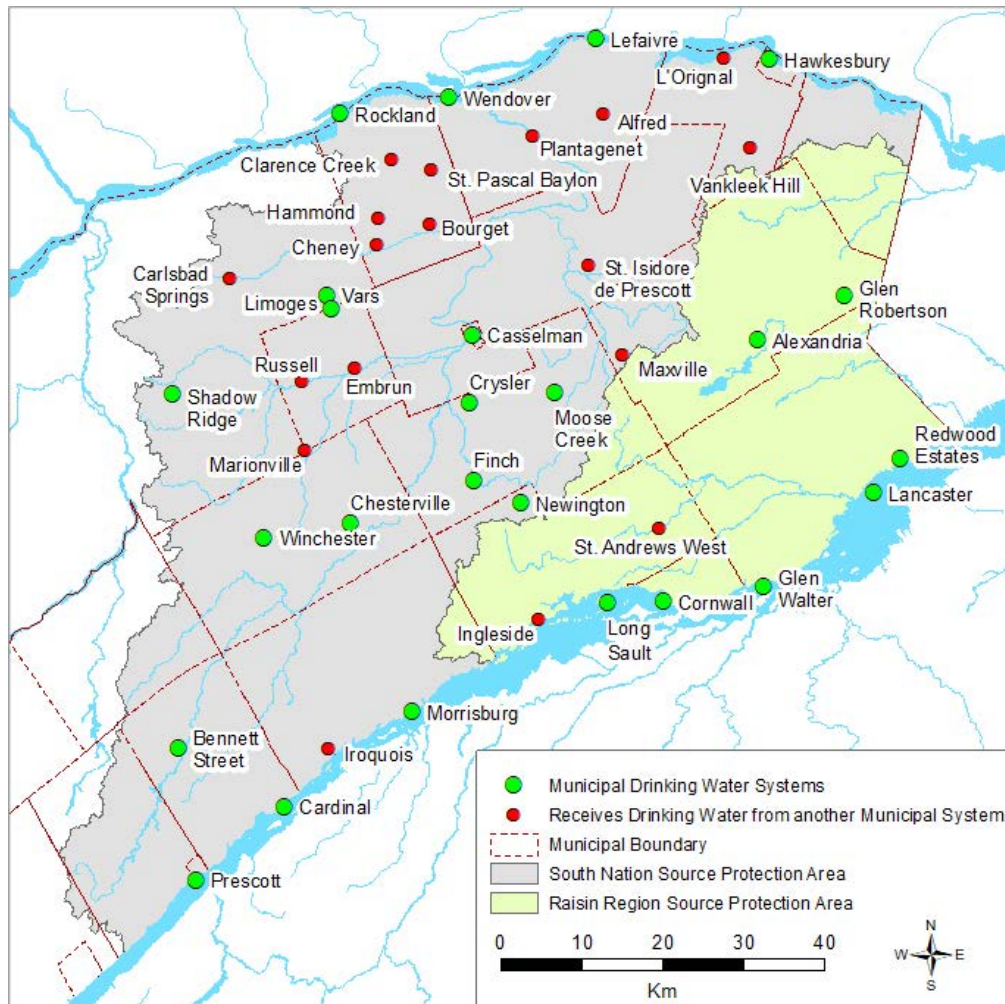


Source Protection 2023 Annual Progress Report

I. Introduction

This annual progress report outlines the progress made in implementing the source protection plans for the Raisin Region Source Protection Area and the South Nation Source Protection Area in 2023 as required by the Clean Water Act and regulations. Drinking water source protection protects existing and future sources of municipal drinking water from overuse and contamination, ensuring an adequate supply of clean water for both current and future generations.

This report is written for submission to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks as required, but also informs the residents, municipalities, stakeholders, etc. of progress made on implementation to date.



II. A message from your local Source Protection Committee

P: Progressing Well/On Target – The majority of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.

The objectives of the Source Protection Plan are:

1. To protect existing and future drinking water sources in the source protection area; and,
2. To ensure that, for every area identified in an assessment report as an area where an activity is or would be a significant drinking water threat that,
 - i. The activity never becomes a significant drinking water threat, or
 - ii. If the activity is occurring when the source protection plan takes effect, the activity ceases to be a significant drinking water threat.

The policies were developed by taking into consideration the following three guiding principles:

1. Effectiveness (does the policy effectively protect sources of drinking water).
2. Appropriateness (is the policy practical and does it avoid regulatory duplication).
3. Fiscal Responsibility (is the policy cost-effective and reasonable).

All (100%) of the activities identified as significant drinking water threats in the Assessment Reports for the source protection areas have been removed or mitigated through risk management measures. The risk management measures implemented are effective, appropriate and fiscally responsible.

III. Our Watershed

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

The Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region encompasses a land mass of over 7,000 km² and is comprised of two Source Protection Areas: Raisin Region Source Protection Area (2,000 km²) and South Nation Source Protection Area (5,000 km²). The total population of the region as per the 2016 census was 273,687. The total population served by municipal drinking water systems is 129,239.

Raisin Region Source Protection Area

The Raisin Region Source Protection Area is comprised of the Raisin Region Conservation Authority's jurisdiction, plus additional watershed-based areas to the south west (Nash Creek) and north (Rigaud River).

The following municipal drinking water sources are protected by the source protection plan:

- Redwood Estates (Township of South Glengarry): 1 groundwater well
- Glen Robertson (Township of North Glengarry): 1 groundwater well
- Long Sault (Township of South Stormont): 1 surface water intake
- Cornwall (City of Cornwall): 1 surface water intake
- Glen Walter (Township of South Glengarry): 1 surface water intake
- Lancaster (Township of South Glengarry): 1 surface water intake
- Alexandria (Township of North Glengarry): 1 surface water intake

South Nation Source Protection Area

The South Nation Source Protection Area includes the jurisdiction of South Nation Conservation with the addition of the Town of Prescott and additional watershed-based area to the north east along the Ottawa River.

The following municipal drinking water sources are protected by the source protection plan:

- Vars (City of Ottawa): 2 groundwater wells
- Limoges (The Nation Municipality): 2 groundwater wells
- Shadow Ridge, Greely (City of Ottawa): 1 groundwater well
- Crysler (Township of North Stormont): 2 groundwater wells
- Moose Creek (Township of North Stormont): 3 groundwater wells
- Finch (Township of North Stormont): 2 groundwater wells
- Winchester (Township of North Dundas): 6 groundwater wells
- Chesterville (Township of North Dundas): 2 groundwater wells
- Newington (Township of South Stormont): 2 groundwater wells
- Bennett St., Spencerville (Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal): 1 groundwater well
- Prescott (Town of Prescott): 1 surface water intake
- Cardinal (Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal): 1 surface water intake
- Morrisburg (Township of South Dundas): 1 surface water intake
- Rockland (City of Rockland): 1 surface water intake

- Wendover (Township of Alfred-Plantagenet): 1 surface water intake
- Lefaivre (Township of Alfred-Plantagenet): 1 surface water intake
- Hawkesbury (Town of Hawkesbury): 1 surface water intake
- Casselman (Village of Casselman): 1 surface water intake

There are communities within the South Nation Source Protection Area that are serviced through regional distribution systems where the municipal sources of water are protected through the Source Protection Plan of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region (i.e. Carlsbad Springs, Russell, Embrun, Marionville).

To learn more about the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region, or to read the Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report, visit www.yourdrinkingwater.ca.

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

1. Source Protection Plan Policies

P : Progressing Well/On Target

All of the policies (100%) that address significant drinking water threats are implemented, in progress or have been evaluated and determined to require no further action(s).

Pursuant to subsection 36 (1) of the Clean Water Act, Source Protection Regions were directed by the Province to amend their Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report to comply with amendments to the Province's General Regulations and Director's Technical Rules and include approved local interest updates. Amendments are currently in progress by the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee and Source Protection Region.

2. Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

Eighteen (18) municipalities in our source protection region have vulnerable areas where significant drinking water threat policies apply. These municipalities include: City of Cornwall, City of Ottawa, City of Clarence-Rockland, Village of Casselman, Town of Prescott, Town of Hawkesbury, Champlain Township, Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal, Township of Alfred and Plantagenet, Russell Township, The Nation Municipality, Augusta Township, Township of North Dundas, Township of South Dundas, Township of North Stormont, Township of South Stormont, Township of North Glengarry and the Township of South Glengarry.

All of the municipalities (100%) in our source protection region have processes in place to ensure that their day-to-day planning decisions conform with our source protection plans. The two largest municipalities (City of Ottawa and the City of Cornwall) have designated their own Risk Management Officials for this purpose, while the remaining municipalities have designated the local conservation authorities for risk management duties. Risk Management Officials screen building permits and planning applications in the vulnerable areas.

Municipalities in our source protection region are also required to update their Official Plan to ensure conformity with the local source protection plan. Seventeen (17) of 18 municipalities have finalized their Official Plan update, and one is in progress.

3. Septic Inspections

P : Progressing Well/On Target

The Ontario Building Code requires all septic systems within highly vulnerable areas be included in a Mandatory On-site Sewage System Inspection Program. Under the program, inspections are required on a five (5) year cycle.

The on-site sewage inspection program varies across the Source Protection Region. Septic systems within the City of Ottawa are inspected by the Ottawa Septic System Office (OSSO). The Townships of North Glengarry and South Glengarry retain their own septic inspectors. The remaining municipalities where septic systems are considered a significant threat have delegated septic inspection to South Nation Conservation (SNC).

Municipalities in the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region have completed most of the initial round of inspections. To date, 252 of 274 total septic systems have been inspected as per the Ontario Building Code. Of those outstanding initial inspections, 22 were not inspected due to non-responsive or non-compliant landowners.

To date, 132 re-inspections were completed with 28 occurring in 2023.

4. Risk Management Plans

P : Progressing Well/On Target

A risk management plan is a document that outlines the actions required to address an activity that has the potential to contaminate drinking water. These actions manage the risk associated with the activity so that all threats to drinking water are properly managed. A Risk Management Official (RMO) works with the person engaging in the threat activity to decide on the necessary components of the risk management plan.

Since the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Plan took effect in 2015, a total of 108 risk management plans have been established. A single risk management plan can apply to multiple properties. The total number of properties covered by a risk management plan is 222. There were no new Risk Management Plans established in 2023.

Staff anticipate there is a 100% compliance rate with the Risk Management Plans established in the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region.

5. Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

P : Progressing Well/On Target

Provincial ministries (e.g. Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks; and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs) are responsible for the implementation of source protection policies included in the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Plan that use prescribed instruments to reduce the risk of significant threat activities.

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 reported full completion (100%) of the review of previously issued provincial approvals in the source protection region.

Provincial ministries are implementing their respective review protocols to screen all applicable new applications.

6. Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour

Conservation Authority partners have worked to develop tools and resources which satisfy the Education and Outreach Policies and help establish permanent resources for future Source Water Protection program delivery.

Print Media and Landowner Resources

- Risk Management Plan Binder and Toolkit for property owners
- Six (6) activity fact sheets (DNAPLs, organic solvents, etc.)
- Distribution of SWP brochure series (Agri-Action, Fuel Tools, Pesticide Wise, Septic Solutions, Water Smart, Well Informed)
- Distribution of fuel tags and stickers for homeowners
- Boater Awareness Campaign postcards, keychains, and boat stickers with Spills Action Response Centre contact information

Signage

- Boater Awareness Campaign signage displayed at river access points (boat launches and public and private marinas) – approximately 40 signs distributed
- Road Signage (displayed on roadways outside vulnerable drinking water protection zones) – approximately 100 in the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region

Media, Website, and Newsletters

- Issued local press releases
- Maintained the Source Protection Region's website (yourdrinkingwater.ca)
- Maintained social media presence (province-wide campaigns)
- Circulated second annual Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region newsletter update to member municipalities
- Programming promoted in Conservation Authority monthly digital newsletters

Education and Outreach

- Licensed to deliver Yellow Fish Road community program, educating community members on storm drains (South Nation SPA)
- Licensed to deliver Stream of Dreams Community Art and Environmental Education Program (subsidized with other grants and partners) (South Nation SPA)
- Online guest lecture for St. Lawrence College Environmental Technician course
- Event attendance: local fairs, Children's Water Festivals, Ontario East Municipal Conference, International Plowing Match, River Symposium, etc.

Land Use Planning

- Source water protection has become an integral part of the municipal planning process. Pre-consultation processes taking into account source water protection implications have lead to better overall planning and development decisions.

7. Source Protection Plan Policies: Summary of Delays

This is not applicable to our source protection region.

8. Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions

In the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region, there were no issues identified in the local assessment report(s) regarding the quality of the source(s) of municipal drinking water.

The Source Protection Authorities continue to work with municipalities to pro-actively identify trends in source water quality which could trigger a formal issues evaluation process, and require additional environmental monitoring.

9. Science-based Assessment Reports: Work Plans

No workplans were required to be implemented for our assessment report.

10. More from the Watershed

The Region's success with implementing the source protection plan can be attributed to a coordinated and consistent effort in addressing the activities listed as drinking water threats. Small municipalities within the source protection region have benefited from delegating municipal enforcement of the Clean Water Act to the respective conservation authorities. Staff at both conservation authorities have worked together to develop streamlined risk management practices, documentation, data management systems, and education and outreach materials.

Funding for initial source protection implementation was made possible for small municipalities through the provincial Source Protection Municipal Implementation Fund. Without this fund, municipalities in our region would have faced financial challenges establishing the risk management plans. The fund removed the burden of a potential surcharge to landowners requiring risk management plans. This resulted in a more expedient and agreeable risk management plan negotiation process.

While some large municipalities may potentially have the capacity to deliver source protection programs, many medium and small sized municipalities will struggle to afford the additional cost.

Continued provincial funding and support for the Source Protection Program is essential to empower small and rural municipalities to mitigate risk and deliver safe, clean, drinking water.