



**South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region**

**Agenda**

**Source Protection Committee Meeting SPC-01-2026**

Thursday, April 2, 2026

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

To be held in the Community Rooms, Innisfil Town Hall, 2101 Innisfil Beach Rd, Innisfil

**Members**

Peter Dance, Acting Chair

**Municipal**

Jennifer Best, Michelle Flaherty, Chris Gerrits, Jeff Hamelin, Katie Thompson

**Economic/Development**

Samantha Archibald, Colin Elliott, John Hemsted, Sarah Kurtz, Jessica Neto, Rick Newlove

**Public Sector**

Geoff Allen, Ian Chadwick, David Ketcheson, Karen Koornneef, Cate Root

**First Nations**

Chad McRae

**Liaisons**

Karen Kivilahti, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU)  
Don Goodyear, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA)  
Julie Cayley, Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA)  
Jennifer Vincent, Liaison, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA)  
Bilal Kidwai, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)

**Staff**

Bill Thompson, LSRCA  
Mystaya Touw, LSRCA  
Chloe Zhang, LSRCA  
Kathy Hillis, LSRCA (minutes)  
Ian Ockenden, NVCA  
Sheri Steinginga, NVCA  
Melissa Carruthers, SSEA

**Guests**

Christina Wieder, York Region Public Health Branch  
Shelly Cuddy, Durham Region  
Jenee Wallace, SMDHU  
Emily Goncalves, York Region  
Joanna Miron, York Region

**Regrets**

Stephanie Hobbs, Public Sector – Proxy to Cate Root  
Michelle Jakobi, Municipal – Proxy to Katie Thompson  
David Ritchie, Economic/Development – Proxy to John Hemsted  
Tom Bradley, Municipal – Proxy to Jennifer Best

1. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- a) Introduction of new Members: Samantha Archibald, Sarah Kurtz, Ian Chadwick and Chad McRae

2. **Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory**

3. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and Conflict of Interest**

4. **Approval of the Agenda**

**Pages 1-5**

**Recommended:** **That** the agenda for the Thursday, April 2, 2026 meeting of the Source Protection Committee be approved as presented.

5. **Adoption of Minutes**

**Pages 6-14**

**Recommended:** **That** the minutes of the Thursday, December 11, 2025 meeting of the Source Protection Committee be approved as circulated.

6. **Announcements**

- a) Chair

7. **Deputations**

There are none

8. **Presentations**

- a) A presentation by Mystaya Touw regarding Staff Report SPC2.1 – Annual Report on Plan Implementation (to December 31, 2025).

**Recommended:** **That** presentation a) and Staff Report SPC2.1 regarding Annual Report on Plan Implementation (to December 31, 2025) be received for information; and

**Further That** Source Protection Authority staff be directed to rate progress as “Progressing Well/On Target”; and

**Further That** the Source Protection Committee utilize section II of the Annual Report to comment on the progress made to date, as described in the Issues section.

- b) A presentation by Joanna Miron and Emily Goncalves, York Region, regarding York Region staff’s experience inspecting Risk Management Plans.

**Recommended:** That presentation b) regarding York Region staff’s experience inspecting Risk Management Plans be received for information.

c) A presentation by Bill Thompson, LSRCA regarding Staff Report SPC2.2 – Opportunity to comment on draft Environmental Activity and Sector Registry monitoring policy be received for information..

**Recommended:** That presentation c) and Staff Report SPC2.2 regarding Opportunity to comment on draft Environmental Activity and Sector Registry monitoring policy be received for information.

d) A presentation by Bill Thompson, LSRCA regarding a Source Protection Region Update.

**Recommended:** That presentation d) regarding a Source Protection Region Update be received for information.

9. **Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion**

(Reference Agenda Items on pages 3-4 of the Agenda)

10. **Adoption of Items Not Requiring Separate Discussion**

**Recommended:** That the recommendations as set forth in the items not requiring separate discussion be approved, and staff be authorized to take all necessary actions to affect those recommendations.

11. **Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion**

12. **Other Business**

13. **Closed Session**

14. **Next Meeting and Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Source Protection Committee is scheduled to be held on June 11, 2026, held virtually via Zoom.

## Agenda Items

### 1. Correspondence

**SPC1.1** – A letter dated December 4, 2025 from Leslie Rich, Manager of Source Water Protection, Conservation Ontario, regarding Conservation Ontario’s comments on the “Regulatory changes for accelerating and improving protections for Ontario’s drinking water sources” (ERO# 025-1104).

**Pages 15-18**

**SPC1.2** – A letter dated December 22, 2025 from Bill Thompson, Project Manager, South Georgian Bay – Lake Simcoe Source Protection Program, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority regarding the Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario’s conservation authorities (ERO #025-1257)

**Pages 19-20**

**SPC1.3** – Protecting Ontario’s Sources of Drinking Water Progress Summary (2017-2024)

**Pages 21**

**SPC1.4** – 2024 Annual Progress Report Results Summary

**Pages 22-28**

**That** correspondence SPC1.1 – SPC1.4 be received for information.

### 2. Staff Reports

**SPC2.1 - Annual Report on Plan Implementation (to December 31, 2025)**

**Pages 29-39**

**That** presentation a) and Staff Report SPC2.1 regarding Annual Report on Plan Implementation (to December 31, 2025) be received for information; and

**Further That** Source Protection Authority staff be directed to rate progress as “Progressing Well/On Target”; and

**Further That** the Source Protection Committee utilize section II of the Annual Report to comment on the progress made to date, as described in the Issues section.

**SPC2.2 - Opportunity to comment on draft Environmental Activity and Sector Registry monitoring policy**  
**Pages 40-44**

**That** presentation c) and Staff Report SPC2.2 regarding Opportunity to comment on draft Environmental Activity and Sector Registry monitoring policy be received for information.



**South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region**

**Source Protection Committee (SPC)**

**Minutes of Meeting SPC-04-2025**

**December 11, 2025**

The Acting Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm and Bill Thompson conducted the Roll Call.

**Members Present:**

Peter Dance, Acting Chair

**Municipal**

Chris Gerrits, Michelle Flaherty, Michelle Jakobi, Jennifer Best, Tom Bradley

**Economic/Development**

Colin Elliott, John Hemsted, Jessica Neto, Rick Newlove

**Public Sector**

Bob Duncanson, Stephanie Hobbs, Tom Kurtz, Cate Root, Karen Koornneef

**First Nations**

Vacant

**Liaisons**

Don Goodyear, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA)

Julie Cayley, Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA)

Jennifer Vincent, Liaison, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA)

Bilal Kidwai, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)

**Staff Present**

Bill Thompson, LSRCA

Mystaya Touw, LSRCA

Chloe Zhang, LSRCA

Melissa Carruthers, SSEA

Kathy Hillis, LSRCA (minutes)

Ian Ockenden, NVCA

Sheri Steinginga, NVCA

**Guests**

Christina Wieder, York Region Public Health Branch

Shelly Cuddy, Durham Region

Emily Goncalves, York Region

Sonya Kleywegt, MECP

Lloyd Lemon, Lloyd Lemon Geoscience Consulting

Gary Hendy, Gaman Consultants Inc.

Michael Jung, RV Anderson

Andrew Fors, RV Anderson

Stephane Sabeau, Barrie

Dylan Patterson, New Tecumseth

Rika Law, RV Anderson

Ian Todhunter, New Tecumseth

### **Regrets:**

Katie Thompson, Municipal - proxy to Tom Bradley  
David Ritchie, Economic/Development - proxy to John Hemsted  
Geoff Allen, Public Sector - proxy to Cate Root  
David Ketcheson, Economic/Development - proxy to Chris Gerrits  
Jeff Hamelin, Municipal

## **1. Welcome & Opening Remarks**

## **2. Land Acknowledgement**

The Chair recited the Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory.

## **3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and Conflict of Interest**

None declared.

## **4. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Rick Newlove

Seconded by: Cate Root

SPC-25-25 **Resolved That** the agenda for the December 11, 2025 meeting of the Source Protection Committee (SPC) be approved as presented. **Carried**

## **5. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by: Bob Duncanson

Seconded by: Rick Newlove

SPC-26-25 **Resolved That** the minutes of the October 16, 2025 meeting of the Source Protection Committee be approved as circulated. **Carried**

## **6. Announcements**

- a) We have not yet heard from the Ministry on the reappointment of Lynn Dollin as Chair.
- b) Membership changes are occurring on January 1, 2026. The Chair thanked Bob Duncanson and Tom Kurtz for their years of service as their terms are ending. New Members are Sarah Kurtz, Ian Chadwick and Samantha Archibald.

## **7. Deputations**

There were none.

## **8. Presentations**

- a) A presentation by Sonya Kleywegt, MECP, regarding Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) activities by MECP.

- Conclusions: PFAS levels in environmental media in Ontario are generally low, except with a contaminating source.
  - Regulated PFAS (e.g. PFOS, PFOA) levels are generally declining.
  - Un-regulated PFAS (e.g. short-chain PFAS) trends are less certain and further monitoring is required.
- What's Next? The Ministry continues to:
  - Conduct environmental monitoring for PFAS across all media.
    - Introduced an enhanced PFAS method in 2025 for drinking water and surface water.
  - Review the latest information and initiatives from academia, industry, and governmental agencies from other jurisdictions to determine if updated policies and benchmarks are required.
  - Works with Federal/Provincial/Territorial partners (including Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment) to develop ecological benchmarks, where applicable.
  - Investigate enhanced monitoring (passive samplers) and analysis (non-target analysis, Total Organic Fluorine, etc.) coupled with in vitro bioassays (e.g. CALUX) to better understand total PFAS impacts to the environment.
  - Work with partners through COA-funded projects to enhance monitoring, better understand impacts and investigate remediation technology (groundwater).

## QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Cate Root: How would our private septic systems impact wells or water sources based on proximity?

Sonya advised we are looking at large subsurface systems and are hoping to get some monitoring data on that. They have looked at septic systems and you will get a broad breadth of what is detected, especially with individual septic systems as it will depend on the type of chemicals used in your products or commercial products like clothing and detergents. There is a concern as we have seen with other contaminants that septic systems can contaminate the drinking water wells, however the concentrations we have seen so far with private septic systems are quite low. For that reason we are working with some conservation authorities on testing of domestic wells and have found the same result. That does not mean they cannot affect the source so we are trying to do outreach on the types of products where you may find PFAS and to get safer alternatives.

Jessica Neto: You said you are seeing an increase in C4 chains. Is there a specific reason for this?

Sonya responded that with the C8 (8-chain) carbons, with industry you regulate one chemical and they just replace it with another one, and then it takes another 20-years to

regulate that next chemical. They took the chain with the C8s and cut them in half so are using C4s which have the same properties as those chemicals but are not as persistent or perhaps as toxic, but as we continue to learn more about the shorter chains, we are learning that they have some other toxicity concerns as well. That is why we are seeing the index as they cut them in half or found another replacement, but until we get caught up with all of these chemical managements and how Health Canada is going to manage PFAS as a class, they just continue to generate new chemicals.

Cate Root: Can you speak to the health impacts of those chemicals?

Sonya indicated that the health impacts documented include thyroid disruption, immuno disease, certain cancers, sensitivities to vaccinations in children; a whole breadth of health impacts from C8s PFAS and PFOA and some of the longer chains. We are just getting some of the information out now with some of the shorter chains. The C6 are included in the Health Canada biomonitoring surveys and we look at ages 6-70, and 99% will have at least one PFAS in their bloodstream. We are seeing them in everyday products used for cooking and clothing. Anything that is water resistant and stain resistant contains these chemicals so we are seeing it in the blood of almost every Canadian.

Karen Koornneef: Wondering about the mobility of PFAS and how they interact with other chemicals that are in the water. Have you looked at the impact on agriculture as they water farms with it so is it building up in our food more than other systems?

Sonya responded that they have looked at studies of vegetation and in North Bay due to the contamination of Trout Lake and vegetation growth, and we do see in some different types, primarily leafy lettuce, there is accumulation of some of the shorter chain PFAS and in the roots are longer chain, so they can build up based on the concentration you are using for irrigation. Biosolid application has not seen significant uptake of PFAS which could be how the biosolids are applied (direct injected versus incorporation) as well as the time lapse from when you can grow crops on a field where biosolids were applied. When it comes to looking at the different PFAS and their mobility, they are not a typical compound as they have both the hydrophilic and hydrophobic ends to them so they are hard to predict as they act differently.

Moved by: John Hemsted

Seconded by: Chris Gerrits

SPC-27-25 **Resolved That** presentation a) regarding Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) activities by MECP be received for information. **Carried**

b) A presentation by Lloyd Lemon, Lloyd Lemon Geoscience Consulting, regarding Staff Report SPC2.1 - Updated Assessment of Drinking Water Threats – Alliston Well Water

Supply System– Technical Report prepared by Lloyd Lemon Geoscience Consulting on behalf of the Town of New Tecumseth, October 23, 2025.

Link to the presentation – [Updated Assessment of Drinking Water Threats: Alliston Well Water Supply System](#)

## **QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

Chris Gerrits: What happened to the 2004 model? A lot of effort was put into developing the models, so there may have needed to be some duplication of effort to create this model. A reminder that we need to back up and file data properly.

Lloyd advised that it was not found, same for the 2010 model. When the Golder team went from 2004 to 2010, they took all the original nine components from 2004 and created the 2010 model. Now they have taken all of the geological information and that is stored in the Oak Ridges Moraine package. We have everything but the numerical model for the Alliston community. Gary Hendy advised that a lot of work was put into locating this finite element model. A decision was made to develop a finite difference model and move forward, which was built with far better data as they had the 32-day aquifer test. Peter Dance commented that on the municipal side, when developing contracts for this type of work we need to ensure the contract includes providing the data for public access. Lloyd advised he had all of the reports from the 2004 model, and Ian Ockenden was able to provide the reports from the 2010 model. If the 2023 scope of work was to put new wells beside existing wells at the same pumping rates, than this information was not required, but the scope did change to increase the pumping rates. Don Goodyear advised that the days of consultants considering their work to be proprietary are gone so that this will not happen again. Lloyd confirmed that by using old data, a working model was developed within a few days.

Cate Root: There are still 37 risk management plans that need to be done. Will they be done before the extra pumping needs to be carried out?

Bill advised his expectation is no. Until the source protection plan is amended the risk management official does not have the legal authority to require RMPs. The SPP gives the RMO five years to bring those RMPs into effect, which allows them to prioritize the biggest risks and develop relationships. Lloyd indicated that these are not clearly identified as activities that exist yet, so wondered if there is an opportunity to do the confirmation that there is actually an activity in place that will require an RMP, before the plan is updated? Bill confirmed that Lloyd has done a desktop assessment which is appropriate for this stage of analysis. That level of windshield screen and conversations with affected homeowners and businesses can happen at anytime, but they do not have the authority until the SPP is in place. In terms of the number of RMPs, Lloyd advised that the majority are the application of road salt so they are still trying to figure

out what the appropriate policies will be for that with the new rules. Bill clarified that we have policies that apply with respect to the application of road salt.

Peter Dance: Well 10 was built but did not perform as planned so it became a back-up well. How does Well 10 proceed into the future or is it just put on the shelf?

Lloyd advised they are waiting for the Town to advise on how to proceed. Currently they have decided to get the Permit to Take Water for Well 10 for a lower pumping rate, but at this time the Town has not made any measures to add it to the drinking water system. Well 10 has been included in this Amendment as a replacement to Well 5 and not in addition to it, so if it is added no further amendment is needed.

Moved by: Bob Duncanson

Seconded by: Chris Gerrits

SPC-28-25 **Resolved That** presentation b) and Staff Report SPC2.1 regarding Updated Assessment of Drinking Water Threats – Alliston Well Water Supply System– Technical Report prepared by Lloyd Lemon Geoscience Consulting on behalf of the Town of New Tecumseth, October 23, 2025 be received for information. **Carried**

c) A presentation by Sheri Steiging, NVCA, regarding Staff Report SPC2.2 – Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report Update – Technical Report in support of the New Tecumseth (Alliston) S.34 WHPA update.

Link to the presentation – [Alliston Wellhead Protection Area Update, Township of New Tecumseth](#)

Moved by: Rick Newlove

Seconded by: Tom Bradley

SPC-29-25 **Resolved That** presentation c) and Staff Report SPC2.2 regarding Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report Update – Technical Report in support of the New Tecumseth (Alliston) S.34 WHPA update be received for information; and

**Further That** the South Georgian Bay - Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee agree that the proposed amendments to the New Tecumseth chapter of the Assessment Report is advisable. **Carried**

d) A presentation by Bill Thompson, LSRCA, and Melissa Carruthers, SSEA regarding Staff Report SPC2.3 – Status of Water Quality ‘Issues’ in the Source Protection Region.

Link to the presentation – [Status of Drinking Water Issues](#)

Moved by: Jessica Neto  
Seconded by: Chris Gerrits

SPC-30-25 **Resolved That** presentation d) and Staff Report SPC2.3 regarding Status of Water Quality ‘Issues’ in the Source Protection Region be received for information; and

**Further That** staff be directed to use the amendment to the Source Protection Plan currently underway to remove the Issue and Issue Contributing Area associated with Trichloroethylene at the Coldwater drinking water system;

**Further That** staff be directed to leave all other Issues and Issue Contributing Areas in the Assessment Report unchanged; and

**Further That** staff be directed to respond to Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (herein “Ministry”) that there is sufficient evidence for delisting of the Coldwater drinking water Issue, but not sufficient evidence for delisting of other Issues in the South Georgian Bay – Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region. **Carried**

e) A presentation by Bill Thompson, LSRCA, regarding Changes to the Clean Water Act and its Regulations.

Link to the presentation – [Changes to the Clean Water Act and its Regulations](#)

Moved by: John Hemsted  
Seconded by: Tom Bradley

SPC-31-25 **Resolved That** presentation e) regarding Changes to the Clean Water Act and its Regulations be received for information. **Carried**

f) A presentation by Bill Thompson, LSRCA, regarding Proposed Conservation Authority Consolidation.

Link to the presentation – [Proposed Conservation Authority Consolidation](#)

## QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Stephanie Hobbs: The map does not include the Midland peninsula, which is part of our source protection area. How did they come up with the boundaries?

Jennifer Vincent confirmed that is correct as the jurisdiction of a conservation authority will not be changing. Peter clarified that this is entirely about conservation authorities and not source protection regions. This source protection region has two areas that are not part of a conservation authority. Jennifer advised that the Province largely followed the Great Lakes Basin mapping, but did not change any conservation authority

boundaries and they are still watershed based, so entire CAs are amalgamated with no current individual CA boundary changing. Peter commented that a big part of their driver was to have some municipalities deal with fewer CAs, but this was not always the case. Jennifer gave the example that Amaranth is now part of three regional conservation authorities and has gone from dealing with approximately 30 different municipalities to over 200. Chris commented that as Dufferin County is the headwaters of many rivers, there was not likely a scenario where they remained untouched, and they are now just a smaller part of a larger organization.

Cate Root: This seems similar to what the Province wanted to do in reducing the number of District Health Units. The faster approvals for development sounds like what the Province wants and we can take note of what happened with a number of development issues just before the last election.

Jennifer confirmed parallels have been made to proposed reorganization of the District Health Units.

Cate Root: Can the SPC ask for comments to be submitted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario posting on our behalf regarding the proposed conservation authority consolidation?

Peter indicated that there is only speculation at this time as to whether or not there will be any changes to source protection authorities. Bill advised that some source protection committees have put in comments on the value of the source protection program and requested that no changes be made to the program. Don advised that the LSRCA Board of Directors is submitting a comment recommending that no changes be made to source protection regions and their programs. Cate suggested that the SPC comment be that although the Province is suggesting money will be saved, there may be less oversight which may mean development may occur more quickly but without proper review. Bill can draft a letter from the SPC focussing on the source protection program and not the CA program as that is not part of the SPC's mandate. Jennifer Best supports commenting on the source protection program only. Rick Newlove agrees that any letter must be strictly on source protection.

Moved by: Rick Newlove

Seconded by: Tom Bradley

SPC-32-25 **Resolved That** presentation f) regarding Proposed Conservation Authority Consolidation be received for information. **Carried**

### **AMENDMENT**

Moved by : Rick Newlove

Seconded by: Cate Root

SPC-33-25      **Further That** the South Georgian Bay – Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee submit a comment to the Environmental Registry of Ontario speaking to the value of the source protection program and the importance of local input to that program, and that the jurisdictions of the source protection authorities remain the same and not be expanded. **Carried**

**RESULTANT MOTION**

The resultant motion reads as follows:

**Resolved That** presentation f) regarding Proposed Conservation Authority Consolidation be received for information; and

**Further That** the South Georgian Bay – Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee submit a comment to the Environmental Registry of Ontario speaking to the value of the source protection program and the importance of local input to that program, and that the jurisdictions of the source protection authorities remain the unchanged. **Carried**

**9. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion**

No items were identified under items requiring separate discussion.

**10. Adoption of Items Not Requiring Separate Discussion**

No items were identified under items not requiring separate discussion.

**11. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion**

There were no items requiring separate discussion.

**12. Other Business**

None.

**13. Closed Session**

None.

**14. Next Meeting and Adjournment**

Moved by: Tom Bradley

Seconded by: Chris Gerrits

SPC-34-25      **Resolved That** the next meeting of the Source Protection Committee be scheduled; and

**Further that** the December 11, 2025 meeting of the Source Protection Committee be adjourned at 3:50 pm **Carried**



December 4, 2025

Via email: [source.protection@ontario.ca](mailto:source.protection@ontario.ca)

**Re: Conservation Ontario's comments on the "Regulatory changes for accelerating and improving protections for Ontario's drinking water sources" (ERO# 025-1104)**

Conservation Ontario is the voice of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities (CAs). We offer the following comments further to Conservation Authorities (CA) mandatory programs and services, including drinking water source protection, where we operate in partnership with the Province and municipalities to protect existing and future sources of drinking water. These comments are not intended to limit comments submitted individually by CAs on this proposal.

**Conservation Ontario supports most principles of this proposal and the government's commitment to maintaining a high standard of protection for drinking water sources. Given the CA role in implementation of these changes, Conservation Ontario urges the Province to reflect ongoing feedback provided by Conservation Authorities, Source Protection Committees and Source Protection Authorities in the final regulations.**

- Conservation Authorities operate as Source Protection Authorities (SPAs) under the *Clean Water Act*.
- Conservation Authorities are dedicated to providing client service excellence for all partners.
- Conservation Authorities operating as SPAs bring tremendous experience and expertise into carrying out the duties, functions and responsibilities under the provisions of the *Clean Water Act*.

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) undertook minor amendments to the *Clean Water Act, 2006* via Bill 56 to streamline the way sources of drinking water are protected. The Ministry is also proposing regulatory changes under the *Clean Water Act* and *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2022* to operationalize these amendments.

120 BAYVIEW PARKWAY, NEWMARKET, ON L3Y 3W3 CANADA  
TEL: 905-895-0716 FAX: 905-895-0751 E-MAIL: [info@conservationontario.ca](mailto:info@conservationontario.ca)

The Ministry is proposing the following three regulatory amendments:

1. Proposed amendments to the General Regulation (O. Reg. 287/07) under the *Clean Water Act* to support streamlining the source protection plan amendment process.

- Conservation Ontario supports allowing Source Protection Authorities to approve routine updates to source protection plans. This practice reflects the knowledge and expertise of the SPAs and better aligns the approval process for these minor amendments.
- Conservation Ontario recommends that supplemental guidance be developed to support the determination of when a SPA would be the approval authority for these plan amendments.
- Conservation Ontario strongly supports the Province retaining responsibility as the technical approval authority for updates to the Assessment Report prior to approval of the source protection plan update by the local SPA.
- To complement the recent legislative amendments, as well as these proposed regulatory amendments, Conservation Ontario is committed to working with its partners, including CAs/SPAs, municipalities and MECP to ensure that the amendments are efficient and effective, including work to streamline the process leading up to the determination of a complete application while maintaining necessary safeguards for sources of drinking water.
- Conservation Ontario is generally supportive of simplifying consultation requirements for plan amendments. To inform regulatory amendments, Source Protection Authorities that are already using consolidated consultation processes should be engaged to share lessons learned from their practices. Consolidated consultation processes and online notices should also be considered the minimum requirements, with local SPAs enabled to undertake additional consultation if warranted.
- Clarification is needed on certain aspects of the consultation process, including when a municipal resolution is required to proceed.
- Conservation Ontario supports the proposal to enable additional types of minor plan amendments to proceed using the existing streamlined process set out in section 51 of O. Reg. 287/07 (*Clean Water Act: General Regulation*). Should the Province proceed with this proposal, Conservation Ontario will work with its members to develop guidance to support implementation.

Additionally, changes are also proposed in the General Regulation to address the interaction between source protection plan policies affecting prescribed instruments (PIs) and other policy tools. PIs are provincial approvals used to manage significant drinking water threats.

- Conservation Ontario requests that the use of the risk management plan (RMP) tool remain as an option in cases where Issue Contributing Areas (ICAs) exist or for PIs issued under the *Nutrient Management Act* (NMA).
- Conservation Ontario recommends that restrictions on the use of PI policies to prohibit threat activities not be extended to PIs issued under the *Nutrient Management Act* (NMA), to allow for continued policy alignment with the NMA and to control the application of non-agricultural source material (NASM) in areas of high vulnerability (e.g., WHPA-A, WHPA-B with a vulnerability score of 10 and IPZ-1).
- Conservation Ontario appreciates the proposal that, in cases where the PI is not issued by a provincial body, but created by the person engaged in the activity, the risk management official (RMO) may review the PI to determine if the PI meets the test for establishing an RMP.

## 2. New Minister's regulation under the *Clean Water Act* to support the legislative proposal for the new approach for policies affecting prescribed instruments (PIs).

- Conservation Ontario acknowledges the need for regulatory certainty and consistency in management and reporting approaches.
- Conservation Ontario supports a new regulation to set out requirements for the issuer of the instrument to document and report on how they have managed the significant drinking water threat, and a standardized approach to the review of existing prescribed instruments. This standardized approach should include direct engagement with the lead SPA when reviewing existing instruments affected by a source protection plan amendment.
- Conservation Ontario recommends that the standardized wording of PI policies allow for the inclusion of non-binding terms and conditions for consideration by the issuer of the instrument, reflecting the intent and context of approved policies as well as the unique needs of the source protection area (e.g. Lake Ontario policies based on event-based modeling funded by municipalities).

3. Changes to O. Reg. 205/18 (Municipal Residential Drinking Water Systems in Source Protection Areas) and O. Reg. 287/07 are proposed to allow the supply of drinking water when an amendment to a drinking water works permits or municipal drinking water licence is granted, before an amendment to a source protection plan is complete, in certain circumstances.

- Conservation Ontario supports the proposed regulation change that would allow source protection authorities to advise in their notice that drinking water could be supplied in advance of a source protection plan amendment when a drinking water works permit or municipal drinking water licence is amended, in certain circumstances. These authorities have the expertise and local knowledge to make informed decisions about incorporating new drinking water sources into a plan.
- Should these amendments proceed, Conservation Ontario will work with its members to update the s. 48 notice template, as well as to produce guidance to support these changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on the “Regulatory changes for accelerating and improving protections for Ontario’s drinking water sources” (ERO# 012-1104). We would be pleased to discuss these comments at your convenience.

Sincerely,

*Leslie Rich*

Leslie Rich  
Manager of Source Water Protection

c.c. All CA CAOs/GMs



### South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region

December 22, 2025

Public Input Coordinator  
 MECP Conservation and Source Protection Branch  
 300 Water Street North Tower, 5th floor  
 Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7

**Re: Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities (ERO #025-1257)**

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal to consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into a proposed 7 "regional conservation authorities", as described in ERO posting number 025-1257.

I submit these comments on behalf of the South Georgian Bay – Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee, further to discussion and direction at the meeting of December 11, 2025. This Committee is one of 19 such committees designated by the Ministry with the task of implementing the *Clean Water Act* in partnership with source protection authorities, many of whom are also conservation authorities.

The Committee recognizes that the current proposal would not change the areas served by conservation authorities, nor would it change the fact that the Source Protection Program is one of the mandatory programs the regional conservation authorities would be responsible for delivering. We also understand that this proposal would not affect the Severn Sound Environmental Association (a non-CA source protection authority), and that their role under the *Clean Water Act* would remain unchanged.

The Committee also recognizes however that consolidation would require changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and that these changes may, in turn, require changes to the *Clean Water Act* and its regulations. The Committee wants to ensure that such changes do not dilute the value of the Source Protection program under its current structure.

Since the program's establishment, our local source protection authorities have developed strong working relationships with the Committee and each other, including in the development of a Source Protection Plan which developed local policies to achieve the intent of the *Act* and associated Technical Rules, while balancing multiple interests in our source protection region. Since the Source Protection Plan came into effect, over 3,000 threats to municipal drinking water have been addressed in our region, all without significant complaints by implementing bodies or those affected by policies.

The Committee is of the opinion that this level of success is due to the local nature of the program, which has allowed for close working relationships to be built between committee members, source protection authority staff and risk management officials. The fact that our Chair, and over half of the economic and public members on the Committee, have been members since the Committee's first establishment indicates the value and pride they take in the program.

The Committee strongly recommends that jurisdictions of the current source protection authorities and regions remain unchanged through this proposed consolidation of conservation authorities, to retain

this successful model of local delivery of provincial policy, and to avoid the need to restructure source protection committees or to consolidate source protection plans.

The Committee also recommends that if changes to the *Clean Water Act* and its Regulations are proposed, that committee members be engaged as part of the consultation process and that sufficient time be provided for Source Protection Committees to review and comment on such proposals.

Sincerely,










Bill Thompson  
Project Manager, South Georgian Bay – Lake Simcoe Source Protection Program  
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

c.  
Peter Dance, Acting Chair, South Georgian Bay – Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee  
Hassaan Basit, Chief Conservation Executive, Government of Ontario  
Kirsten Service, Director, Conservation and Source Protection Branch, MECP  
Clare Riepma, Chair, Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching / Black River Source Protection Authority  
Rob Baldwin, CAO, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority  
Jonathan Scott, Chair, Nottawasaga Valley Source Protection Authority  
Jennifer Vincent, CAO, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority  
Danielle Alexander, Chair, Severn Sound Source Protection Authority  
Julie Cayley, Executive Director, Severn Sound Environmental Association

# Protecting Ontario's Sources of Drinking Water Progress Summary (2017-2024)

## Protection Framework

## Actions for Protection

<p><b>Clean Water Act, 2006</b> </p> <p>First step in source to tap protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protects existing and future sources of drinking water in Ontario from contamination and depletion</li> <li>Enables municipalities to take action to protect source water through prevention</li> <li>Strong focus on risk management and land use planning</li> </ul>	<p><b>Prescribed instruments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific approvals or instruments that ensure activities conform with source protection requirements</li> <li>New activity applications are screened for vulnerable areas and significant drinking water threats</li> </ul> <p> <span style="color: green;">↑</span> <b>3256 applications reviewed</b>  <span style="color: green;">↑</span> <b>1128 risk activities regulated</b> </p>	<p><b>Interactive mapping tool</b> </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Source Protection Information Atlas</li> <li>Web based interactive mapping tool with real time data</li> <li>User can determine if a property is in a vulnerable area</li> <li>Helps user identify if they need to take action to protect a nearby source of drinking water</li> </ul>
<p><b>Provincial partnerships</b> </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19 lead source protection authorities</li> <li>19 source protection committees             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-stakeholder representing local interests</li> <li>Local champions for source protection and support on-the-ground efforts</li> </ul> </li> <li>286 municipalities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Risk management plans (RMPs)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site specific documents that outline required actions to address high-risk drinking water threats</li> <li>Approximately <b>125 risk management officials</b> across the province <b>enforce 2113 RMPs</b></li> </ul> <p> <span style="color: red;">↓</span> <b>98% Compliance with 672 RMP inspections in 2024</b>              2017 <span style="font-size: 2em;">➡</span> 506 RMPs on 669 properties              vs  <span style="color: green;">↑</span> 2024 <span style="font-size: 2em;">➡</span> 2113 RMPs on <b>2637</b> properties         </p>	<p><b>Other actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: red;">↓</span> <b>94%</b> of municipalities are incorporating source water protection into their official land use plans</li> <li><span style="color: green;">↑</span> <b>2233</b> source water protection signs have been installed on roadways throughout Ontario</li> <li><span style="color: green;">↑</span> <b>18313</b> septic systems inspected since 2017</li> <li><span style="color: green;">➤</span> <b>1046</b> septic systems inspected in 2024</li> </ul>
<p><b>Source protection plans</b> </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22 plans protecting ~450 municipal drinking water systems</li> <li>Science-based protection zones used to protect drinking water sources</li> <li>Contain requirements for actions to protect drinking water</li> </ul> <p> <span style="color: green;">↑</span> <b>19917 risks addressed</b>  <span style="color: green;">↑</span> <b>95% policies being implemented or in progress</b> </p>	<p><b>Prohibited activities in highly vulnerable areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant current and future threat activities can be prohibited under the Act.</li> </ul> <p> <span style="color: green;">↑</span> <b>449 high risk activities currently prohibited in Ontario</b>  <i>For example road salt application is prohibited in certain areas</i> </p>	  



↑ Increased from 2023    
 ↓ Decreased from 2023    
 ↔ No change from 2023

## 2024 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT RESULTS SUMMARY


Under the Clean Water Act, 2006, Source Protection Regions/Authorities (SPR/As) are required to report annually to MECP on the progress of implementing source protection plans in their respective source protection area or region.


MECP has been monitoring the progress of source protection plan implementation. Overall, data has shown continuous progress in the implementation of plans to protect sources of municipal drinking water.

Here are the 2024 Annual Progress Reporting Highlights:

REPORTABLES	TARGET	2024	Change since 2023	COMMENT
Percentage of Source Protection Committees indicating that the objectives of the source protection plan are progressing well/on target.	100%	100% of Source Protection Committees are reporting that implementation of source protection plans is “progressing well/on target”.		All 22 SPR/As are reporting that implementation of source protection plans are “progressing well/on target”.
Percent of legally binding policies that address significant drinking water threats that have been/are being implemented.	100%	95% significant drinking water threat policies have been/are being implemented.	1% 	The remaining 5% can be attributed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy directed at incorrect implementing body.</li> <li>• Policy does not apply.</li> <li>• Policy in development.</li> </ul>





**Legend:**

Increased from 2023 

Decreased from 2023  **22**


No change from 2023 

## Item SPC1.4

REPORTABLES	TARGET	2024	Change since 2023	COMMENT
Total cumulative number of risk management plans (RMP) established since the effective dates of source protection plans.	Increasing number of RMPs over time	2,113 RMPs established since the effective dates of source protection plans.	9% 	The 9% increase can be attributed to the Risk Management Officials' (RMOs) negotiating and establishing 175 new RMPs in 2024 reporting period.
Total cumulative number of properties with risk management plans (RMP) since the effective dates of source protection plans.	All properties that are subject to section 58 have RMPs.	2,637 properties with RMPs established since the effective dates of source protection plans.	10% 	The 10% increase can be attributed to 232 properties with new RMPs established in 2024 reporting period.
Percent of inspections that show conformity with prohibition (s.57) and risk management plan policies (s.58) in an approved source protection plan.	100%	97% of the inspections were found to be in compliance with s. 57 and s. 58.	1% 	The decline in the compliance rate can be attributed to two western SPR/As with 6 s.57 contraventions, three western SPR/As and one eastern SPR/A with 27 s.58 contraventions.
Percent compliance with the contents of risk management plan (RMP).	100%	98% compliance rate with RMP policies.	1% 	The decline in the compliance rate can be attributed to 12 non-compliance incidents as it relates to the specific contents of the RMPs, (9) from one central SPR/A and (3) from one western SPR/A.




**Legend:**

Increased from 2023 


Decreased from 2023  **23**


No change from 2023 

## Item SPC1.4

REPORTABLES	TARGET	2024	Change since 2023	COMMENT
Percent progress made (cumulative) in completing detailed review and actions taken on previously issued PIs to address existing significant drinking water threats.	100%	100% of prescribed instruments addressing existing significant drinking water threats have been reviewed by provincial ministries to conform with significant drinking water threat policies.  3,256 applications reviewed since 2016.  1,128 risks activities regulated since 2016.	0.3% 	All Prescribed Instrument (PIs) detailed reviews to address significant drinking water threat (SDWT) policies have been completed.
Percent of municipalities that are subject to significant drinking water threat policies that have incorporated/in the process of incorporating source protection into their Official Plans (OP).	100%	94% of municipalities have incorporated/in process of incorporating source protection into their OP.	1% 	The decline in the OP conformity can be attributed to municipalities within two SPR/As, (1) western SPR/A and (1) central SPR/A, that need to reperform the OP conformity exercise to reflect changes made to the SPP through s.34 and 36 amendments.
Total number of source water protection signs installed within 5-10 years of plan approval.	Increasing number of source protection signs installed.	2,233 source water protection signs installed within 5-10 years of plan approval.	2% 	A total of 47 signs were installed in municipal roads in 2024 reporting period, 21 signs from (3) western SPR/As and 26 signs from (2) central SPR/As.  In 2024 reporting period, MTO installed a total of 128 drinking water protection signs on provincial highways. The


**Legend:**

Increased from 2023 

Decreased from 2023  **24**


No change from 2023 


## Item SPC1.4

REPORTABLES	TARGET	2024	Change since 2023	COMMENT
				remainder were installed by municipalities.
Percentage of on-site sewage systems that are inspected as part of the mandatory septic inspections program where they are a significant threat.	100% of on-site sewage systems where they are a significant threat are inspected once every 5 years.	<p>100% of on-site sewage systems that were required to be inspected were completed in 2024 reporting year.</p> <p>1,046 septic systems inspected in 2024 reporting year.</p> <p>18,313 septic systems inspected since 2017.</p>	<p><b>13%</b> </p>	Since these percentages are calculated on an annual basis, they will naturally fluctuate from year to year. Some years may show a higher percentage of on-site systems inspected, while others may show a lower percentage. This variation is due to the five-year inspection cycle for on-site septic systems.


**Legend:**

Increased from 2023 


Decreased from 2023  **25**


No change from 2023 

## Item SPC1.4

REPORTABLES	TARGET	2024	Change since 2023	COMMENT
Percent of significant drinking water threats that existed in the area when the source protection plan was approved that have been addressed (i.e., eliminated or managed).	100% of significant drinking water threats have been addressed/mitigated.	<p>71% of significant drinking water threats have been addressed/mitigated as of the 2024 reporting year.</p> <p>19,917 existing significant drinking water threats have been addressed/mitigated since the effective dates of source protection plans.</p>	<p>1% </p>	<p>This number corresponds to all SDWTs that are addressed by either a binding and/or a non binding policy. A policy can address multiple SDWTs. Hence, there can be more threat numbers than policies.</p> <p>The three SPR/As with the lowest percentage progress made in addressing existing SDWTs are from (1) central SPR/A and (2) western SPR/As.</p>

**Legend:**

Increased from 2023 

Decreased from 2023  **26**

No change from 2023 

### Success Stories

#### Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region

The Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region (HHSPR), through Conservation Halton, conducted a climate change vulnerability assessment of ten municipal drinking water systems within the HHSPR, as well as the Lynden Settlement Area drinking water system in the City of Hamilton. The assessment utilized the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' (MECP) Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Tool (CCVAT) to evaluate potential risks climate change poses to drinking water quality. Key climate change factors—such as rising temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events—were considered alongside each system's adaptive capacity, or its ability to respond to and manage these impacts. The process involved analyzing both historical and projected climate data, and incorporating assessments of exposure, sensitivity, and impact for each system. The findings highlight the need for municipalities to address the system's physical and operational aspects contributing to the system's vulnerability to climate change.

#### City of Toronto

The City of Toronto developed a Spill Response Plan for its water treatment operations, providing staff with a structured framework to manage spill events. This framework outlines procedures for collecting spill-related information, modeling the event using the Lake Ontario Water Quality Forecasting System (LOWQFS), interpreting the results, and assessing potential impacts on water quality at drinking water treatment plant intakes in Toronto and neighbouring municipalities. It also includes protocols for notifying internal operations and adjacent municipalities of the spill. Proposed updates to the City's Spill Contingency Plan aim to formally integrate the use of LOWQFS into the City's spill response procedures.

#### Quinte

In 2024, the Quinte Source Protection Area hosted six local "Drinking Water Wise" webinars, attracting 885 registrants and generating approximately 770 views on YouTube. The series covered a range of topics including Realty and Rural Drinking Water, Rural Drinking Water and Human Health, Drinking Water Testing and Treatment, Groundwater 101, Harmful Algal Blooms, and Climate Change.

## Item SPC1.4

### Saugeen, Grey Sauble, and Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region

The Saugeen, Grey Sauble, and Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region engaged municipal staff in discussions on best management practices (BMPs) for salt storage, handling, and application to protect drinking water sources. In partnership with the Bruce and Grey County Federations of Agriculture, articles were published in Rural Voice Magazine highlighting karst-related threats and BMPs for agricultural activities in vulnerable areas.

### Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region

In 2024, the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region launched its Salt Responsibly campaign to raise awareness about the impacts of road salt on drinking water sources. As part of this initiative, new educational stickers were distributed for placement on road salt boxes, and an interactive story map was developed. The story map features accessible information, scientific insights, and practical actions the public can take to help reduce the threat of road salt on sources of drinking water.

## Source Protection Committee Meeting SPC-01-2025

### Staff Report Number: SPC2.1

**To:** South Georgian Bay - Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee

**From:** Mystaya Touw, Sourcewater Protection Specialist, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

**Date:** April 2, 2026

**Subject:** Annual Report on Plan Implementation (to December 31, 2025)

### Recommendations:

**That** presentation a) and Staff Report SPC2.1 regarding Annual Report on Plan Implementation (to December 31, 2025) be received for information; and

**Further That** Source Protection Authority staff be directed to rate progress as “Progressing Well/On Target”; and

**Further That** the Source Protection Committee utilize section II of the Annual Report to comment on the progress made to date, as described in the Issues section.

### Purpose of Staff Report:

The purpose of this Staff Report is to provide the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee an overview of the annual report on implementation progress and to seek the Committee’s rating and comments on progress made in 2025.

### Background:

The South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan has been in effect since July 1, 2015. The local source protection authorities are required to monitor and report on the implementation of the Plan policies in order to assess if threats to municipal drinking water sources are being reduced through policy implementation. This information will help support any future amendments to the Plan and provide accountability and transparency to stakeholders.

The Clean Water Act (Section 46) requires that the source protection authorities report to the Director, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks on the implementation of all policies by May 1st of each year. The Source Protection Committee is to be provided an opportunity to review and comment on the report prior to submission (see Appendix A). This year all reporting was done through the Ministry's EAR2 platform to provide data on the current progress of policy implementation. An analysis of the annual reports from the

## Item SPC2.1

various implementing bodies demonstrates that implementation of the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan is progressing well. Progress continues to be made on risk management plans and inspections, septic inspection, prescribed instruments, and municipal planning updates.

### Issues:

Key findings of the 2025 annual report to the province are summarized below for the source protection region:

- All municipalities submitted their annual reports to the Source Protection Authority.
- Most of the policies (98%) that address significant drinking water threats have been or are in the process of being implemented in accordance with the timelines set out in our Plan. The remaining 2% are policies which are to be implemented by provincial agencies, and for which the ministries have either not reported, or reported “not applicable”.
- Municipalities in our source protection region have processes in place to ensure that their day-to-day planning decisions conform to source protection plans.
- Five additional municipal Official Plans were approved in 2025.
- 689 septic inspections were completed in 2025, which is about 33% of the total due to be inspected in every 5-years cycle (2,116 total). 27 (or 4%) required some remedial action.
- 13 risk management plans were established in 2025, for a total of 286 reported active risk management plans.
- The new risk management plans address threats related to Plan amendments or new threats on the landscape.
- 87 risk management inspections were completed this year, with none reporting compliance issues.
- 130 developments were proposed in a WHPA-Q2. 113 were reviewed by a Qualified person in 2025, and more will be in the future. 52 developments were approved in WHPA-Q2s in 2025.
- All 43 of the municipalities that are subject to Source Protection Plan policies have amended or are in the process of amending their Official Plan to conform with the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan.
- Seven applications were reviewed by the province through Prescribed Instrument policies. Only one was determined to meet the Threat circumstances (for wastewater), and it is still in the approvals process.
- Two existing instruments were reviewed, one resulting in an updated NASM Plan, and the other instrument was discovered to no longer be active.

## Summary:

The various implementers of legally binding policies within the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region have submitted their 2025 annual reports to the Source Protection Authority, as required under the Clean Water Act. The reports show that the implementation of policies continues to progress well. Since the plan was written, ‘future threats’ have emerged through changes in land ownership, and the identification of new vulnerable areas associated with new (or expanded) municipal drinking water systems, which implementers are continuing to address. About 33% of septic systems were inspected this year, 13 new risk management plans signed, and 87 risk management inspections were completed.

In providing source protection committees an opportunity to comment on progress, the Ministry has asked that progress also be scored as one of three categories: Limited Progress (i.e. a few of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing), Satisfactory (i.e. some of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing), or Progressing Well/On Target (i.e. the majority of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing). Staff is recommending that the Source Protection Committee provide a score of “Progressing Well/On Target,” the same score as last year.

## Recommendations:

**It Is Therefore Recommended That** presentation a) and Staff Report SPC2.1 regarding Annual Report on Plan Implementation (to December 31, 2025) be received for information; and

**Further That** Source Protection Authority staff be directed to rate progress as “Progressing Well/On Target”; and

**Further That** the Source Protection Committee utilize section II of the Annual Report to comment on the progress made to date, as described in the Issues section.

## Prepared by:

Mystaya Touw, Sourcewater Protection Specialist

## Recommended by:

Bill Thompson, Project Manager, South Georgian Bay – Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region

## Attachments: 1

# Source Protection Annual Progress Report

## South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Region



### On the Implementation of the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan

Reporting period January 1 to December 31, 2025

[Ourwatershed.ca](http://Ourwatershed.ca)



## 2025 Source Protection Annual Progress Report

### Introduction

This annual report briefly summarizes the progress made in implementing the source protection plan for the Lakes Simcoe & Couchiching Black River, Nottawasaga Valley and Severn Sound source protection areas, as required by the *Clean Water Act* and its regulations for the 2025 calendar year.

Protecting the sources of our drinking water is the first step in a multi-barrier approach to safeguard the quality and quantity of our water supplies. The source protection plan is the culmination of extensive science-based assessments, consultation with the community, collaboration with local stakeholders and the province, and research. The implementation of the policies contained in the source protection plan ensure that activities carried out in the vicinity of municipal drinking water supply wells and lake-based drinking water intakes do not pose a significant risk to those supplies.



## Item SPC2.1

### A Message from your local Source Protection Committee

Our source protection committee was asked to provide a progress score on achieving source protection plan objectives this reporting period, with three progress scores to choose from as follows:

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

The progress score selected for achieving source protection plan objectives this reporting period is **Progressing Well/On Target**.

All municipalities submitted their 2025 annual reports to the Source Protection Authority. Risk management officials report 286 active risk management plans in the Source Protection Region, with 13 being new in 2025. A total of 689 septic system inspection and 87 risk management inspections were completed this reporting year. Five more municipalities completed Official Plan updates in 2025.

## Item SPC2.1

### Our Watershed

The South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region contains four watersheds and spans over 10,000 km<sup>2</sup>, from the Oak Ridges Moraine in the south to the Canadian Shield in the north and is comprised of the Black-Severn, Lake Simcoe, Nottawasaga Valley and Severn Sound watersheds. The region contains portions of the Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridges Moraine, Oro Moraine, Peterborough Drumlin Fields, Simcoe Uplands and Lowlands and the Canadian Shield. The region includes:

- 4 watersheds
- 52 municipalities
- 3 First Nations communities
- 108 drinking water systems
- 289 municipal supply wells
- 16 municipal surface water intakes
- More than 50,000 private wells

All told, the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe region has about one third of the municipal drinking water systems in the province.

The region is complex and diverse in terms of geology, physiography, population, and development pressures, with many, often conflicting, water uses including drinking water supply, recreation, irrigation, agriculture, commercial and industrial uses, as well as ecosystem needs.

These differences represent a significant challenge for the development of a source protection plan because of the associated variability of available information upon which to base the technical work, the differing stresses on water resources related to development pressure and population growth, and the differences in the nature, density and locations of threats to the quality and quantity of water resources.

To learn more, please read our assessment reports and source protection plan.

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

### Source Protection Plan Policies and Addressing Significant Risks

The South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee included 129 policies in their source protection plan to address 22 prescribed threats, protect sources of drinking water and monitor the progress of policy implementation.

Since the source protection plan took effect, 99% of the original existing drinking water threats have been addressed, and any remaining have extenuating circumstances and plans to address them in place. Progress has been made more recently addressing new threats, and threats associated with amendments to the Plan. Risk Management Inspections are also an ongoing focus for Risk Management Officials.

**The progress score for implementing Plan policies is progressing well/on target.**

### Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

Of the 52 municipalities (upper, lower and single-tier) within the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region, 43 of these are subject to one or more source protection plan policies. The remaining nine municipalities do not have vulnerable areas where policies apply.

Planning departments and building officials are screening applications for locations within vulnerable areas where threats to drinking water sources are possible and policies may apply.

Municipalities in our source protection region are also required 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. All 43 of the municipalities that are subject to source protection plan policies have amended or are in the process of amending their Official Plan to conform with the source protection plan for our region.

**The municipal progress score is progressing well/on target.**

### Septic Inspections

An estimated 2,116 septic systems are required to be inspected as part of each 5-year inspection cycle. A total of 689 on-site sewage systems have been inspected in accordance with the Ontario Building Code in 2025, 27 of which required some remedial action. Many municipalities have plans to complete their round-three inspection in 2026 or 2027.

**The progress score for the septic inspection program is progressing well/on target.**

## Item SPC2.1

### **Risk Management Plans**

In 2025, 13 new risk management plans were completed to address new threats or threats associated with amendments to the plan. Risk Management Officials now report a total of 286 active risk management plans in the Source Protection Region. More will be required in the future as plan amendments continue.

Risk Management Official/Inspectors completed 87 inspections for regulated activities in 2025. No compliance issues were noted in the inspections this year.

**The progress score for establishing risk management plans is progressing well/on target.**

### **Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground**

Ontario ministries are reviewing applications for new or amended and 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 activities that pose a significant risk to sources of drinking water. The provincial approvals are being issued, denied, amended or revoked, where necessary, to conform to plan policies. Our policies set out a timeline of five years from the date the source protection plan took effect (July 1, 2015) to complete the review of existing activities and make any necessary changes to previously issued approvals. The timeline for new or amended prescribed instruments is outlined in the Plan as the day the Source Protection Plan took effect. The ministries have reported 100% completion of previously issued provincial approvals in our source protection region and have a review protocol in place to screen all new applicable approval applications.

**The progress score for the addressing risks using prescribed instruments is progressing well/on target.**

### **Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour**

The City of Orillia worked with their fire department to raise awareness of the importance of source water protection and the impact spills can have in vulnerable areas. They are also working to develop a salt management plan. Municipalities in the Nottawasaga Valley watershed were engaged in presentations on source water protection and the role of risk management officials. City of Barrie staff attended municipal events, such as Drinking Water Week and Communities in Bloom, as well as using social media, for education and outreach.

# Item SPC2.1

## Source Protection Plan Policies: Summary of Delays

Of the 129 policies included in the Source Protection Plan, all (with the exception of one) are currently being implemented or are in the process of being implemented. The only policy that has had no progress made to date is the non-legally binding policy on transport pathways (TP-1). This policy only applies to one municipality in the Severn Sound Source Protection Area. Within this area there are numerous significant drinking water threats and managing these threats through the use of legally binding policies has been the main priority to date. This policy will continue to be considered in future work plans.

## Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions

**City of Barrie** - Barrie Well Supply - Central Well Field Issue Contributing Area for: Sodium and Chloride

- An increasing concentration/trend has been observed.
- Risk management plans are being developed for large users of salt to ensure best practices are implemented for storage and application. The City of Barrie staff follow Smart About Salt practices.

**Town of Penetanguishene** - Robert Street West Supply Well Issue Contributing Area for: Trichloroethylene

- No change in concentration/trend..

**Township of Brock** – Cannington Well Supply – Arena Well Field Issue Contributing Area for: Trichloroethylene

- A decreasing concentration/trend has been observed.

**Township of Brock** – Cannington Well Supply – Emerging Issue for: Nitrate

- An increasing concentration/trend has been observed. The potential Issue is
- is going through the Plan amendment process as of 2025/early 2026.

**Township of Severn** - Coldwater Well Supply Issue Contributing Area for: Trichloroethylene

- No change in concentration/trend.

**Tiny Township** - Lafontaine Well Supply Issue Contributing Area for: Nitrate

- No change in concentration/trend.

**Tiny Township** - Georgian Sands Well Supply Issue Contributing Area for: Nitrate

- No change in concentration/trend.

## Science-based Assessment Reports: Work Plans

No work plans were required to be implemented for our assessment reports.

## Item SPC2.1

### More from the Watershed

To learn more about the South Georgian Bay-Lake Simcoe Protection Region, visit:

[www.ourwatershed.ca](http://www.ourwatershed.ca)

Education and outreach are an important part of implementing source protection. Source protection authorities, municipalities and Risk Management Officials within the region continue to engage the community through site visits, social media, and workshops.

## Source Protection Committee Meeting SPC-01-2026

### Staff Report Number: SPC2.2

**To:** South Georgian Bay - Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee

**From:** Bill Thompson, Project Manager, South Georgian Bay – Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region

**Date:** April 2, 2026

**Subject:** **Opportunity to comment on draft Environmental Activity and Sector Registry monitoring policy**

### Recommendations:

**That** presentation c) and Staff Report SPC2.2 regarding Opportunity to comment on draft Environmental Activity and Sector Registry monitoring policy be received for information.

### Purpose of Staff Report:

The purpose of this Staff Report is to bring to the attention of the Source Protection Committee a draft policy written by the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks for the Lake Erie Source Protection Region, and to provide the Committee the opportunity to comment if it wishes.

### Background:

The Provincial government has recently changed their process for the approvals of stormwater management works, to allow low risk works to be managed through the self-registering EASR (Environmental Activity and Sector Registry) process (as outlined in staff report 2.4 from the November 2023 SPC meeting). Despite comments from the Committee recommending that any stormwater works identified as Significant Drinking Water Threats go through the full Environmental Compliance Approval process, which includes greater review and oversight, the Province made its decision to address low risk stormwater works through EASR, even if they were identified as Significant Drinking Water Threats (as described in staff report 2.7 from the October 2025 SPC meeting).

In making this decision, the Province did allow Source Protection Committees the ability to include Monitoring policies in their Source Protection Plans, to ensure Source Protection Committees and Authorities were made aware of stormwater works approved through EASR in their respective Source Protection Areas. Accordingly, the South Georgian Bay

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Source Protection Committee endorsed a draft policy brought by staff at the October 2025 SPC meeting (as described in staff report 2.7, and attachment 1).

The Lake Erie Source Protection Committee wanted to include a similar policy in a proposed amendment to their Plan which is currently in front of the Ministry for consultation. In that case, Ministry staff have worked with Lake Erie Source Protection staff to draft the policy, and have circulated it back to the Source Protection Committee for comment. It has also been circulated to all other Source Protection program managers for review and comment (see draft policy in Attachment 1).

### Issues:

There is no requirement from the Ministry that other Source Protection Committees adopt this policy, however the text in this draft policy is indicative of Ministry thinking on the topic. As can be seen in the Attachment, the Ministry's draft policy is similar to the policy approved by this Source Protection Committee, except that the Ministry policy proposes to inform Source Protection staff when registrations occur, while our policy requires that notification once per year.

While not directly related, the Province has also recently approved an amendment to the Clean Water Act, which will require Source Protection Plans use standardize wording in their Prescribed Instrument policies (as described at the December 11, 2025 SPC meeting. This amendment to the Act is not in effect yet, and it is the understanding of staff that this new requirement would not apply to the draft policy in the attachment. However both the text of the policy and its circulation to Source Protection Authorities for comment may be indicative of the approach the Ministry plans to take under these new powers.

The Ministry requested comments on the attached by March 9. I informed them that I would be bringing the issue to the April meeting of this Committee and that this Committee may wish to comment as well. Other Project Managers responded similarly, and the Ministry indicated that they welcomed those comments as well.

### Summary:

The Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks have circulated a policy they have drafted for the Lake Erie Source Protection Region, which would require the Ministry to track and report on stormwater works approved through EASR, where they would be significant drinking water threats. This Source Protection Committee has approved a similar policy drafted earlier by SPA staff. Committees are not required to adopt the policy developed by the Ministry, but the Ministry has powers pending that will allow them to specify wording to be used in policies that pertain to Prescribed Instruments, so it is

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expected that the Committee will continue to see policies drafted by the Ministry in the future.

### **Recommendations:**

**It Is Therefore Recommended That** presentation c) and Staff Report SPC2.2 regarding Opportunity to comment on draft Environmental Activity and Sector Registry monitoring policy be received for information.

### **Prepared by:**

Bill Thompson, Project Manager, South Georgian Bay – Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region

### **Attachments: 1**

### Attachment 1 - Draft SWM EASR Monitoring Policies

#### 1a. Policy drafted by MECP for Lake Erie Region

**Approach:** Manage

**Applicability to SDWT:** Existing and Future Threats

**Legal Effect:** Comply with

**Policy text:**

Where stormwater management works are a significant drinking water threat (SDWT) and meet the criteria for registration on the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR), the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks shall:

1. Notify the Source Protection Authority when:
  - a. these registrations occur.
  - b. registered storm water management works have been updated by the registrant to identify a SDWT.
2. By February 1 of each year, report on the number of inspections conducted on registered works where the activities would be an SDWT.

**1b. Policies approved by SGBLS SPC for SGBLS SPR**

Policy number	Tool	Legal Effect	Implementer	Existing / Future	Policy Text
MON-7	Mon	MC	MECP	E/F	By February 1 of each year, MECP shall report to the local Source Protection Authority on the number of registrations to the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR) that are considered Significant Drinking Water Threats, and how many registrations for Significant Drinking Water Threats were audited by Ministry Staff in the previous year