



MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Erin Mahoney, Commissioner of Environmental Services

DATE: February 13, 2014

RE: **2013 Annual Report on Source Protection Implementation as required under the *Clean Water Act, 2006***

This memo provides Council with a copy of the Annual Report (*Attachment 1*) that summarizes York Region's efforts to implement source water protection. The report was submitted to the Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority and the Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching / Black River Source Protection Authority on February 1, 2014 per *Clean Water Act, 2006* requirements. Copies of the reports are provided for information to all members of Council. Those Council members also participating as Conservation Authority Board Members will also receive them at the next Source Protection Authority meetings, anticipated in March 2014.

Although the Source Protection Plans have yet to receive provincial approval, the 2013 Annual Report summarizes work that is well underway to ensure York Region is ready to implement the Plans and identifies the proactive actions undertaken in anticipation of these requirements to avoid potential threats to Regional drinking water supplies.

Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.
Commissioner of Environmental Services

DG/WK

Attachment

Copy to: Dr. Karim Kurji, Medical Officer of Health, Community and Health Services, Public Health
Adelina Urbanski, Commissioner, Community and Health Services
Daniel Kostopoulos, Commissioner, Transportation and Community Planning
Dino Basso, Executive Director, Corporate and Strategic Planning, Office of the CAO
Sean Love, Senior Counsel, Environmental Law, Corporate Services, Legal Services



KEEPING OUR DRINKING WATER SAFE

Source Water Implementation
2013 Annual Report

www.york.ca




York Region

Keeping our water safe



INTRODUCTION

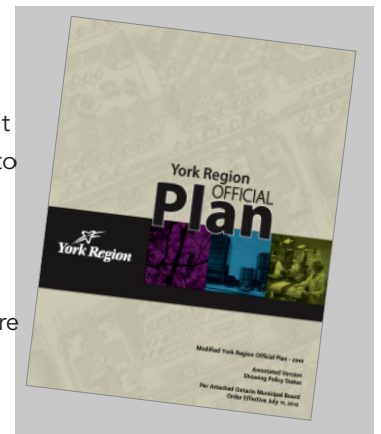
This annual report is provided in accordance with section 81 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. It outlines the activities undertaken by the Regional Municipality of York (York Region) in 2013.



Regional Official Plan Updated

In 2013 the Regional Official Plan was amended as the first phase to the Region's approach to Source Protection Plan conformity. The amendment introduced mapping for Intake Protection Zones and reflected revisions to Wellhead Protection Areas. It also included the addition of the Wellhead Protection Area for Bradford's Church Street wells and maps for Highly Vulnerable Aquifer Areas and Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas.

Policy revisions and additions were also part of the amendment. The more extensive and detailed Phase Two of the conformity exercise will follow approval of Source Protection Plans.



Local Municipalities Are Engaged

In 2013 a working group of Regional, local municipal and conservation authority staff drafted sample official plan and zoning by-law amendment text to conform to Source Protection Plans. Seven of the nine local municipalities have already included in their official plans some Assessment Report mapping and Source Protection policies, and all are in good position to conform to Source Protection Plans once approved.

Staff from three local municipalities and York Region met in late 2013 to discuss the Source Protection Municipal Implementation Fund, outstanding implementation efforts that are eligible for the funding, and candidate projects for group collaboration.



PREPARATORY EFFORTS ON-GOING



Substantial Efforts to Verify Potential Significant Threats Continue

Over the past three years, York Region has dedicated internal resources to verify 1,140 potential significant threats (threats) identified in Assessment Reports. Potential threats to water quality were ranked as significant, moderate or low based upon proximity to drinking water supplies and the volume, mobility and toxicity of a potential contaminant source as defined in legislation. Significant threats are prioritized for Source Protection efforts. Field investigation of 360 business properties and 47 farms, representing 739 enumerated threats across York Region, has been completed. From those efforts, 207 significant threats were confirmed, 532 removed with 32 requiring follow-up once Source Protection Plans are approved. Potential threats from residential properties will be verified through the septic inspection program.

Approximately 250 properties that were not included in Assessment Reports were also identified. Verification of potential drinking water threats on these additional properties is underway.



Planning Applications in Vulnerable Areas Reviewed

In 2013, over 50 planning applications were circulated to York Region's Water Resources group, which contains the Risk Management Office, for review and comment to ensure future threats do not appear on the landscape in vulnerable areas.

Risk Management Office staff offered comments and conditions to mitigate water quality and quantity risks. In some instances, the equivalent of Risk Management Plans were negotiated with proponents based upon York Region Official Plan policies.



Implementation Agreement Drafted

Wellhead Protection Areas cross York Region's boundaries in three instances creating the need for coordination with our neighbouring municipalities. The Wellhead Protection Area for Stouffville Well One and Well Two extends into Durham Region, the Wellhead Protection Area for Schomberg extends into New Tecumseth (Simcoe County) and the Wellhead Protection Area for Bradford's Church Street wells (Simcoe County) is located primarily in York Region.

To clarify implementation responsibilities within the Stouffville Wellhead Protection Area in Durham an inter-municipal agreement was drafted in 2013. At the November meeting, York Region Council authorized the Commissioner of Environmental Services Department to execute that agreement when finalized.

York Region is the implementing body for the portion of the Wellhead Protection Area for Bradford's Church Street wells that is within York Region boundaries, as required by *Clean Water Act, 2006*.

Within the New Tecumseth portion of the Schomberg Wellhead Protection Area there are no existing threats. To address land use planning policy implementation, an official plan amendment is forthcoming indicating New Tecumseth will circulate development applications within the Schomberg Wellhead Protection Area to York Region.



Incentive Program Included in Approved 2014 Budget

In December 2013, York Region Council approved the 2014 budget, which included funding for a Source Protection Incentive Program. This program will provide financial incentives to affected residents, farmers and business owners to offset direct costs and expedite the mitigation of significant threats across York Region.

TECHNICAL WORK TO UPDATE ASSESSMENT REPORTS



Water Quantity Risk Assessment

In 2013, the water quantity risk assessment for York Region was substantially completed. The results, which have been accepted by the peer review committee subject to minor revisions to the final report, indicate a moderate water quantity risk level. The South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe and Credit Valley, Toronto and Region and Central Lake Ontario Assessment Reports will be revised to reflect these findings in early 2014. Currently, Risk Management Office staff review development applications and offer comments and conditions to mitigate water quantity risks. These efforts will be expanded when the Region implements Source Protection Plan policies, which are currently under development, to address the moderate risks identified.



Decommissioning of Kleinburg Well Two

Although groundwater continues to be part of the water supply system for the community, the recent introduction of the Lake Ontario water supply eliminates the need for Kleinburg Well Two, which provided less than five per cent of the community's water demand. Kleinburg Wells Three and Four will remain part of the Kleinburg water system as back up supply. Council approved the decommissioning of Well Two on November 21, 2013 and the public notice and amendment of associated approvals to remove it from the water supply system will occur in early 2014.



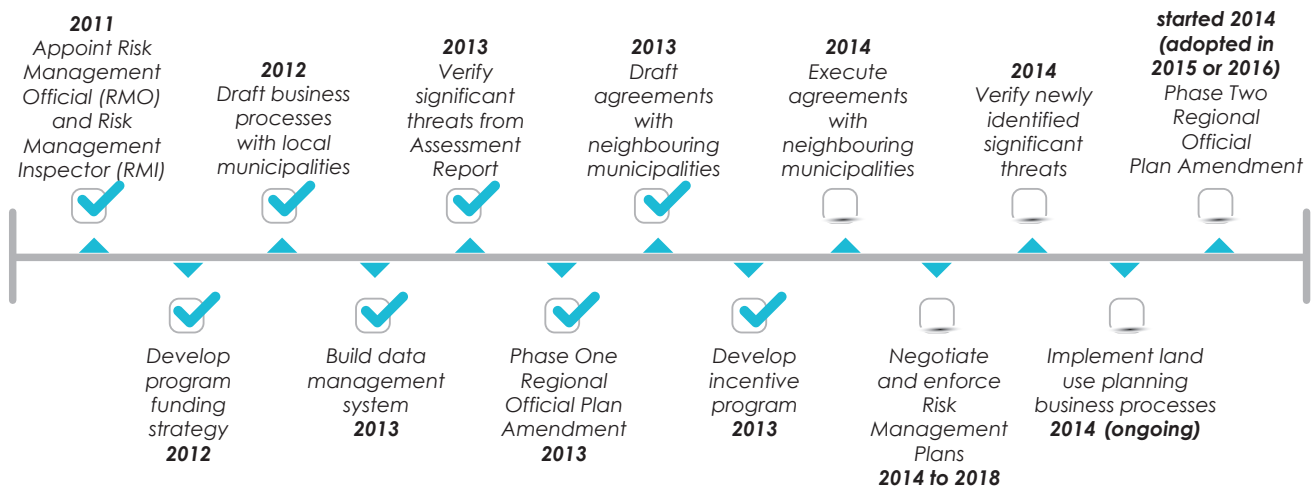
Ballantrae Wellhead Protection Area completion

York Region funded technical efforts to delineate the Wellhead Protection Area for a recently drilled well in Ballantrae. Vulnerability ranking, threats assessment and threat verification was also funded by the Region. Results were provided to the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee for inclusion in their amended Assessment Report scheduled for public comment in spring 2014.



Nobleton Wellhead Protection Area Correction

As a result of construction issues, Nobleton Well Four was decommissioned and replaced with Well Five approximately 50 m to the east. The Wellhead Protection Area was adjusted to reflect the new well location. Also, a technical memo was passed to the Credit Valley, Toronto and Region and Central Lake Ontario Source Protection Committee for inclusion in their amended Assessment Report scheduled for public comment in spring 2014.



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Accessible formats or communication
supports are available upon request.



Keeping our water safe