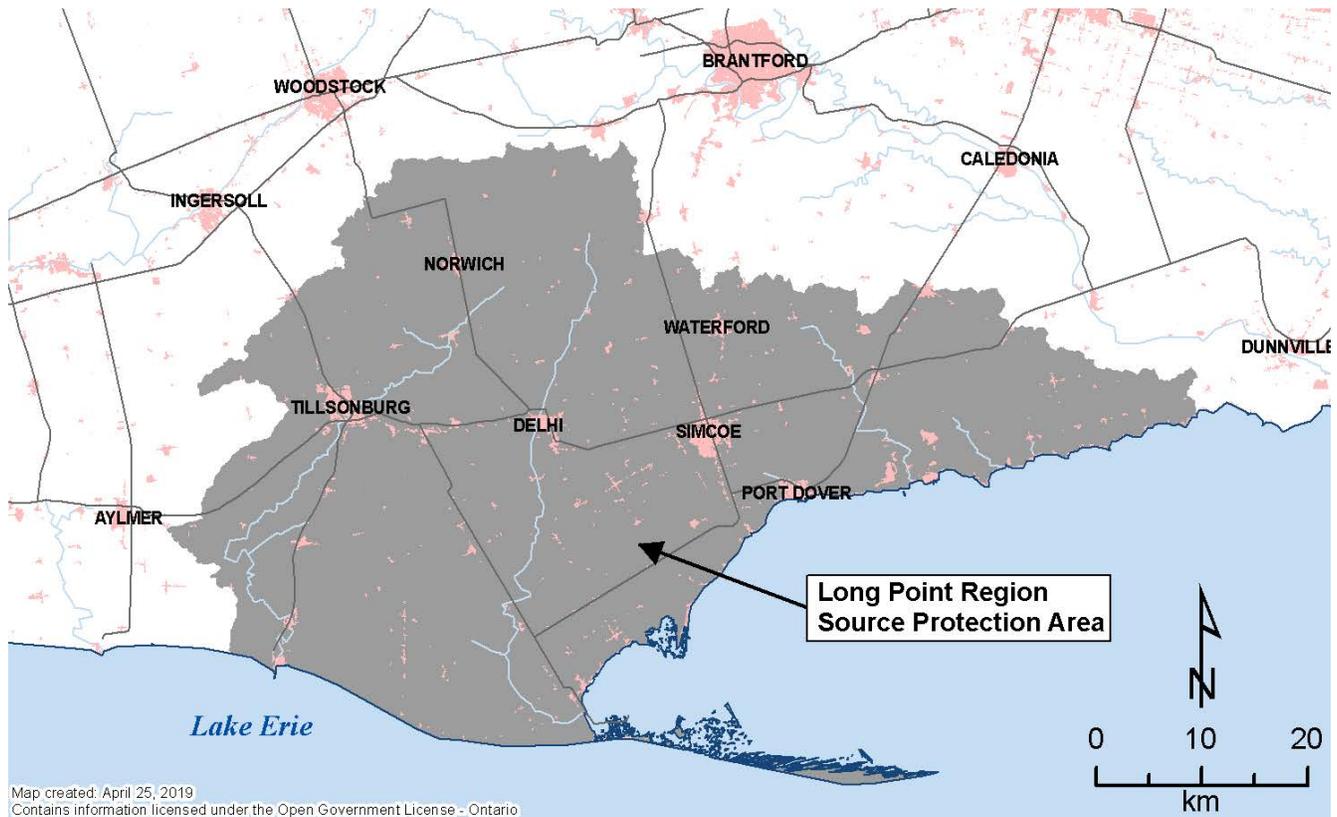


2020 Source Protection Annual Progress Report

I. Introduction

This annual progress report outlines the progress made in implementing the source protection plan for the Long Point Region Source Protection Area, as required by the Clean Water Act and regulations.

We acknowledge and recognize the tremendous efforts made by our local municipalities, stakeholders and Source Protection Committee in the development of the Source Protection Plan and implementation of Source Protection policies.



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.**
- S : Satisfactory – Some of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.
- L : Limited progress – A few of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.

1353 significant drinking water threats have been identified in the Long Point Region Source Protection Area since the original source protection plan approval or approval of amendments that include new or revised protection zones. The percentage of overall progress made in addressing threats is 68%*; an improvement over the 2019 annual reporting year (61%) but also reflective of limited implementation as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

All legally binding plan policies that address significant drinking water threats are implemented or in progress, or implemented because policy outcome(s) were evaluated and no further action(s) were required.

*Note: Haldimand County did not submit its 2020 annual reporting requirements on time due to municipal staffing changes. The above figures do not include any data from Haldimand County. Lake Erie Region staff are in discussions with Haldimand County to ensure that their annual reporting will be completed and data submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

III. Our Watershed

To learn more, please read our Long Point Region Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan.

The Long Point Region Source Protection Area (watershed) is drained by 10 major watercourses that empty into Lake Erie. They drain 2,780 square kilometres in portions of Elgin, Norfolk, Oxford, Brant and Haldimand counties.

The watershed has ten municipal drinking water systems. Three systems are located in Oxford County in the communities of Dereham Centre, Oxford South (communities of Norwich, Otterville and Springford) and the Town of Tillsonburg, all of which are groundwater systems. Norfolk County has five municipal drinking water systems in the communities of Delhi, Port Dover, Port Rowan, Simcoe and Waterford. Haldimand County and Elgin County each have one municipal-residential drinking water system, within the watershed.

There are also two other municipal drinking water systems serving Long Point Region residents that are sourced outside of the watershed: Mount Elgin and the Bayham Distribution System.

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

1. Source Protection Plan Policies

P: Progressing Well/On Target

For implementing bodies that have submitted a status update / annual report to the source protection authority, all legally binding policies (100%) that address significant drinking water threats are implemented, in progress or implemented because policy outcome(s) have been evaluated and no further action(s) are required.

2. Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

Eight upper/lower and single-tier municipalities (County of Oxford, Town of Tillsonburg, Township of Norwich, Township of South-West Oxford, Norfolk County, Haldimand County, Township of Malahide and Municipality of Bayham) in the Long Point Region Source Protection Area have vulnerable areas where significant drinking water threat policies apply.

P: Progressing Well/On Target

Four municipalities in the Long Point Region Source Protection Area are required to review and update their Official Plan to ensure it conforms with the Long Point Region Source Protection Plan the next time they undertake an Official Plan review under the Planning Act. Two Official Plan amendments have been completed and two are in process.

3. Septic Inspections

P: Progressing Well/On Target

Seventy-eight on-site sewage systems in the Long Point Region Source Protection Area require inspections in accordance with the Ontario Building Code during the five-year inspection period (2017-2021). Forty-four systems were inspected in 2020. Inspections results found the majority (95%) required minor maintenance work, e.g., pump out, etc. No systems required major maintenance work, e.g., tank replacement, etc.

4. Risk Management Plans

L: Limited progress

One risk management plan was negotiated in 2020 - the only plan negotiated since the source protection plan took effect. For managing significant drinking water threats this represents 1% of all estimated risk management plans still needed. COVID-19 restrictions contributed to the limited progress in verifying the number of risk management plans needed.

Although only one risk management plan has been negotiated, several risk management plans were in development and / or under negotiation in 2020.

Twenty-seven inspections were conducted by a Risk Management Official / Inspector for prohibited or regulated activities in 2020. All inspections show compliance with Part IV policies and risk management plans.

5. Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

P: Progressing Well/On Target

Ontario ministries are reviewing 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 the Long Point Region Source Protection 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. Long Point Region Source Protection Plan policies set out a time line of 3 years to complete the review and make any necessary changes to previously issued approvals, the timeline for new or amended PIs has been in effect since the approval date of our plan. Thus, while ministries are implementing a review protocol to screen all (100%) applicable approval applications, they have completed this for 100% of previously issued provincial approvals in the Long Point Region Source Protection Area.

6. Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour

Twelve Drinking Water Protection Zones signs have been installed in the Long Point Region Source Protection Area since the Source Protection Plan took effect.

Both Oxford County and Norfolk County have reported an increase in public understanding of the Source Water Protection Program and its goals. Members of the public are less apprehensive of the program, and landowners more willing to participate in the Source Water Protection process.

7. Source Protection Plan Policies: Summary of Delays

For implementing bodies that have submitted a status update / annual report to the Long

Point Region Source Protection Authority, all policies are implemented, in progress or implemented because policy outcome(s) have been evaluated and no further action(s) are required.

8. Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions

The Richmond, Simcoe (Cedar St. and Chapel St.), Tillsonburg and Oxford South (Otterville) drinking water systems have identified nitrate drinking water issues.

Oxford County (Tillsonburg and Oxford South drinking water systems) is monitoring nitrate levels with a continuous nitrate analyzer at Tillsonburg wells with identified nitrate issues. Threat verification work has begun, and discussions with farmers are underway to develop risk management plans. An update of the Long Point Region Source Protection Plan took effect in 2020. This update includes a new nitrate Issue Contributing Area for the Otterville wellfield. One risk management plan has been established as a result of the Otterville Issue Contributing Area.

The Municipality of Bayham (Richmond drinking water system) is continuing to monitor nitrate concentrations for the two overburden wells on a monthly basis, and the raw water is being treated to remove nitrate from the water supply before delivery to end users.

Norfolk County (Simcoe drinking water system) monitors the well supply on an on-going basis, and will continue to do so into the next reporting period. Additional monitoring is completed for the Simcoe well supply for sodium due to previous results above half of the maximum acceptable concentration.

9. Science-based Assessment Reports: Work Plans

An order was received from the Ministry on December 17, 2019 regarding the Section 36 workplan for updates to the Long Point Region Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan.

Examples of tasks that are included in the Section 36 workplan:

- growth and infrastructure changes, e.g., new drinking water supply well(s) to be brought online
- technical rule changes, e.g., review and consider Phase II Technical Rule changes for incorporation into the assessment report and source protection plan
- transport pathway changes, e.g., consider any identified transport pathways for incorporation into the assessment report and source protection plan

10. More from the Watershed

To learn more about the Long Point Region Source Protection Area, visit <http://www.sourcewater.ca>