



# Source Protection Annual Progress Report | 05/01/2021

## I. Introduction

This annual progress report outlines the progress made in implementing our source protection plan(s) for the Raisin Region Source Protection Area and the South Nation Source Protection Area as required by the Clean Water Act and regulations.

## II. A message from your local Source Protection Committee

Our progress score on achieving source protection plan objectives this reporting period:

- P : Progressing Well/On Target – The majority of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.**
- S : Satisfactory – Some of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.**
- L : Limited progress – A few of source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.**

The objectives of the Source Protection Plan, as per Ontario Regulation 287/07, Section 22(1) 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).

99% 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 km<sup>2</sup> and is comprised of two Source Protection Areas: Raisin Region Source Protection Area (2,000 km<sup>2</sup>) and South Nation Source Protection Area (5,000 km<sup>2</sup>). 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 some additional watershed-based area 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
- Chrysler (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
- Lefavre (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).

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

### **1. Source Protection Plan Policies**

#### **P : Progressing Well/On Target**

All 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).

### **2. Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground**

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 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 also are required to take the next step to review and update their Official Plan to ensure it conforms with the local source protection plans the next time they undertake an Official Plan review under the Planning Act. This exercise has mainly been completed or is in progress.

### 3. Septic Inspections

#### **P : Progressing Well/On Target**

To date 251 of 274 total septic systems have been inspected as per the Ontario Building Code. Of those requiring inspection, one is a recent addition and 22 are existing from the original Assessment Report (compliance is being sought).

The on-site sewage inspection program varies across the Source Water 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 the South Nation Conservation Septic Inspection Office.

With the exception of the City of Ottawa septic systems, the original septic systems identified in the Assessment Report were inspected through the Source Protection Municipal Implementation Fund (SPMIF) which was available for small municipalities to offset initial implementation costs of Source Water. The costs of future inspections will fall onto municipalities and they will decide how to recover the costs of the inspections.

### 4. Risk Management Plans

#### **P : Progressing Well/On Target**

Since our source protection plan took effect, a total of 107 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 221. One new risk management plan was established this past year.

No inspections were carried out or planned by a Risk Management Official/Inspector for prohibited or regulated activities.

We anticipate there is a 100% compliance rate with the risk management plans established in our source protection region.

## 5. Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

### **P : Progressing Well/On Target**

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 completed this for 100% of previously issued provincial approvals in our source protection region.

## 6. Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour

Within the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region, 87 Drinking Water Protection Zone signs have been installed (10 on provincial 400-series highways, and 77 on municipal roads).

The local conservation authorities have continued to incorporate source water protection as part of their overall education and outreach programming. Prior to COVID-19 lockdowns, staff were able to present at a few local events within the region. Education and outreach efforts have continued online. Joint social media promotions with Conservation Ontario have also been successful.

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.

Source water protection has also been incorporated into the curriculum of the Environmental Technician program at St. Lawrence College. Again, this year, the project manager was able to guest lecture and provide the students with real-world benefits and implications of the source protection program.

**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 our source protection region/area, water quality from both groundwater and surface water sources showed no evidence of analytical quality issues either chemical or bacteriological thereby reflecting compliance with the Ontario Drinking Water Objectives in all municipal annual reports. No issues were identified in our local assessment report(s) regarding the quality of the source(s) of municipal drinking water.

The source protection authorities continue to work with municipalities in 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 work plans were required to be implemented for our assessment report(s).

## 10. More from the Watershed

To learn more about our source protection region/area, visit our website at: [yourdrinkingwater.ca](http://yourdrinkingwater.ca)

The region's success with implementing the source protection plans 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 pleasant 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 thus ensuring small municipalities and rural Ontario stays open for business.

