



Niagara Region's Risk Management Official Annual Report: 2017

Where are we now?



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 2017.

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.

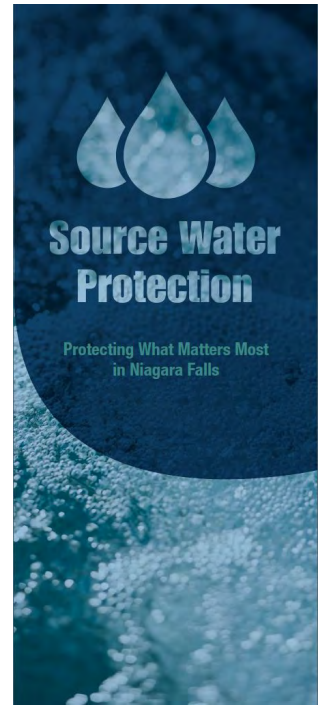
Risk Management Plans

Since 2016, the RMO was able to dismiss nine of 24 significant drinking water threats from three (of eight total) land parcels since the threats were not present or could not impact source water. Through letters, phone calls and face-to-face meetings, the RMO was able to determine that existing practices on the remaining five parcels are suitable for the protection of drinking water and is currently collaborating with property owners/operators to finalize risk management plans.

Education and Outreach

A communication plan was updated to assist with education and outreach source protection plan 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 conducts source protection and water compliance training for internal water-wastewater staff on an ongoing basis.

In addition to the efforts mentioned above, Niagara Region also supports and is actively involved 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). Every year, the festival reaches approximately 5300 students, teachers and parents through fun activities and experiences.



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.

Internal Source Water Protection Resources

In 2017, one additional Niagara Region staff member received the required RMO/RMI training, provided by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. Though not appointed at this time, the additional staff member having completed the training provides additional options for Niagara Region to meet its responsibilities under the Clean Water Act in the event of unanticipated staffing changes. In addition, processes related to RMO/RMI activities were documented to ensure consistency when working with those who are impacted by enforceable source protection policies.



Source Water Protection Signage

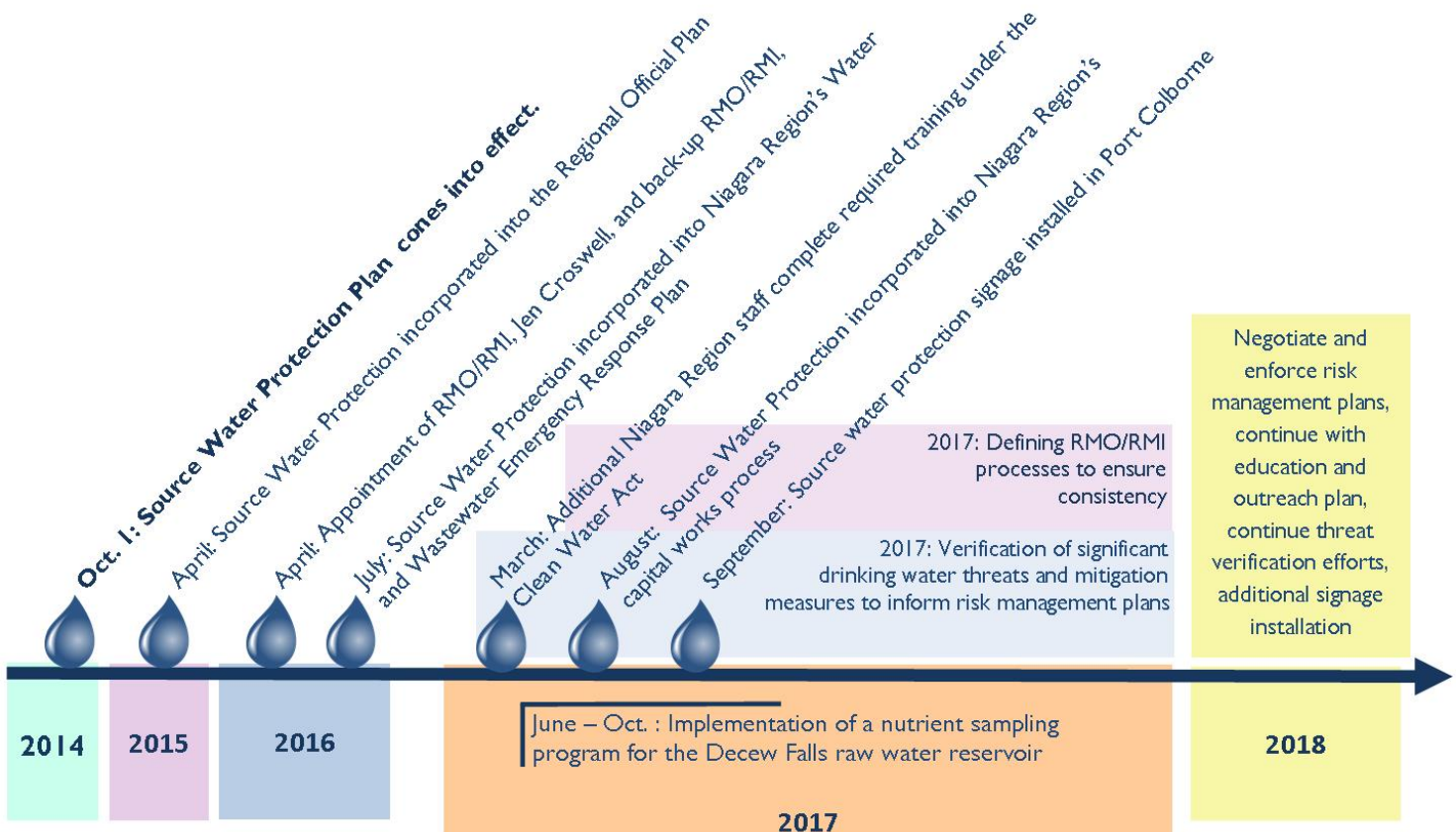
Ten source water protection signs were installed in Port Colborne in 2017 (three on Regional roads and seven on municipal roads).



Nutrient Sampling

In 2017 a nutrient sampling program was implemented for the Decew Falls raw water reservoir. The information gathered through this additional sampling will be reviewed and used to inform future actions regarding source protection and algae growth mitigation.

Source Protection Timeline



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