



## 2024 Annual Progress Report Crowe Valley Source Protection Area



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

March 2025

## List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AR	Trent Assessment Report
DWSP	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 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, 2024, to December 31, 2024.

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*.

## 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 Significant Drinking Water Threats. **As a result, the overall progress score is ‘Progressing well / on target.’**

Regional highlights in 2024 include:

- Planning for Section 36 rollout, once approved by the Ministry (submitted early 2024)
- Developed draft guidance document for municipal Consolidated Linear Infrastructure Approvals
- Began new education and outreach initiatives, with a focus on road salt application and storage
- Began work to make TCC website AODA compliant
- Development Transport Pathway guidance document



**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 km<sup>2</sup> 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 the CV SP Area have Vulnerable Areas where Significant Drinking Water Threats can occur and SPP policies apply. All mandatory policies have been implemented or considered and determined to be not applicable.

✓	<b>Progressing well / on target:</b> 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 and planning approval authorities (in most cases the municipality) are responsible for implementing a total of 59 policies in the Trent Source Protection Plan. In 2024, 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.

✓	<b>Progressing well / on target:</b> 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 in the Crowe Valley Source Protection Area. The exception to this used to be in the Township of HBM, where Peterborough Public Health (PPH) carried out inspections, but this responsibility was transferred back to the municipality in Fall 2024.

There are currently 45 septic systems in the CV SPA that are subject to the mandatory inspection and maintenance program. As of 2024, 41 of those were inspected in accordance with the Trent Source Protection Plan policy (5-year cycle). The outstanding septic systems are all within one municipality. CV SPA staff have contacted the municipality to ensure they are inspected and brought into compliance as soon as possible.

✓	<b>Progressing well / on target:</b> 91% 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 2024 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	13	1	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	<b>0</b>
	Application of road salt	1	0	1	<b>0</b>
	Use of land as grazing or pasturing land, outdoor confinement area or farm-animal yard	1	1	0	<b>0</b>
Total		41	34	7	<b>0</b>

\*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.

	<b>Progressing well / on target:</b> All required Risk Management Plans for confirmed Significant Drinking Water Threats have been established.
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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 2024 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

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

	<b>Progressing well / on target:</b> 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](http://www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca)

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