



Niagara's Source Protection Annual Report: 2014

Where are we now?

Niagara  Region

www.sourceprotection-niagara.ca



This annual report is provided in accordance with Section 81 of the Clean Water Act, 2006. It outlines the activities undertaken by Niagara Region in 2014.

Background

The purpose of the Clean Water Act is to protect existing and future sources of drinking water by preventing contaminants from entering sources of municipal drinking water. There are 21 threat categories that are prescribed in the Clean Water Act and Ontario Regulation 287/07, which are considered significant drinking water threats. The Source Protection Plan (SPP) for the Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area was approved by the Province on Dec. 12, 2013, under the Clean Water Act, 2006. The Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area applies to the same jurisdiction as the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA), and includes the Regional Municipality of Niagara as well as portions of the City of Hamilton and Haldimand County. The effective date of the Source Protection plan was Oct. 1, 2014.

Appointment

In March 2014 Regional Council approved the (Report PW-48-2014) appointment of Kristin Pressey as the Risk Management Official and Inspector.

Local Municipalities Are Engaged

In early 2014 a working group was formed consisting of Regional, municipal and NPCA staff. This group is working on drafting official plan amendment text and mapping to conform to the Source Protection Plan and a guidance document to assist with implementation.

Planning Applications

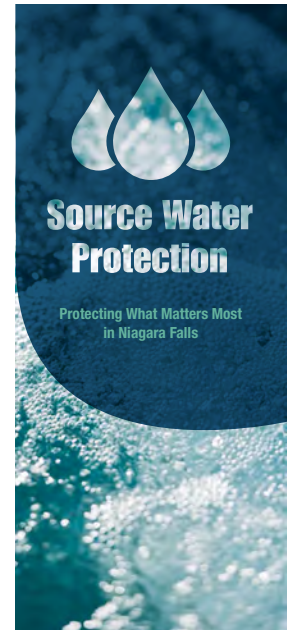
The working group is also developing a planning and building application review process which will require applications in vulnerable areas to be circulated to the Risk Management Official for review.

Education and Outreach

A communication plan was developed to assist with Education and Outreach policies. Communication initiatives completed include informational brochures, sponsoring participation in specific training (Smart about Salt), providing an informational booth at the local Agricultural Fair as well as presentations to various groups including Niagara Snow School, a municipal stormwater management group and water compliance training.

Risk Management Plans

Letters as well as follow up phone calls have been made to six property owners which were identified to have potential significant threats on their property requiring risk management plans.



Efforts to Verify Potential Significant Threats

Over the next two years, Niagara Region is planning on dedicating internal resources to verify potential significant threats (threats) identified in the Assessment Report. Potential threats to water quality were ranked as significant, moderate or low based upon proximity to drinking water sources and the volume, mobility and toxicity of a potential contaminant source defined in legislation. Significant threats are prioritized for source protection efforts. A survey has been developed to assist in the threats verification process.

