DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION
Our Actions Matter

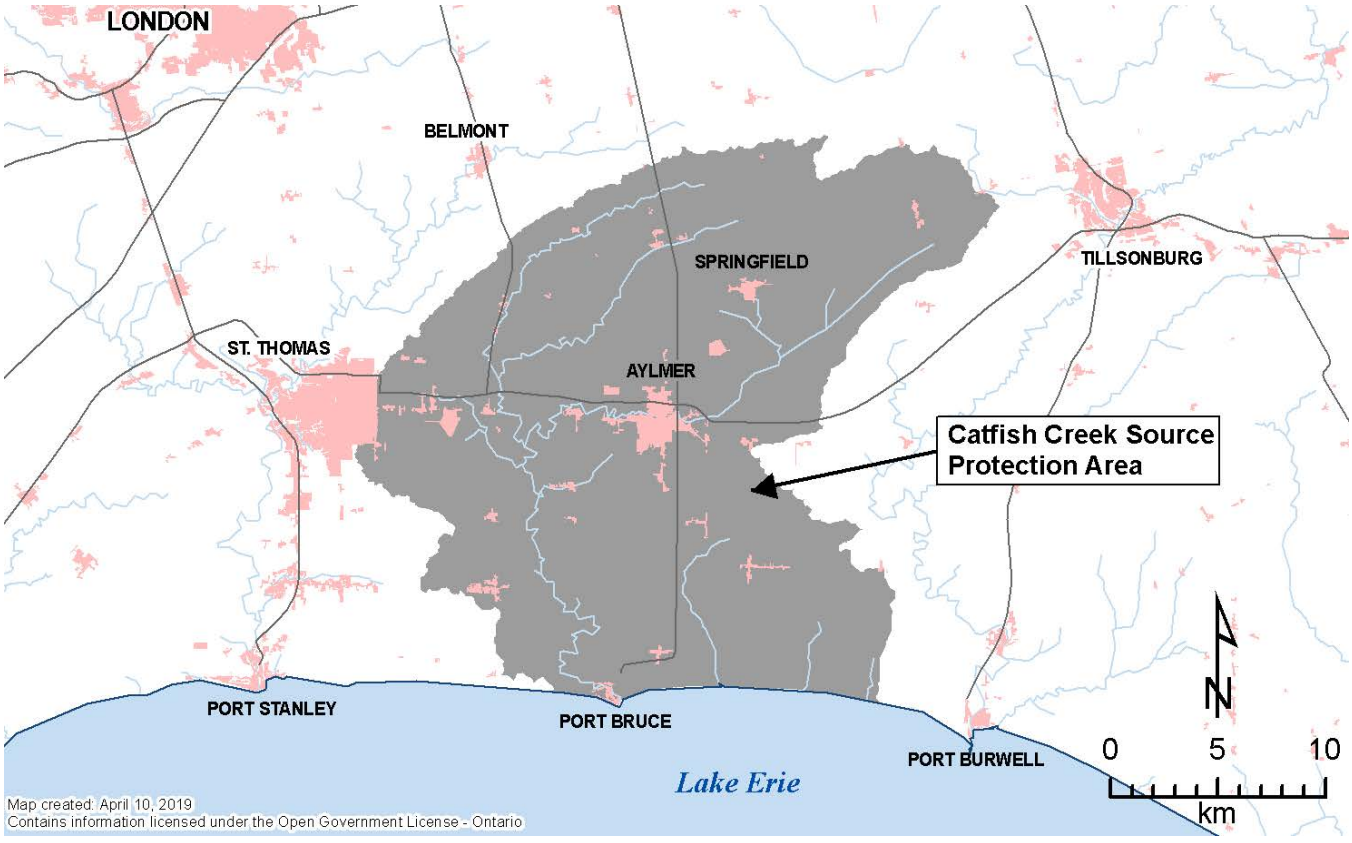
LAKE ERIE SOURCE PROTECTION REGION

Source Protection Annual Progress Report

I. Introduction

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

We acknowledge and recognize the tremendous efforts made by our local municipality, 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 source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.

Nineteen existing significant drinking water threats were identified in the Catfish Creek Source Protection Area when the plan took effect. Since implementation of the plan, 100% of confirmed significant drinking water threats have been addressed. Additionally, all legally-binding plan policies that address significant drinking water threats are implemented or in progress.

III. Our Watershed

To learn more, please read our assessment report(s) and source protection plan(s)

The Catfish Creek Source Protection Area (watershed) includes Catfish Creek and its tributaries. These watercourses drain 490 square kilometres of agricultural and urban lands before entering Lake Erie at Port Bruce. The area includes parts of Elgin and Oxford counties.

The watershed has one municipal drinking water system in the village of Brownsville in the Township of Southwest Oxford. The system is comprised of two wells serving about 300 people. A number of communities are also serviced with municipal water from the Elgin Area Primary Water Supply.

Nineteen significant drinking water threat activities were identified in the Catfish Creek Source Protection Area when the plan went into effect, all within a 100 metre radius around the well. Since that time significant drinking water threats have been addressed.

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

1. Source Protection Plan Policies

P: Progressing Well/On Target

All of the legally-binding policies (100%) that address significant drinking water threats are implemented or in progress.

2. Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

One municipality (Oxford County) in the Catfish Creek Source Protection Area has vulnerable areas where significant drinking water threat policies apply.

P: Progressing Well/On Target - Oxford County is required to review and update their Official Plan to ensure it conforms with the Catfish Creek Source Protection Plan the next time they undertake an Official Plan review under the Planning Act. Oxford County is in the process of amending its Official Plan.

3. Septic Inspections

P: Progressing Well/On Target

Nine on-site sewage systems require inspections in accordance with the Ontario Building Code; however, none of the systems were inspected during the reporting period because they were inspected in years prior.

4. Risk Management Plans

P: Progressing Well/On Target

In the previous calendar year, one risk management plan was agreed to or established in the Catfish Creek Source Protection Area. This is the first risk management plan agreed to or established since the source protection plan took effect.

5. Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

P: Progressing Well/On Target

Ontario ministries are reviewing previously issued provincial approvals (i.e., prescribed instruments, such as environmental compliance approvals under the Environmental Protection Act) where they have been identified as a tool in the Catfish Creek Source Protection Plan to address existing activities that pose a significant risk to sources of drinking water. The provincial approvals are being amended or revoked where necessary to conform with plan policies. Catfish Creek Source Protection Plan policies set out a time line of 3 years to complete the review and make any necessary changes. The ministries have completed this for 100% of previously issued provincial approvals in the Catfish Creek Source Protection Area.

6. Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour

No Drinking Water Protection Zone signs that have been installed in the Catfish Creek Source Protection Area since the plan took effect.

The Risk Management Official/Risk Management Inspector have noted a change in property owner behaviour during site inspections. People appear interested in protecting source water and are willing to change out chemicals for more environmentally-sensitive options.

7. Source Protection Plan Policies: Summary of Delays

Not applicable to the Catfish Creek Source Protection Area.

8. Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions

In the Catfish Creek Source Protection Area, no issues have been identified in the local science-based assessment report regarding the quality of the source(s) of municipal drinking water.

9. Science-based Assessment Reports: Work Plans

An order was received from the Ministry on July 19, 2019 regarding the Section 36 workplan for updates to the Catfish Creek Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan.

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

- 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
- climate change considerations, e.g., review and assess potential climate change additions to the technical framework and make appropriate updates as applicable to the assessment report and source protection plan

10. More from the Watershed

To learn more about the Catfish Creek Source Protection Area, visit http://www.sourcewater.ca