



DWSP Newsletter

Local Source Protection Committee Approves Annual Progress Report

The Source Protection Committee (SPC) approved this source protection region's annual progress report for submission to the Province of Ontario on May 1, 2020. This progress report documents the achievements we have made together to implement source protection plan policies that add protection to local municipal drinking water sources. You may download this report on the *Publications* page at home.waterprotection.ca

Highlights of the report include:

- 87% of the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Plan (SPP) policies that address significant drinking water threats have been fully implemented.
- Municipalities with vulnerable areas where significant drinking water threat policies apply have processes in place to ensure that their day-to-day planning decisions conform with the SPP policies. 95% of these municipalities have amended or are in the process of amending their Official Plan to conform with the SPP policies.
- There are 312 on-site sewage systems (septic systems) in this source protection region that are in the most vulnerable areas around municipal wells and subject to the mandatory re-inspection program. 98% of these systems have been inspected in accordance with Ontario Building Code.
- There are 152 drinking water protection zone signs that have been installed in the source protection region. The signs are installed on roads near municipal wells to alert citizens and emergency services that their actions in these zones can have an impact on a municipal drinking water source.
- 143 risk management plans (RMPs) have been established in this source protection region and there is 100% compliance by landowners with their individual plans.

"The Committee has spent more than 12 years developing the Source Protection Plan and its policies. Now, to see implementation going well is rewarding," said Committee Chair Bill Twaddle. During the COVID pandemic the local Source Protection Authorities and SPC has been able to meet their regulatory requirements under the Clean Water Act by holding meetings electronically. "Reviewing the annual progress report results and knowing that we are all doing our part to protect our region's drinking water sources confirms why we got involved in this critical program."

At the March 27, 2020 Source Protection Committee meeting, the following statement was provided: “The great progress to date on source protection plan implementation was made possible with the strong support and direct involvement of municipalities, agricultural and industry sectors, as well as other environmental and health-related stakeholder groups. It is important to note that there is an ongoing need for financial and stakeholder support and not to lose focus as the program approaches full implementation. While the number of remaining policies to be fully implemented is decreasing, a continued effort is required to address all significant threat policies as we approach the established implementation deadlines.” Source Protection Committee for Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region.

Source protection plan policies address 21 activities such as fuel or chemical storage, among others that can pose a significant threat to municipal drinking water sources in certain circumstances (for example, in certain quantities and in the most vulnerable locations such as municipal wellhead protection areas).

Section 36 Work Plan Approval and Amendments – Current Projects for 2020-2021

The Section 36 Workplan for Comprehensive Review and Update of the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Plan was approved by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks in January 2020.

The Workplan is required to include detailed steps for the comprehensive review and update of the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan, and developed in consultation with the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee (SPC), municipalities, and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

The Workplan activities focus on possible amendments to address increased salt storage and application threats; potential new municipal drinking water systems; fuel storage threats around the East Linton drinking water intake; policy effectiveness in respect to some higher risk areas; and associated edits due to provincial technical rule updates.

Going forward, any activities that impact a municipal drinking water supply and its users will follow a full public consultation process, as was conducted for previous Source Protection Plan amendments. Current pandemic protocols will apply to any consultation.

The Source Protection Committee has pursued the goal of clean, safe drinking water for residents and visitors to this Region and will continue these efforts as we continue with the Source Protection Plan implementation.



Commemorating 20 years since the water tragedy in Walkerton

This office placed social media posts on Twitter and Facebook to highlight the progress in water protection and the multi-barrier approach as part of a larger spring social media campaign that included content from Conservation Ontario. Due to Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions, an event in Walkerton was cancelled that would have included Justice O'Connor in attendance.

Scott Dunn, journalist with the Owen Sound Sun Times media group wrote a series of four articles, where past and present SPC members and staff are quoted:

1. <https://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/news/local-news/signs-point-to-walkertons-emergence-from-e-coli-disaster> (May 18, 2020)
2. <https://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/news/local-news/oconnor-restored-our-dignity-amid-walkerton-disaster> (May 19, 2020)
3. <https://www.thepost.on.ca/news/local-news/safer-tap-water-a-legacy-of-walkertons-tragedy> (May 29, 2020)
4. <https://www.thepost.on.ca/news/local-news/water-experts-call-on-province-to-extend-source-water-protection> (June 2, 2020)

There were commemoration articles featured in other news media too, including the Ontario Farmer publication - <https://www.ontariofarmer.com/news/farm-news/how-negligence-at-one-well-spurred-on-a-water-bureaucracy>

A new scholarship fund to support local students wishing to pursue careers in environmental science or clean water management was announced this year by the Municipality of Brockton. The Walkerton Clean Water Legacy Scholarship will honour those who suffered because of the water crisis and support the next generation of students embracing environmental stewardship and the protection of clean water. The fund will be administered through Community Foundation Grey Bruce, a charitable organization with over \$1.8 million invested in education funds. The Municipality of Brockton has set aside \$2,500 towards the scholarship fund, which will grow through donations from individuals and organizations.

Resources/Reference List – Walkerton Water Tragedy

Goal: Continued Awareness of need to protect drinking water sources

Format	Description/Location
Slide Deck	From Infamy to Excellence – Bruce Davidson https://www.gov.nl.ca/mae/files/waterres-training-adww-decade-15-bruce-davidson.pdf

Books	<p>Ensuring Safe Drinking Water: Learning from Frontline Experience with Contamination Paperback – May 15 2014 by Steve Hrudey (Author)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISBN-10: 1583219242 • ISBN-13: 978-1583219249 <p>Well of Lies: The Walkerton Water Tragedy Hardcover – March 26 2002 by Colin Perkel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISBN-10: 0771070195 • ISBN-13: 978-0771070198
Case Studies	<p>Walkerton Case Study from Safewater.org https://www.safewater.org/operation-water-health-1/2017/1/27/walkerton-case-study https://www.safewater.org/fact-sheets https://www.safewater.org/fact-sheets-1/2017/1/23/cost-benefit-analysis</p>
Libraries	<p>Walkerton Clean Water Centre Resource Library Online - you can search multiple topics and a search for https://wcwc.ca/services/drinking-water-resource-library/</p>
Inquiry Resources	<p>This is the official website of the public inquiry into the E.Coli contamination of the water supply in Walkerton, Ontario, and into the safety of Ontario's drinking water, established by the government of Ontario under the Public Inquiries Act. http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/e_records/walkerton/index.html</p>
Teacher Resources	<p>http://resources4rethinking.ca/en/resource/case-study-walkertons-tragedy Deadly Water: The Lessons of Walkerton https://media.curio.ca/filer_public/8f/7f/8f7fad52-2d78-46e0-aa78-44d5cadc9de1/walkerton-sep00.pdf</p>
Articles	<p>https://cela.ca/the-walkerton-tragedy-lessons-learned-and-unfinished-business/ https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/inside-walkerton-canada-s-worst-ever-e-coli-contamination-1.887200</p>

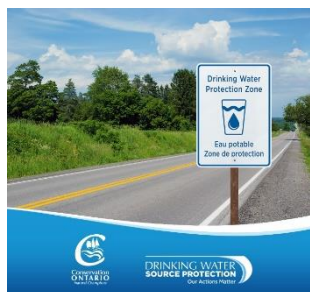
20th Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival Postponed to 2021

In 2021, grade 4 students from 2020 will be invited to attend as “senior stewards”, along with the current grade-2021 4s so that they will not miss out on the experience of attending a water festival. A contest for a special 20th anniversary festival logo was held for grade 4 students across the region in 2020. Also, a contest for a new 20th anniversary activity was held for high school students across the region. The activity will be featured at next festival. The organizing committee is really looking forward to seeing everyone at the 20th anniversary event! Sponsors and volunteers are welcome.



Next Source Protection Committee Meeting

Tentative date: November 27, 2020 – Source Protection Committee Meeting
Video Teleconference



Drinking Water Source Protection Newsletter

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