




Niagara Region's Risk Management Official Annual Report: 2018

Where are we now?



This annual report outlines the activities undertaken by the Regional Municipality of Niagara (Niagara Region) to implement Source Protection Plan Policies in 2018.

The purpose of this annual report is to highlight implementation efforts, undertaken by Niagara Region, related to source water protection within the region. This report is meant to complement the official source water protection annual reporting required under the Clean Water Act, 2006

Background

The purpose of the Clean Water Act is to protect existing and future sources of municipal drinking water by preventing or mitigating the risks, or threats, associated with certain activities. 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 for the Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area was approved by the Province on December 12, 2013, under the Clean Water Act, 2006, and became effective as of October 1, 2014. The Niagara Peninsula Source Protection Area applies to the same jurisdiction as the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, and includes the Regional Municipality of Niagara as well as portions of the City of Hamilton and Haldimand County.

Appointment

As appointed in 2016, Jen Croswell remains the Risk Management Official (RMO) and Risk Management Inspector (RMI) for Niagara Region, with Deanna Barrow appointed as back-up. Jen and Deanna are employees of Niagara Region's water and wastewater services division and continue to work closely with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority on source protection efforts.



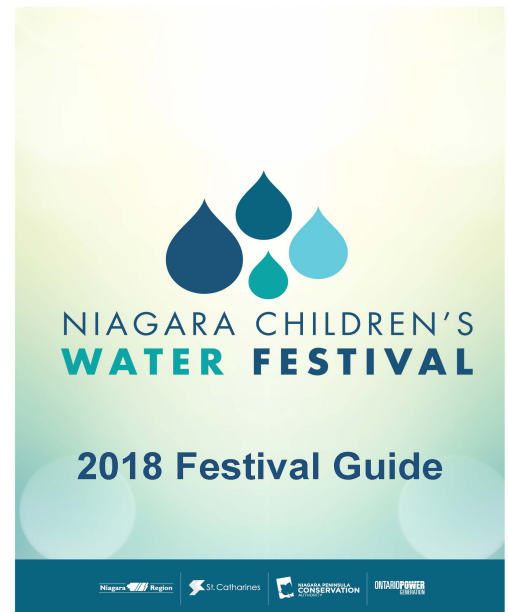
Education and Outreach

Niagara Region is the lead organizer, financial supporter and actively participates in the Niagara Children's Water Festival. The festival's main goal is to educate third and fourth grade Niagara students on the importance of environmental stewardship and protection, with a focus on water resources (including source water). In 2018, the festival reached approximately 4100 students, teachers and parents through fun activities and experiences.



Source Water Protection Signage

Two source water protection signs were installed in Thorold in 2018.



Risk Management Plans

Since 2016, the RMO was able to dismiss nine of the 24 potentially significant drinking water threats identified in the Assessment Report (<http://www.sourceprotection-niagara.ca/documents/assessment-report/approved-assessment-report>).

Six significant drinking water threats are being managed under a risk management plan, a legal document that ensures significant drinking water threats are managed in a way that ensures source water is protected.

The RMO was able to determine that existing practices for the remaining nine significant drinking water threats are suitable for the protection of drinking water and is currently collaborating with property owners/operators to finalize the remaining risk management plan.



Threat Verification

Niagara Region continues to survey intake protection areas to verify moderate drinking water threats. In 2018, the intake protection zone 2 for the Port Colborne Water Treatment Plant was completed. The information gathered will assist with updating the source protection plan in the future.

Incorporating Source Protection into Business Practices

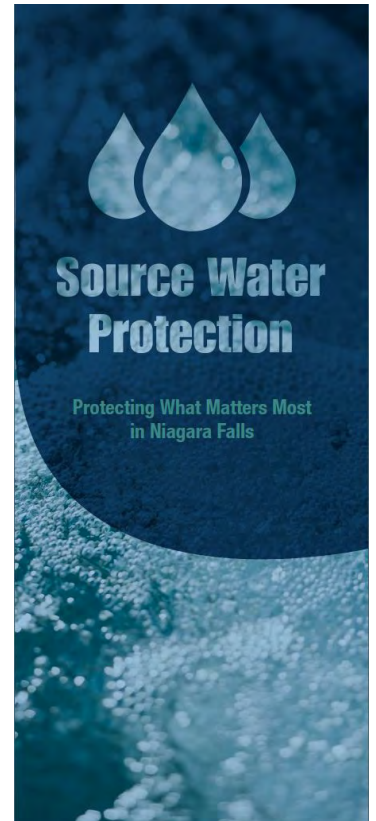
Moving forward, Niagara Region is incorporating source water protection consideration into existing business practices. This began in 2015 with the inclusion of source protection policies in the Regional Official Plan, continued in 2016 when the Niagara Region water and wastewater services division updated its Emergency Response Plan and most recently when the water and wastewater services division's capital planning process documentation was updated to require source water technical work during the Environmental Assessment process of its projects. These efforts will ensure that Niagara Region is able to meet the new requirements of Ontario Regulation 205/18 where source water protection must be assessed before water treatment plant intake infrastructure work can occur.

Path Forward

Throughout 2019, Niagara will begin to undertake source protection assessment work for the anticipated changes to the intakes of the Decew Falls, Niagara Falls and Welland water treatment plants.

The Risk Management Official and Inspector will continue to negotiate, inspect, and enforce risk management plans.

Lastly, education and outreach will continue with additional signage installation in Welland and community outreach during the Children's Water Festival and threat verification efforts.



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