring Risk Management Plans have been addressed in 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	Threats Addressed RMP / Policy*	RMPs remaining / in progress
HBM	Establishment, operation or maintenance of a waste disposal site within the meaning of Part V of the EPA	2	1	1	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	41	33	8	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 2023 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;
- ✓ Use of social media platforms;
- ✓ Coordination with municipalities; and
- ✓ Public consultation and messaging related to updates to the Trent Source Protection Plan, Assessment Report and Explanatory Document (Section 36 Updates)

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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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

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