



# Niagara's Source Protection Annual Report: 2016

Where are we now?

Niagara  Region

[www.sourceprotection-niagara.ca](http://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 The Regional Municipality of Niagara (Niagara Region) to implement Source Protection Plan policies in 2016.**

### **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 2016, Regional Council approved a report which allows delegated authority, to the Commissioner of Public Works, for the appointment of the Risk Management Official and Inspector. In April 2016, Jen Croswell was appointed as Risk Management Official and Risk Management Inspector with Deanna Barrow appointed as back-up.

### **Planning Applications**

A planning and building application review process which requires applications in vulnerable areas to be circulated to the Risk Management Official for review has been drafted and is set to be finalized and fully implemented in 2017.

### **Education and Outreach**

A communication plan was developed to assist with Education and Outreach policies. Communication initiatives completed include informational brochures and sponsoring participation in specific training (Smart about Salt), as well as presentations to various groups, including Niagara Snow School. Niagara Region also conducted source protection and water compliance training for internal water-wastewater staff.

### **Source Water Protection Signage**

Proposed source protection signage locations have been identified for Thorold and Port Colborne and are pending approval and installation in 2017.



## Emergency Response Plans

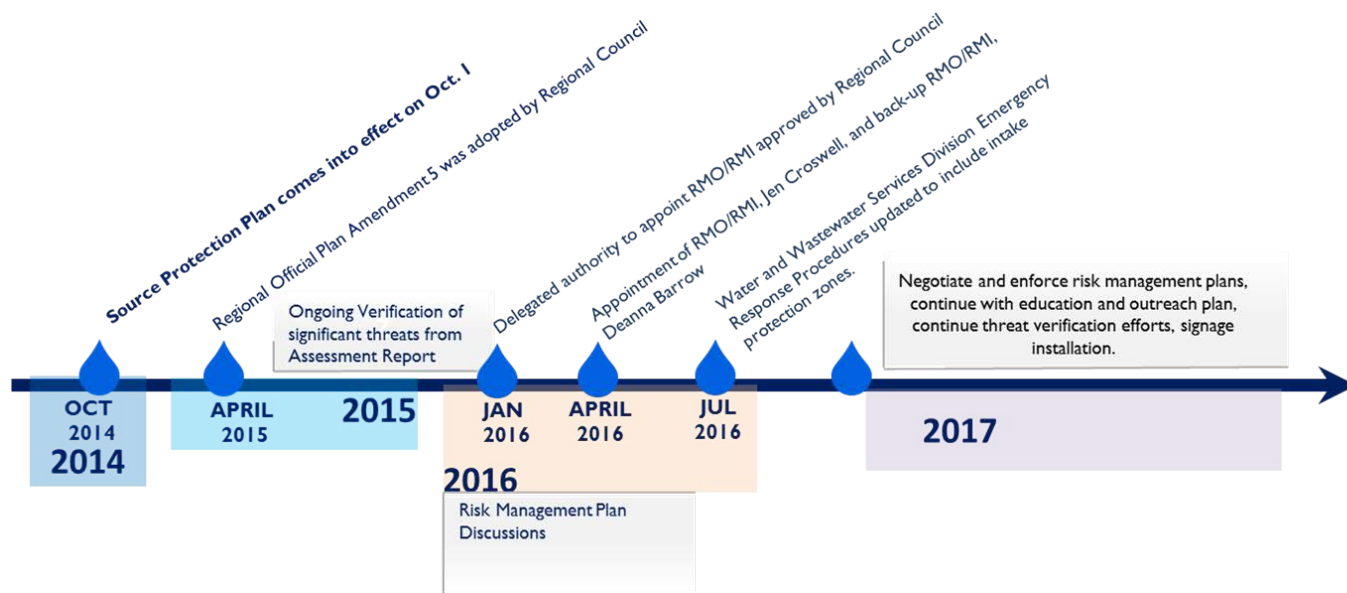
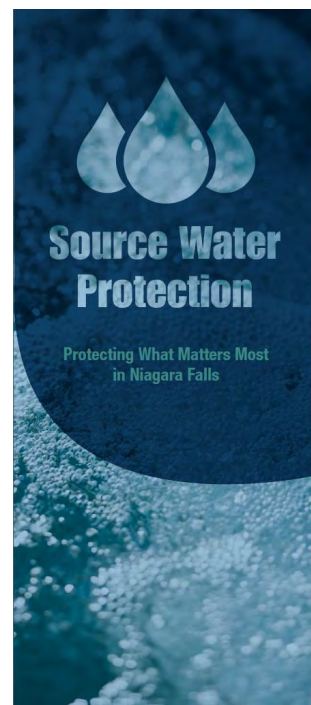
The Niagara Region Water and Wastewater Services Division has updated their emergency response plans to include additional source water protection considerations. The updated plan has been fully implemented and included training of internal water and wastewater services division staff.

## Risk Management Plans

Communication efforts have been made with property owners/operators via letters, phone calls and/or face-to-face meetings. It has been confirmed that one (1) property owner/operator requires a risk management plan and two (2) property owners/operators have potential significant threats on their property requiring risk management plans. Two (2) site visits were conducted in 2016 which confirmed the elimination of six (6) significant threats.

## Efforts to Verify Potential Significant Threats

Over the next year, Niagara Region will dedicate 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.



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