



Notice of Meeting

Hamilton Region Source Protection Authority

Thursday, April 2, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Hamilton Conservation Authority conducts meetings in a hybrid format via an in-person and WebEx platform.

All hybrid meetings can be viewed live on HCA's You Tube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/HamiltonConservation>

1. Call to Order

– Brad Clark

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

3. Approval of Agenda

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

4.1. Draft Minutes, Hamilton Region Source Protection Authority Board, November 6, 2025
Page 1

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

6. Staff Reports/Memorandums

Items to be received

6.1. Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Program Update – Martin Keller Page 5

Reports for approval

6.2. Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Annual Progress Report 2025
– Martin Keller Page 9

7. In-Camera Items

8. Next Meeting – To be determined

9. Adjournment

Hamilton Region Source Protection Authority

Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

November 6, 2025

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., at the HCA main office, 838 Mineral Springs Road, in Ancaster, and livestreamed on YouTube

PRESENT: **Brad Clark – in the Chair**
 Craig Cassar **Elise Copps**
 Lisa DiCesare **Susan Fielding**
 Wayne Terryberry – Virtual **Alex Wilson - Virtual**

André Chabot – Foundation Chair

REGRETS: **Jeff Beattie, Matt Francis, Mike Spadafora and Maureen Wilson**

STAFF PRESENT: **Madolyn Armstrong, Nancy Arnold, Jonathan Bastien, Lisa Burnside, Gord Costie, Marlene Ferreira, Scott Fleming, Liam Fletcher, Brandon Good, Rob Gray, Matt Hall, Amanda Martin, Stacey McConnell, Scott Peck, Mike Stone, Jaime Tellier, Stacey Van Opstal and Sandra Winninger**

OTHERS: **Joey Coleman**

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Martin Keller, Senior Manager, Watershed Planning and Source Protection Program Manager, was introduced.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

The Chair asked members to declare any conflicts of interest under the Board’s Governance Policy. There were none.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair requested any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

SP 2504 **MOVED BY: Craig Cassar**
 SECONDED BY: Lisa DiCesare

THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (April 3, 2025)

SP 2505 **MOVED BY: Alex Wilson**
 SECONDED BY: Craig Cassar

THAT the minutes of the Hamilton Region Source Protection Authority meeting held on April 3, 2025, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was none.

6. Staff Reports/Memorandums

Items to be approved

6.1. Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region Agreement

Martin Keller provided an overview of the report and answered members' questions. The report requests approval to renew the partnership agreement for five years between Halton Region and Hamilton Region source Protection Authorities.

SP 2506 **MOVED BY: Susan Fielding**
 SECONDED BY: Wayne Terryberry

THAT the Hamilton Region Source Protection Authority endorses the proposed amendments to the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region Agreement for drinking water source

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Memorandum to: Hamilton Region Source Protection Authority Board

Approved for Circulation By: Lisa Burnside, CAO

Reviewed By: T. Scott Peck, MCIP, RPP, Deputy CAO/Director, Watershed Management Services

Prepared By: Martin Keller, Senior Manager, Watershed Planning and Source Protection, Conservation Halton

Meeting Date: April 2, 2026

Subject: Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Program Update

Executive Summary:

Preparations for the upcoming S.34 Source Protection Plan amendment are underway. Early engagement with the Ministry is nearing completion and pre-consultation will begin following the April Source Protection Committee meeting, followed by public consultation over the summer, with the final submission package expected to be presented to the Source Protection Authorities in the fall of 2026. Three Source Protection Committee chairs have recently been appointed by the Minister; at this time there is no information available about the appointment of a chair for the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee. Education and outreach events have been scheduled for 2026, including registration for participation at the Ancaster Fall Fair.

Staff Comment / Discussion:

S.34 Source Protection Plan Amendment

Staff have begun preparations for the section 34 Halton Hamilton Source Protection Plan amendment to include policy revisions and technical work completed over the last several years. Staff have developed a detailed work plan to outline the process for the section 34 amendment. An overview and timeline are shown in **Figure 1**.

January – April 2026 – Early Engagement

Early engagement is currently underway. Through this process staff engages with the Ministry to ensure policies are reviewed and technical work meets the Technical Rules and has Ministry support. Staff submitted a draft policy package to the Ministry in the fall of 2025 that included new and updated policies to align with the 2021 Technical Rules.

Reports outlining the technical work undertaken have also been submitted. Ministry staff are in support of the technical work and review of the draft proposed policies is ongoing and staff is awaiting comments.

May – June 2026 – Pre-Consultation

Following the early engagement period, staff will begin pre-consultation. The pre-consultation period involves engaging with policy implementors that are affected by proposed source protection plan changes. Staff will send out notices per regulatory requirements, including to municipal clerks and provincial ministries. Municipalities will be requested to bring a summary report of the changes to municipal council for council resolution. Once all council resolutions are received, staff will begin public consultation. Staff is coordinating pre-consultation with municipal staff.

July – September 2026 – Public Consultation

Public consultation is scheduled to run from June 29 through August 7, 2026. During public consultation summary information about the changes and any technical work will be posted on protectingwater.ca. Staff is planning to host a live webinar the week of July 13 to inform the public of the changes and to answer any questions or address any concerns. The webinar is planned to be recorded and posted to the website. A feedback survey is also planned to be posted for property owners and members of the public to provide feedback about the proposed changes. Staff will compile all comments received and propose responses to the Source Protection Committee to address any feedback where necessary.

Program Managers Meeting

Staff attended a Program Managers meeting on February 25, 2026. Agenda items included Ministry updates on the recent Source Protection Committee chair appointments for three source protection regions, current and future transfer payment agreements, source protection policy development, and Annual Progress Reporting. At this time a chair for the Halton Hamilton Source Protection Committee has not been appointed.

Engagement and Outreach

Website updates are nearing completion for protectingwater.ca to update information and improve user experience. The development site has been constructed and is undergoing final review. Staff have begun planning engagement and outreach events for 2026. Participation at the Ancaster Fall Fair has been scheduled for the weekend of September 24-27, 2026. Last year's event provided an opportunity to engage with 400+ members of the public, bringing awareness about the source protection program to a broad audience. Together with members of the Source Protection Committee, staff also plan to participate at the Halton Region Children's Water Festival, scheduled for October 5-8, 2026, engaging with grade 3 students from across Halton Region.

Figure 1: Timeline for updating the Halton Hamilton Source Protection Plan under Section 34 of the Clean Water Act, 2006.

2026 Source Protection Plan Amendment	2025	2026											
	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Early Engagement with MECP	Blue	Blue	Blue										
Finalizing Technical Revisions and Updates			Blue										
Comments and Responses to SPC				Green									
Pre-consultation with Implementing Bodies					Blue	Blue							
Request for Municipal Council Resolution					Blue	Blue							
Comments and Responses to SPC							Green						
Consultation with General Public								Blue	Blue				
Comments and Responses to SPC										Green			
Finalizing Submission Package											Blue		
Endorsement by SPAs												Green	
Submission to MECP													Blue
Legend	Green	Meetings											

Strategic Plan Linkage:

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2025 – 2029:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Water Resources Management**
 - Focused on safeguarding the health of the watershed and protecting people and property from natural hazards.

Agency Comments:

Not applicable

Legal / Financial Implications:

There are no financial impacts resulting from this report.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Not Applicable

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Report to: Hamilton Region Source Protection Authority Board

Approved for Circulation By: Lisa Burnside, CAO

Reviewed By: T. Scott Peck, MCIP, RPP, Deputy CAO/Director, Watershed Management Services

Prepared By: Martin Keller, Senior Manager, Watershed Planning and Source Protection, Conservation Halton

Meeting Date: April 2, 2026

Subject: Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Annual Progress Report 2025

Recommendation:

THAT the Hamilton Region Source Protection Authority approves the submission of the Annual Progress Report 2025 for the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Plan to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

AND THAT the Hamilton Region Source Protection Authority receives for information the staff report entitled “Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Annual Progress Report 2025”

Executive Summary:

Staff analysed reports received on source protection plan policy implementation progress from implementing bodies, including municipalities and provincial ministries. The 2025 Annual Progress Report is prepared accordingly, for review by the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee (HHSPC) and Source Protection Authority Boards prior to submission to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).

The following report provides an overview of the activities undertaken and successes achieved for the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Plan implementation in 2025.

Background:

The Clean Water Act, 2006 requires the preparation, maintenance and implementation of source protection plans to protect the quality and quantity of sources of municipal drinking water. The Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Plan was approved by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) on December 31, 2015. Since then, implementation of policies is being carried out by municipalities, provincial ministries, and others, to address risks posed to municipal drinking water sources. The policy implementers have been working to satisfy the intent of each policy.

There are a variety of policy tools used in the plan, including “soft tools” such as education and outreach, best practices, and stewardship programs, and regulatory tools including land use planning (official plan and zoning by-laws), prescribed instruments (such as environmental compliance approvals), risk management plans (per Part IV of the Act), and other strategic measures. Together, they meet the objectives of the plan to protect existing and future municipal drinking water sources.

Staff Comment / Discussion:

Annual Progress Reporting

As required by the Clean Water Act, 2006, the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region (HHSPR) must prepare an annual progress report to demonstrate progress made in implementing policies that protect Lake Ontario and groundwater municipal drinking water sources in the region. **Figure 1** provides a simplified overview of the comprehensive process.

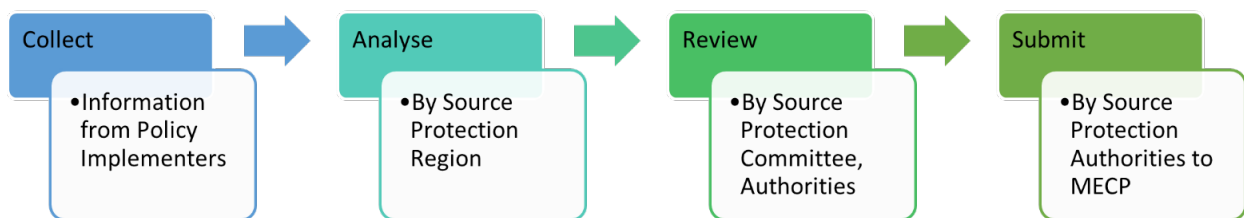


Figure 1: Source Protection Plan - Annual Progress Reporting at a Glance

Staff analysed information from implementing bodies, using the online Electronic Annual Reporting (EAR) tool. Municipalities, provincial ministries, and others are commended for their effort in collecting pertinent data and information over the course of the year to inform the annual progress reporting process to multiple source protection authorities overlapping political boundaries.

Several “reportables” are provided to MECP at the source protection region level, based on HHSPR’s analysis of hundreds of contributing data points and information from policy implementers provided by February 1 every year. In turn, the MECP collects the

detailed synthesized “reportables” from Source Protection Authorities across Ontario by May 1 every year and aggregates it to the provincial scale in the annual Chief Drinking Water Inspector’s Report.

Annual Progress Report 2025 Highlights

A total of 840 potential significant threats to sources of municipal drinking water systems have been identified. Through field verification exercises, municipal staff have determined that 253 potential activities are no longer a significant threat to municipal drinking water. 173 of the remaining potential threats have been confirmed and addressed through policy implementation. This represents 51% progress in addressing significant drinking water threats – an increase of 8% since 2024. Of the 414 remaining threats, 224 are potential sewage threats and will be verified or addressed in the next septic inspection cycle, beginning in 2026. Municipal staff have done excellent work over the past year confirming and addressing potential significant drinking water threats in the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region.

As of December 31, 2025, 100% of the policies in the source protection plan are implemented, in progress, or require no further action. Municipalities, provincial ministries, and other agencies and stakeholders are responsible for the implementation of policy.

The Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee continued its education and outreach program in 2025 by implementing a new water awareness curriculum at Conservation Halton's Way of the Wood summer camp, through an exhibit at the annual Halton Children’s Water Festival and engaging with the public at the Ancaster Fall fair.

Based on the review of the annual progress reporting by the implementing bodies, the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee recognizes the progress made addressing significant drinking water threats to achieve the objectives of the Clean Water Act. A ranking score of progressing well and on target is a fair assessment of overall progress.

Submission

Staff recommends approval of the Source Protection Annual Progress Report 2025 (Attachment 1) by the Hamilton Region Source Protection Authority for submission to the MECP. A similar report will be presented to the Halton Source Protection Authority on April 16, 2026. Staff will upload the Annual Progress Report 2025 data to the Electronic Annual Reporting (EAR) database by the legislated deadline of May 1, 2026, and a notice of official submission will be sent to MECP.

Strategic Plan Linkage:

The initiative refers directly to the HCA Strategic Plan 2025 – 2029:

- **Strategic Priority Area – Water Resources Management**
 - Focused on safeguarding the health of the watershed and protecting people and property from natural hazards.

Agency Comments:

Not applicable.

Legal / Financial Implications:

Not applicable.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Attachment 1: Annual Progress Report 2025

Source Protection Annual Progress Report 2025

I. Introduction

The annual progress report summarizes progress made in implementing the source protection plans for the Halton Region and Hamilton Region Source Protection Areas, as required by the Clean Water Act, 2006 and its regulations. The report highlights actions taken to protect the quality of the sources of our drinking water and to sustain them in the future.

The source protection plan is the culmination of extensive science-based assessments, consultation with the community, and collaboration with local stakeholders and the province. The implementation of the policies it contains ensures that activities carried out in the vicinity of municipal wells and lake-based water intakes will not pose a significant risk to the water sources.

Thanks to the efforts of those responsible for implementing the policies, most of the policies have been implemented and work to address significant threat activities is ongoing.

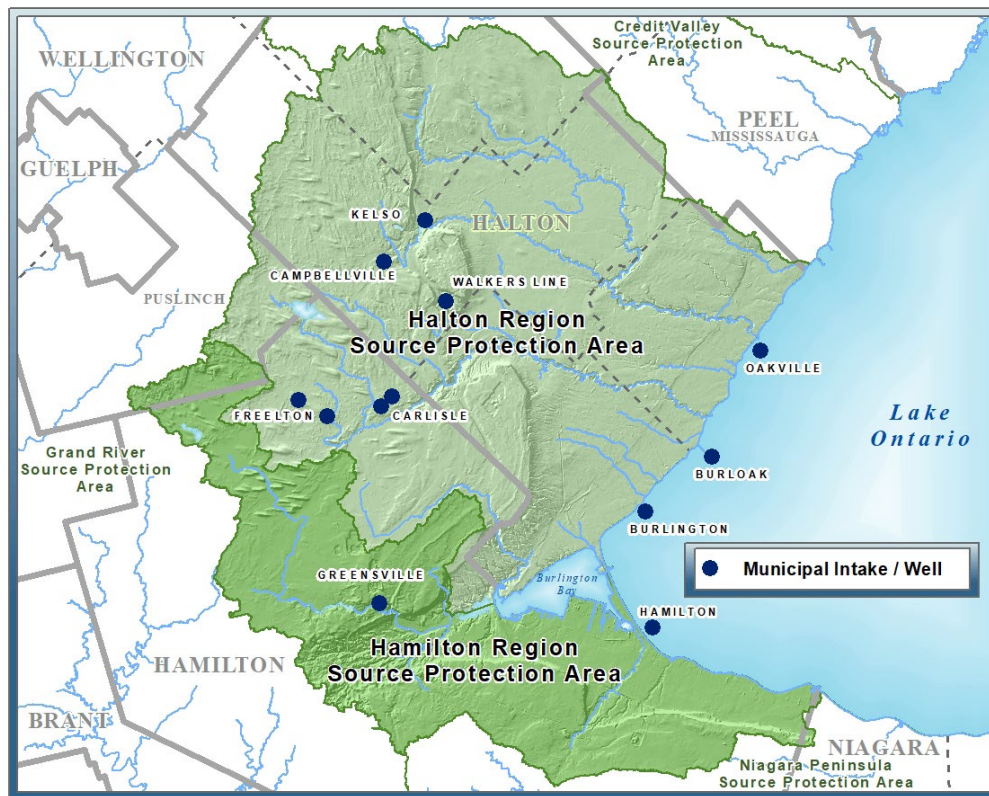


Figure 1: Hamilton-Halton Source Protection Region

II. A message from your local Source Protection Committee

P: Progressing Well/On Target – The majority of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.

This is the ninth Annual Report prepared on the implementation of the source protection plan for the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region covering the period from December 31, 2015 to December 31, 2025, and summarizing its progress in the year 2025.

A total of 840 potential significant threats to sources of municipal drinking water systems have been identified. Through field verification exercises, municipal staff have determined that 253 potential activities are no longer a significant threat to municipal drinking water. 173 of the remaining potential threats have been confirmed and addressed through policy implementation. This represents 51% progress in addressing significant drinking water threats – an increase of 8% since 2024. Of the 414 remaining threats, 224 are potential sewage threats and will be verified or addressed in the next septic inspection cycle, beginning in 2026. Municipal staff have done excellent work over the past year confirming and addressing potential significant drinking water threats in the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region.

As of December 31, 2025, 100% of the policies in the source protection plan are implemented, in progress, or require no further action. Municipalities, provincial ministries, and other agencies and stakeholders are responsible for the implementation of policy.

The Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee continued its education and outreach program in 2025 by implementing a new water awareness curriculum at Conservation Halton's Way of the Wood summer camp, through an exhibit at the annual Halton Children's Water Festival and engaging with the public at the Ancaster Fall fair.

Based on the review of the annual progress reporting by the implementing bodies, the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee recognizes the progress made addressing significant drinking water threats to achieve the objectives of the Clean Water Act. A ranking score of progressing well and on target is a fair assessment of overall progress.

III. Our Watershed

The Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region is located at the western end of Lake Ontario and includes portions of the Cities of Hamilton, Burlington and Mississauga; the Regions of Halton, Peel and Niagara; the Towns of Milton, Halton Hills, Oakville, and Grimsby; the County of Wellington; and the Township of Puslinch. The region covers an area of 1,417 km² of land and 720 km² of Great Lakes waters.

Approximately 970,000 people make the source protection region their home and the region is expected to grow over the next decades. The landscape is changing due to this growth and the source protection plan is in place to help guide this growth in a way that protects our vulnerable drinking water sources.

The Regional Municipality of Halton and the City of Hamilton own and operate municipal drinking water systems within the source protection region. These systems include six intakes in Lake Ontario (Woodward (2), Burlington (2), Burloak, and Oakville), three municipal well systems in Hamilton (Carlisle, Freelon, and Greensville) and three municipal well systems in Halton Region (Kelso, Campbellville, and Walkers Line). In addition, some homes and businesses within the source protection region are supplied with water from municipal drinking water systems located in neighbouring areas. In total, these municipal water systems supply about 95% of the population within the source protection region with reliable, clean drinking water. About 92% of the population receives water from Lake Ontario and 3 percent receive groundwater. Outside the urban area, private wells and cisterns are relied on by the remaining 5% of the population. Private well systems and the natural environment use the same sources of water that, under the current program, the government seeks to protect for municipal supplies. In this way, maintaining a sustainable supply of clean water within the aquifers of Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region and in Lake Ontario will benefit all residents and businesses.

In November 2022, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) approved a comprehensive plan update under Section 36 of the Clean Water Act. The source protection plan contains policies that require or request actions from municipalities, provincial ministries, federal departments, conservation authorities, landowners, and stakeholders. This report summarizes actions taken to implement the amended Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Plan.

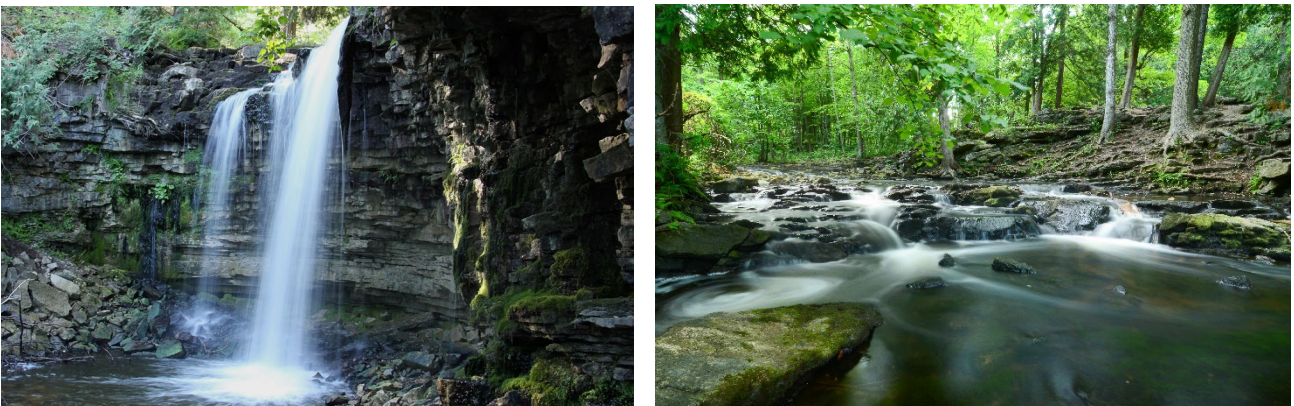


Figure 2: Hilton Falls Conservation Area

IV. At a Glance: Progress on Source Protection Plan Implementation

1. Source Protection Plan Policies and Addressing Significant Risks

P: Progressing Well/On Target

The Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee included policies in the source protection plan to address prescribed drinking water threats through actions necessary to protect sources of drinking water, and the monitoring of policy implementation. 100% of the legally binding and non-legally binding policies in the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Plan aimed to address significant drinking water threat activities have been implemented or are being implemented.

Policies are in place to manage or prohibit existing or future activities that may occur in vulnerable areas that could pose a risk to the quality or quantity of sources of drinking water. Approximately 51% of the existing significant threats have been managed and no longer pose a significant risk to municipal drinking water sources. This is an increase of 8% compared to the 43% reported in 2024. The City of Hamilton made great progress addressing drinking water threat activities in 2025 and is progressing well after the cybersecurity incident of 2024 that significantly affected the City. Field verification of potential threats identified during the comprehensive Section 36 updates to the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Plan is ongoing and within the prescribed timelines. Any verified threats will be addressed and managed through the source protection plan policies.

Based on a continued advancement of source protection plan implementation in 2025, the progress score given for overall plan implementation status is P: Progressing Well/On Target.

2. Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

P: Progressing Well/On Target

The Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region includes twelve municipalities. Policies are directed at eight of those municipalities to cover the activities of all twelve. It is a requirement that municipalities ensure their Official Plan conforms with the local source protection plan. At the end of this reporting period, all eight municipalities have completed or are in the process of completing their Official Plan updates.

As of July 1, 2024, Regional Municipalities (upper tier) are no longer responsible for the Regional Official Plan. Planning Authority and Official Plan updates are now the responsibility of lower tier municipalities.

All but one municipality have completed or have started updates to their zoning by-laws. The town of Halton Hills will begin the zoning by-law update in 2027.

Municipal progress in implementing policies is given a progress score of P: Progressing Well.



3. Septic Inspections

P: Progressing Well/On Target

The Ontario Building Code requires that small sewage systems be inspected every five years through a mandatory on-site sewage system inspection program. The City of Hamilton and the Town of Milton established inspection programs in 2016. Currently, there are 357 properties included in the sewage re-inspection program. The second five-year cycle is underway, and all systems have been inspected.

Through the Section 36 plan amendment process, the Freelon Wellhead Protection Area was re-delineated and resulted in a significant increase in identified potential on-site sewage threats. All newly identified potential threats will be included in the next re-inspection cycle, scheduled to commence in 2026.

The municipal sewage re-inspection programs are given a progress score of P: Progressing Well.

4. Risk Management Plans

P: Progressing Well/On Target

No new risk management plans were established in this reporting year. The cumulative total remains at seven established risk management plans to date. Seven inspections (including follow-up site visits) were conducted, with no instances of non-compliance or contravention found.

Implementation of risk management plan policies is given a progress score of P: Progressing Well.

5. Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

P: Progressing Well/On Target

Ontario ministries review applications for new or amended and previously issued provincial approvals (e.g., Environmental Compliance Approvals issued 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 source water. The provincial approvals are either being issued, denied, amended, or revoked, where necessary, to conform with plan policies.

The Ministry undertakes an annual planned inspection program that addresses risk to human and environmental health at agricultural sites. Inspections target the application, storage and handling of Agricultural Source Material (ASM) and Non-Agricultural Source Material (NASM) as regulated under the Nutrient Management Act. During this reporting period the Ministry conducted no inspections in the Hamilton Region Source Water Protection Area and two (2) inspections within the Halton Region Source Water Protection Area. Of the inspections conducted within the Halton Region Source Protection Area, non-compliance was identified in one (1) which has since been resolved.

All Ministries have completed their reporting for 2025. Details have been provided regarding training and procedures followed to ensure source protection is considered in their processes. The level of detail provided has improved from previous years. Staff encourage ministries to continue providing detailed reporting on the implementation of Prescribed Instruments. The implementation of Prescribed Instrument policies by Ontario ministries is given a progress score of P: Progressing Well.

6. Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour

The awareness and protection of drinking water sources continues to be a priority of the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region. The Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee, staff, and municipal partners participated in public engagement and outreach opportunities, including:

- Presented the Amazing Aquifer model at the Halton Children's Water Festival
- Exhibited at the Ancaster fall fair where SPC members and staff engaged with 400+ people of the public about Source Water Protection
- Developed and launched a new water awareness curriculum for Conservation Halton's Ways of the Woods summer camp.
- Published an article in the Hamilton Spectator and Wood Duck magazine about the 25th anniversary of the Walkerton water tragedy and the success of the Source Protection program.

Staff continue to find new ways to promote and share information about source water protection.

7. Source Protection Plan Policies: Summary of Delays

At the completion of this reporting period, all Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Plan policies that directly address significant drinking water threats are implemented or in progress.

8. Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions

Several wells in the Cedarvale wellfield located outside of the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region in Georgetown have rising trends in chloride concentrations. As a result, an Issue Contributing Area was delineated and extends slightly into the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region. The neighbouring Credit Valley, Toronto and Region and Central Lake Ontario (CTC) Source Protection Committee identified the need for chloride management measures. The Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee included policies in their plan to manage or prohibit the storage and application of road salt and the storage of snow.

Halton Region reported that the chloride concentration trends at the wells have not changed since reporting began in 2016. The Region acknowledges that it will take time for the benefits of the implementation of associated policies to be realized.

Halton Region also identified elevated or rising chloride concentrations in the source water of the Campbellville wellfield. To better understand the sources of chloride contributing to the rising concentrations, Halton Region constructed six groundwater monitoring wells in the Campbellville area in 2019. These wells are integrated into Halton Region's existing groundwater monitoring program. A two-year monitoring and sampling program is underway. Results will be reviewed and reported at the end of the two years.

In 2022, Halton Region hired consultants to assess potential salt loading activities near the Campbellville wellfield. Sources considered included road salt where applied to roads, sidewalks and parking lots, saltwater pools, and septic systems as a result of impacts from water softeners.

A full year of sampling at the Campbellville wellfield has been completed and analysis of year one will be completed by spring of 2026.

9. Science-based Assessment Reports: Work Plans

A comprehensive review of the 2021 Technical Rules is ongoing, and any technical work and policy updates associated with the new technical rules will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks in a future Section 34 update. No work plans were required to be implemented for our assessment report(s).

10. More from our Watershed

To learn more about our source protection area/region, please visit protectingwater.ca.

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