

Municipal Newsletter

March 2023

This is the March 2023 municipal update about the work we do, in partnership with you, to protect municipal drinking water sources in Maitland Valley and Ausable Bayfield source protection areas.

Contents:

1. Doug Hocking, John Thompson are newest members of committee working to protect drinking water sources
2. Local source protection authorities submit proposed updates to source protection plans to Province
3. Best practices for source water protection
4. Preparing Annual Progress Report for year 2022
5. Preparing video on municipal and other partners who are part of the water team

1. Doug Hocking, John Thompson are newest members of committee working to protect drinking water sources

Doug Hocking, John Thompson are newest members of committee working to protect drinking water sources

Our local committee, working to protect municipal drinking water sources, has two new members. Doug Hocking, of Exeter, and John Thompson, of Goderich, are the newest members of the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Drinking Water Source Protection Committee (SPC). They took part in their first SPC meeting on March 1, 2023 in Holmesville.

The SPC creates policies to protect local sources of municipal drinking water from possible threats such as fuel, salt, chemicals, nutrients, pesticides, and hazardous waste in areas near the municipal wells.

About Us

Source Protection Committee

- 12 members plus a Chair
- Represents local municipalities, economic sectors and public

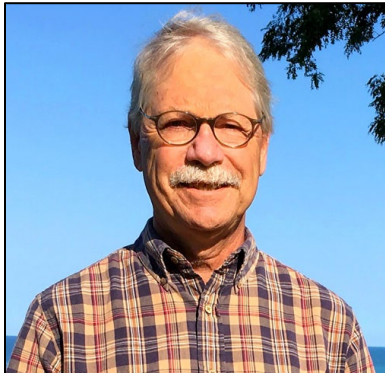
Source Protection Plans (SPP)

- Developed locally
- Approved by Province in 2015; Amended in 2023
- Policies to protect municipal sources of drinking water
- Area covered – Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley source protection areas

Goal: To protect region's municipal sources of drinking water – aquifers and lakes – from contamination and overuse

Doug Hocking is a Property Owner representative on the committee and John Thompson is a municipal representative for the North Group of municipalities (Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh; Goderich; Huron-Kinloss; and South Bruce).

SPC Chair Matt Pearson welcomed the two new members to the committee. “Both John and Doug have a great deal of interest in, and knowledge of, drinking water source protection,” he said. “With their strong backgrounds in environmental issues they will provide great insight and commitment as we continue to implement source protection planning policies.”



John Thompson was elected Councillor for the Town of Goderich in 2022. He has a lifelong interest in ecological concerns. He has a Master in Environmental Studies degree from York University in 1992 and a PhD in Human Development and Applied Psychology from the University of Toronto. He has been a volunteer in his community including work with environmental organizations. He has worked as a journalist and rural economic development researcher. He has also been a library planner and computer consultant.



Doug Hocking has Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Honours Program) and Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of Guelph. He is a long-time resident of Exeter who was raised on a farm in West Perth and who also lived in Listowel. Before retirement, Doug worked in close partnership with local urban and rural landowners for more than 30 years in water quality stewardship at Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley conservation authorities. In addition to stewardship work, he also analyzed thousands of surface water and sediment samples from drains, rivers and Lake Huron.

The source protection committee has 12 members plus a Chair and non-voting liaisons. The 2023 committee includes Chair Matt Pearson and the following members: Municipal: Allan Rothwell (East); Paul Heffer (Central); John Thompson (North); Dave Frayne (South West); Philip Keightley (Commerce); Rowland Howe (Industry); Bert Dykstra (Agriculture); Mary Ellen Foran (Agriculture); John Graham (Environment); Jennette Walker (Environment); Doug Hocking (Property Owner); and Alyssa Keller (Public-at-Large).

To find out more visit the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region committee web page (<https://www.sourcewaterinfo.on.ca/the-committee/>) on the local source protection website at <https://www.sourcewaterinfo.on.ca>

2. Proposed updates to local source protection plans submitted to Province

The source protection committee has developed updates to the source protection plans to better protect sources of drinking water. These proposed changes are prepared per section 36 of the *Clean Water Act*. They were submitted to the Province in March for Minister's approval.

Thanks to all our local municipalities for their input on the proposed changes and thanks to the public who took part in consultation opportunities.

3. Best practices for source water protection

The Province of Ontario is working to help Ontarians to protect water sources and **non-municipal** drinking water systems that are not included in a source protection plan or aren't regulated by the Ontario *Clean Water Act, 2006*.

The Province of Ontario released some of the strategies that can be employed on the source water protection best practices web page (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/best-practices-source-water-protection>) The SPC, in conjunction with Conservation Ontario and with assistance from Huron Perth Public Health, are developing a plan to promote some of these resources on a local basis.

4. Preparing Annual Progress Report for year 2022

Last year (2021), our source protection region submitted its Fifth Annual Progress Report for drinking water source protection in the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley areas. This was for the 2021 year and it is available on our local source protection website (<https://www.sourcewaterinfo.on.ca/portfolio/fifth-annual-progress-report-2021/>)

We are now working on completion of the 2022 Annual Progress Report which we will submit to the Province of Ontario shortly. When it is approved, we will post it to our website.

5. Preparing video on municipal and other partners who are part of the water team

Be Part of the Water Team will be the newest video in the SPC video series and it will detail the role municipal councils, water operators, public works and environmental managers, and many other partners play in keeping our municipal drinking water safe and clean.

The narrator for this video is Paul Heffer, SPC Municipal Rep. and Township of North Huron Reeve. The Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region thanks all the municipal partners, agencies and businesses who are helping us to add another video to our popular source water protection series, which has exceeded 20,000 views.

We will show a draft of the video at the March 29th SPC meeting and we expect to share it publicly in the coming weeks. When it's ready, we will post it to our source protection videos web page (<https://www.sourcewaterinfo.on.ca/news/videos/>) and share it with your municipal staff. Watch for it!

Next Source Protection Committee meeting

The next meeting of the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Committee is Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at Libro Community Hall, 239 Bill Fleming Drive, Clinton. The next SPC meeting after that is scheduled for Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 9:30 a.m., location to be determined.



Shown, in March 2023, celebrating the Source Protection Committee completion of draft updates to the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley source protection plans are, from left to right, Chair Matt Pearson; Doug Hocking (Property Owner); Allan Rothwell (Municipal East); Bert Dykstra (Agriculture); John Thompson (Municipal North); Mary Ellen Foran (Agriculture); Philip Keightley (Commerce); Jennette Walker (Environment); and Rowland Howe (Industry). Not in photo are Paul Heffer (Municipal Central); Dave Frayne (Municipal South-West); John Graham (Environment); and Alyssa Keller (Public-at-Large).

If you have new staff members who need training on drinking water source protection or would like a presentation to your council, please give us a call so we can assist you.

Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region
c/o Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
71108 Morrison Line, R.R. 3
Exeter, ON N0M 1S5

Tel 519-235-2610 ext. 247
Fax 519-235-1963
Toll-free 1-888-286-2610
www.sourcewaterinfo.on.ca

This project has received funding support from the Government of Ontario.
Such support does not indicate endorsement of the contents of this material.