

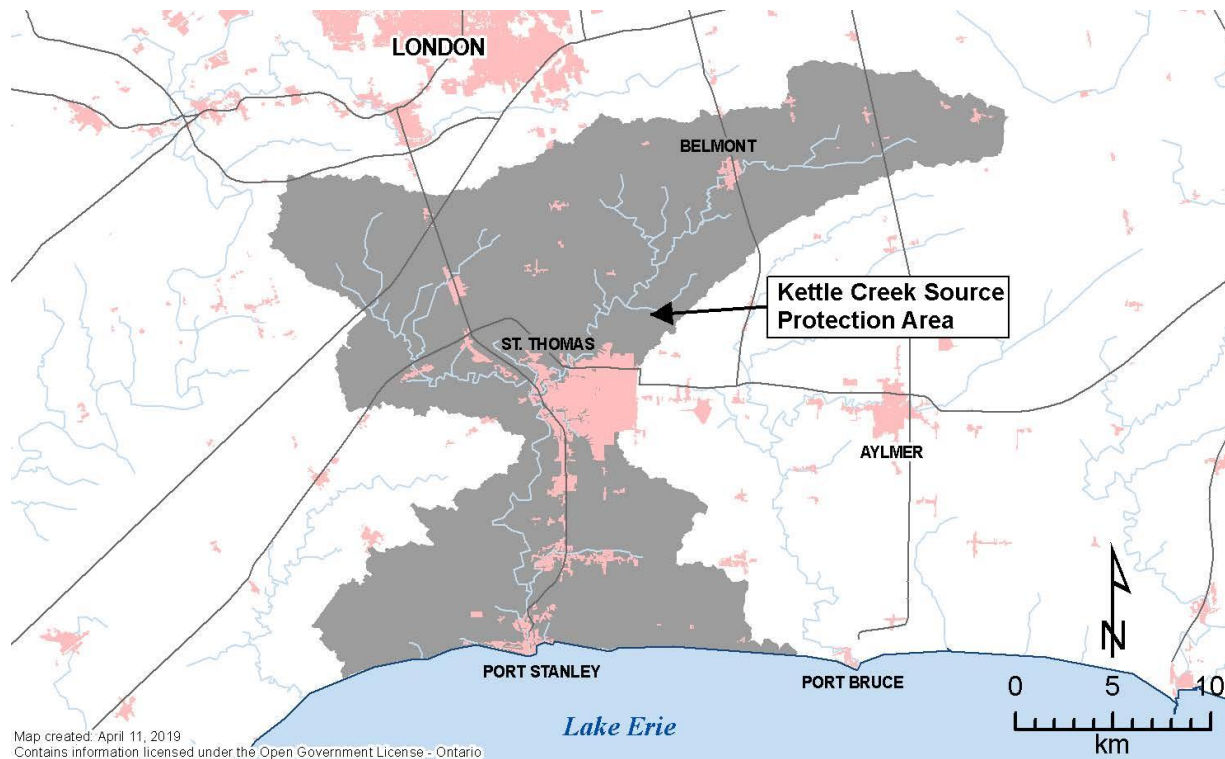
Kettle Creek Source Protection Area Annual Progress Report 2024

I. Introduction

This annual progress report outlines the progress made in implementing our Source Protection Plan for the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area, as required by the *Clean Water Act, 2006* and its regulations.

The Source Protection Plan (the Plan) is the culmination of extensive science-based assessment, research, consultation, and collaboration with local stakeholders and the provincial government. When policies in the Plan are implemented it ensures that activities carried out near municipal wells and surface water intakes will not pose significant risk to the sources of our drinking water.

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



Map 1 Kettle Creek Source Protection Area

II. A message from your local Source Protection Committee

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

All legally binding Plan policies that address significant drinking water threats (100 percent) are either implemented or in progress.

At the time the Plan came into effect in 2015, two significant drinking water threats were identified in the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area. Since then, one threat was determined not to exist and was removed from the Assessment Report through a comprehensive update to the Plan completed under Section 36 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. There is one existing significant drinking water threat (storage of fuel) in the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area and a Risk Management Plan is currently being negotiated to manage this threat (anticipated for completion in 2025).

III. Our Watershed

The Kettle Creek Source Protection Area (watershed) includes Kettle Creek and its tributaries. The main branch of Kettle Creek originates at Lake Whittaker, an 11 hectare spring-fed kettle lake. The watershed is comprised of three subwatersheds: Dodd Creek, Upper Kettle Creek, and Lower Kettle Creek. These watercourses drain 520 square kilometres of agricultural and urban lands before entering Lake Erie at Port Stanley.

The Kettle Creek Source Protection Area includes the City of St. Thomas, the southern portions of Middlesex County (Township of Thames Centre and Townships of Middlesex Centre) and the City of London, and the central portion of Elgin County (Township of Southwold, Township of Malahide and Municipality of Central Elgin).

The watershed has two municipal drinking water systems: two wells in Belmont and the Elgin Area Primary Water Supply System (EAPWSS) in Port Stanley.

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 original Kettle Creek Source Protection Plan came into effect in 2015. All of the legally-binding policies that address significant drinking water threats (100 percent) in the original Plan were implemented or were in progress.

A comprehensive update to the Plan was completed under Section 36 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, which took effect on August 15, 2024. As of December 31, 2024, 100 percent of the legally-binding Plan policies remain implemented or in progress.

The two policies in progress are related to zoning by-law conformity for two municipalities and one Risk Management Plan.

2. Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

P: Progressing Well / On Target

Three municipalities in the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area have vulnerable areas where significant drinking water threat policies apply: Township of Malahide, Municipality of Thames Centre, and Municipality of Central Elgin.

Planning departments and building officials are screening applications for locations within vulnerable areas where threats to drinking water sources are possible and Plan policies may apply.

These municipalities are also required to review and update their Official Plan to ensure it conforms with the Source Protection Plan the next time they undertake an Official Plan review under the *Planning Act, 1990*. The Municipality of Thames Centre, the Municipality of Central Elgin, and the Township of Malahide have completed their Official Plan updates.

Municipalities will need to determine if an Official Plan update is required to conform to the recent Section 36 Plan update and report on such progress starting in 2025.

3. Septic Inspections

Not applicable to the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area. There are no on-site sewage systems requiring inspection.

4. Risk Management Plans

P: Progressing Well / On Target

There is currently one Risk Management Plan required within the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area to address the handling and storage of fuel at the Elgin Area Primary Water Supply treatment plant (as required by policy PS-CW-7.1). Best management practices and risk management measures have been in place

since the policy was adopted; however, the formal Risk Management Plan agreement is still being finalized.

No inspections were carried out or planned by a Risk Management Official or Inspector for prohibited or regulated activities in the 2024 annual reporting period.

5. Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

P: Progressing Well / On Target

There are no existing significant drinking water threats that require provincial approvals in the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area. Ontario ministries review applications for new 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 Province has established Standard Operating Policies to ensure that approvals take into account the science generated through the Drinking Water Source Protection Program and policies in the Source Protection Plan. Provincial approvals are issued, denied, amended, or revoked to conform to Plan policies. Where necessary, conditions are added to approvals to ensure that the activity does not pose a significant threat to sources of drinking water.

In 2024, there were no new prescribed instrument applications that required a detailed review for source protection in the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area.

6. Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour

There have been no measurable or quantifiable outcomes reported for the 2024 annual reporting period.

7. Source Protection Plan Policies: Summary of Delays

Not applicable to the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area.

8. Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions

No issues have been identified in the local science-based assessment report regarding the quality of the sources of municipal drinking water in the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area.

9. Science-based Assessment Reports: Work Plans

An order was received from the Ministry on July 22, 2019 providing for a comprehensive review and update to the Kettle Creek Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan under Section 36 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. The tasks identified in the order were incorporated into the Section 36 update that was approved by the Ministry and which took effect on August 15, 2024.

10. More from the Watershed

To learn more about the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area, visit the [Lake Erie Source Protection website](#).