



2021 Annual Progress Report Crowe Valley Source Protection Area



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

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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, 2021, to December 31, 2021).

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 2021, 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 are to be submitted to the Province for approval by 2023.



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 approximately 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 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 2021, 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 Threat be inspected once every five (5) years. 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 OBC and the identified deficiencies are being addressed. Some inspections were postponed due to challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, but will still be accomplished within the required 5-year inspection window.
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4. Risk Management


The Risk Management Official (RMO) is responsible for implementing 39 policies in the SPP that 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, 2021, nearly all significant drinking water threats requiring Risk Management Plans have addressed the CV SPA. There is one Risk Management Plan with physical mitigation measures in place, but has logistical challenges that need to be addressed before the MECP deadline of January 1, 2023.

Table 4: Status of Risk Management Plans by Threat

Municipality	Type of drinking water threat	Number of threats identified	Number confirmed not to be a threat	RMPs complete	RMPs remaining / in progress
HBM	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	7	1	5	1
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		38	28	9	1

	Progressing well / on target: Most RMPs for confirmed threats are in place or in progress. An extension was granted in 2020, and efforts are being made to ensure that all RMPs related to threats identified in the Assessment Report will be completed no later than January 1, 2022.
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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 2021 E & O Program included:

- ✓ Delivery of E & O products to municipalities;
- ✓ Distribution of materials to stakeholders including landowners and tenants;
- ✓ DWSP 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
- ✓ A regional campaign was launched to draw attention to road signs that demarcate vulnerable areas across the province and to create better public understanding of the purpose and importance of these protective zones. The campaign included a music video (song written by Keith Taylor, recorded by Caleb Hutton) posted to YouTube and promoted through Conservation Ontario and social media channels.

Link to the video: <https://youtu.be/ItN2JWovQlw>

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 must be submitted to the province by 2023. The work plan includes the identification of policy implementation challenges, and the development of amended or new policies to address these challenges. The TCC SPC continued to review these challenges in 2021.

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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