



## MUNICIPALITY OF THAMES CENTRE

**REPORT NO. PDS-002-25**

**TO:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**FROM:** Director of Planning & Development Services  
**MEETING DATE:** January 13, 2024  
**SUBJECT:** **Proposed Updates to the Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Plan and Assessment Reports**

### RECOMMENDATION:

**THAT** Report No. PDS-002-25 **BE RECEIVED** for information;

**AND THAT** pursuant to Section 34(3) of the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, the Council of the Municipality of Thames Centre **ENDORSE** the proposed updates to the Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Plan.

### PURPOSE:

Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Region (TSR) is undertaking amendments to the Source Protection Plan Volume III to include draft new and revised Source Protection Plan policies because of updated technical rules under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*.

Under section 34(3) of the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, a municipal council resolution endorsing the proposed updates to the Source Protection Plan is required from affected municipalities prior to public consultation.

A required 35-day public consultation period will commence once municipal endorsement is received. The proposed updates will be posted on our website ([www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca](http://www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca)), including revised maps for the affected areas. Property owners that may be impacted by the amendments will be sent the notice of consultation.

Following the public consultation period the TSR Source Protection Region will submit the proposed updates to the Source Protection Plan to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for their approval.

### BACKGROUND:

The *Clean Water Act, 2006* was created as a result of the tragedy that unfolded in Walkerton in 2000. The municipal drinking water system became contaminated which left 7 people losing their lives and thousands becoming seriously ill. The purpose of this Act is to

protect existing and future sources of drinking water from contamination or depletion. The Drinking Water Source Protection Program was created through this Act and is a multi-stakeholder, collaborative, locally-driven process to protect municipal residential drinking water sources.

Source Protection Plans and Assessment Reports were created to ensure the multi-barrier approach to protection Ontario Municipal Drinking Water was safeguarded. The Source Protection Plan Policies were created by the Source Protection Committee. The policies within the plan have various tools such as prohibition, management and education & outreach when it comes to activities on the landscape.

The Assessment Reports house all the scientific data on each municipal system including water budget, delineated vulnerable areas, vulnerability scoring and threats to each system.

To ensure these reports stay current, amendments from time to time are necessary. Amendments are made when there are changes to a current system, a new system put in place or the technical rules have changed.

On December 3, 2021, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks released an update to the 2021 Director Technical Rules under the Clean Water Act, 2006. As a result, the Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Authority conducted a comprehensive review of the current policies in the Source Protection Plan Volume III. This review led to several proposed policy changes along with proposed new ones to align with the updated rules.

The changes to the Technical Rules include changes to threat circumstances that could impact existing and future activities on the landscape. These changes are primarily related to Fuel, Snow, Waste, Sewage (including Stormwater), Salt, Commercial Fertilizers, DNAPLs, and Pesticides.

## **COMMENTS:**

### **Impacts to the Municipality of Thames Centre:**

1. Fuel – circumstances changed from 2,500 L of fuel being a drinking water threat to 250 L of fuel now being a threat.
2. Application of Road Salt – The Source Protection Committee has chosen the Education and Outreach tool to help reduce road salt in vulnerable areas.
3. Commercial Fertilizers – Through this process, staff identified a gap in the policy in terms of aligning with the Nutrient Management Act. Therefore, the proposed change better aligns with the NMA and prohibits the use of Commercial Fertilizers within a WHPA-A (100 m around a municipal drinking water system)

There could be impact on future activities based on the changes to Fuel, Snow, Waste, Sewage (including Stormwater), Salt, Commercial Fertilizers, DNAPLs, and Pesticides.

## **Summary of Proposed Updates to the Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Plan (SPP):**

1. Including the LAWSS secondary intake into the Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Assessment Report, including updating mapping
2. Comply with mandatory amendments made to the Technical Rules 2021 and Tables of Drinking Water Threats
3. Draft new and amended policies

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN LINK**

**Pillar:** *Smart Planning*

**Goal:** *Increase communications between the municipality (Council and Staff) and the public*

### **CONSULTATION:**

Julie Welker, UTRCA Source Protection Coordinator

### **REFERENCES:**

[www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca](http://www.sourcewaterprotection.on.ca)

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

UTRCA Report to Thames Centre Council

Prepared by: A. Storrey, Director of Planning and Development Services

Reviewed by: D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer