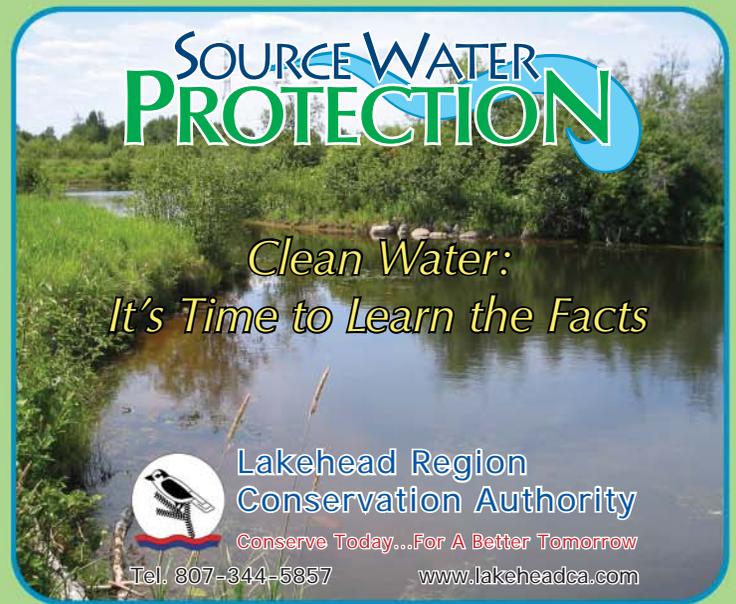
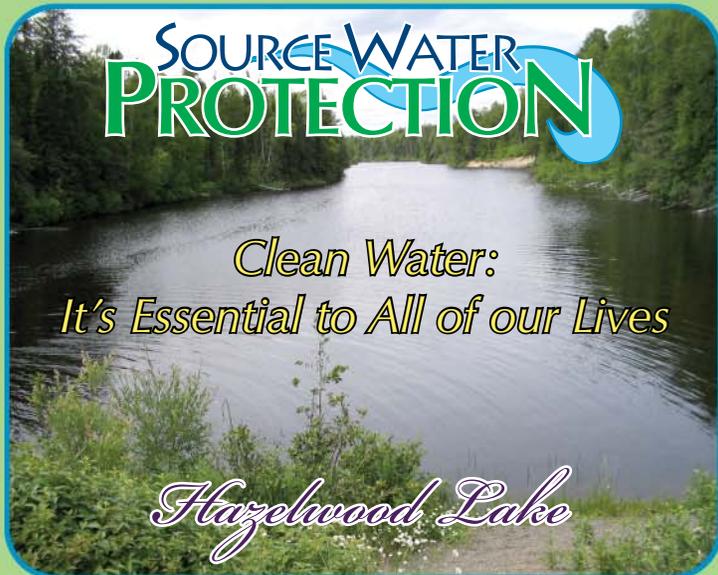


## Clean Water: It's Essential to All of Our Lives

- Every living thing on earth depends on water, in varying degrees, for survival.
- Degradation of either water quality or quantity has a serious adverse impact on an ecosystem.
- Threats to water quality and quantity also have a profound impact on human health, the environment and the economy.
- Therefore, protecting water at the source is key to ensuring the health of humans, ecosystems and our economy.



## Clean Water: It's Time to Learn the Facts

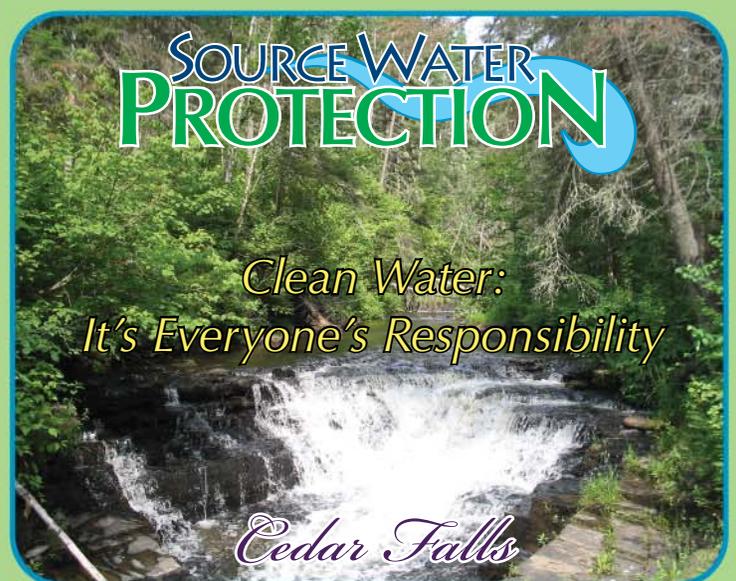
- No new water is produced; it's recycled over and over.
- Polluting our water supply or taking water at a rate faster than it can be replenished, could cause water shortages.
- One-third of Ontario Municipalities with drinking water systems have experienced water shortages over the last ten years.

We need a plan to ensure a sustainable supply of clean water for all of our needs, now and in the future.

## Clean Water: You Can Make a Difference

If you own property along a watercourse or shoreline, a few simple decisions can make a significant difference.

- Leaving a ribbon of vegetation along the shoreline helps to prevent erosion while providing a natural buffer.
- Be careful when using herbicides or pesticides and don't use them near waterways or waterbodies.
- If you own a motorboat, don't refuel in the water and be careful when fueling. Remember, even a small fuel spill can pollute a large amount of water.



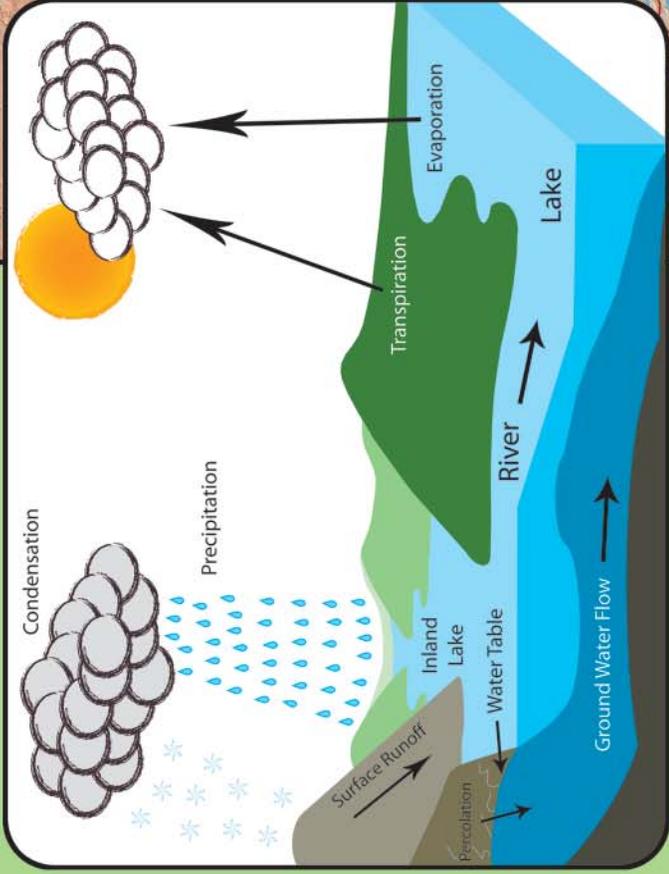
## Clean Water: It's Everyone's Responsibility

Our actions today affect the quantity and quality of water available for future uses. Since water affects every living thing, it's the responsibility of everyone. Whether it's conserving water by installing low flow fixtures, reducing the number of times you wash your car or waiting until you have a full load to use your dishwasher and washing machine. Every effort helps.

If you are planning to build in or around a watercourse, lake or wetland, please contact the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority.

For more information, visit: [www.lakeheadca.com](http://www.lakeheadca.com).

# The Water Cycle



## The Water Cycle

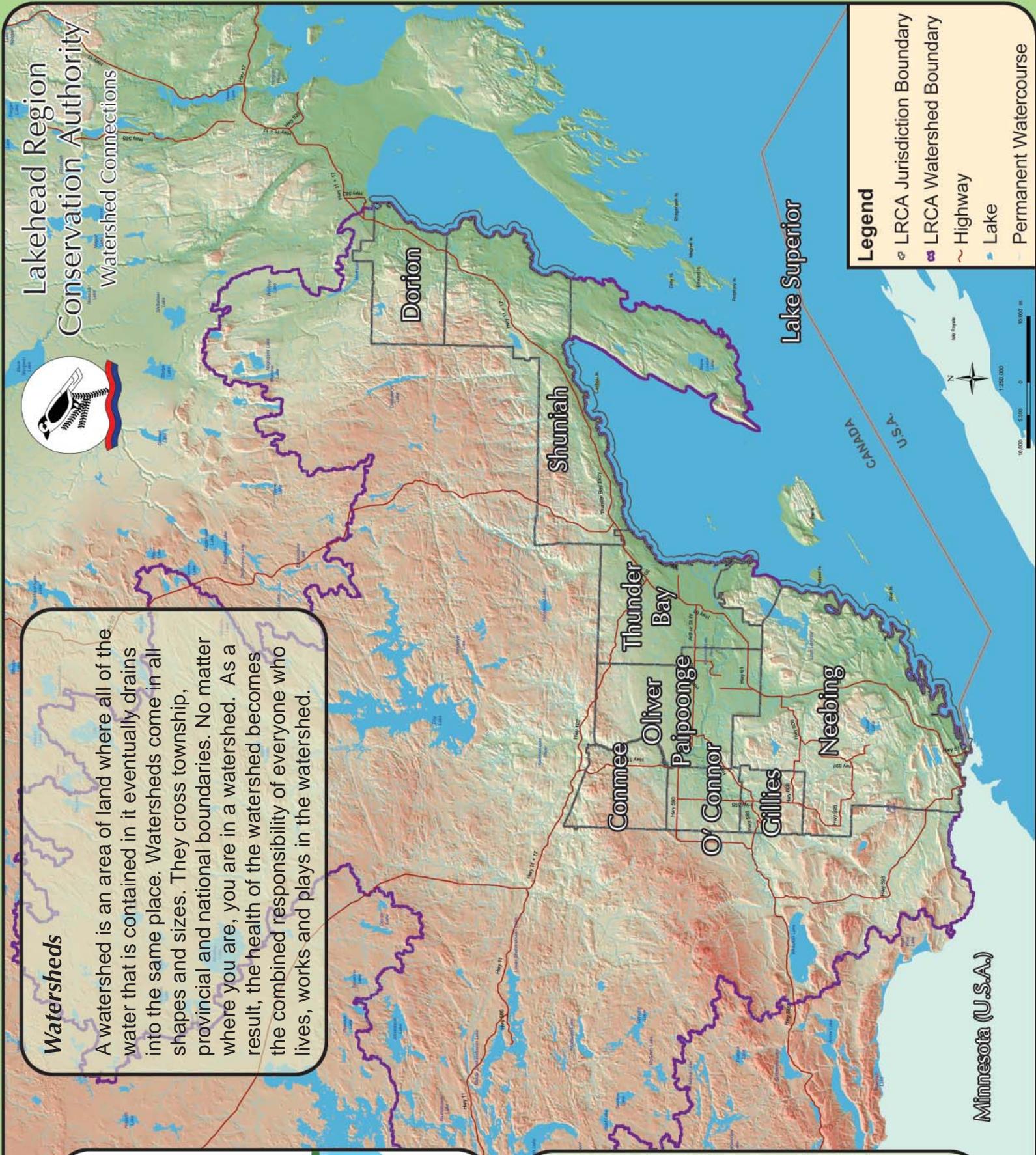
The Water Cycle is the path water follows as it circulates from the earth's surface to the sky and back again. Heat causes water to evaporate from the earth's surface. Plants also lose water to the air (this is called transpiration). The water vapour eventually condenses, forming tiny droplets. When the droplets rise, they form clouds. As clouds pass over cooler areas, the droplets condense into larger drops which fall to the ground as precipitation in the form of rain, sleet or snow. Some of the precipitation soaks into the ground, which can be trapped between pockets of sand, rock or clay layers; this is called groundwater. Most of the water flows downhill as runoff (above ground or underground), eventually returning to the lake, through tributaries such as creeks, streams and rivers.

## Watersheds

A watershed is an area of land where all of the water that is contained in it eventually drains into the same place. Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. They cross township, provincial and national boundaries. No matter where you are, you are in a watershed. As a result, the health of the watershed becomes the combined responsibility of everyone who lives, works and plays in the watershed.



Lakehead Region  
Conservation Authority  
Watershed Connections



Minnesota (U.S.A.)

- Legend**
- LRCA Jurisdiction Boundary
  - LRCA Watershed Boundary
  - Highway
  - Lake
  - Permanent Watercourse