



Hurkett Cove Conservation Area

Water is critical to all aspects of our lives, it is important that we ensure there is a safe, sustainable source of water for all our uses.

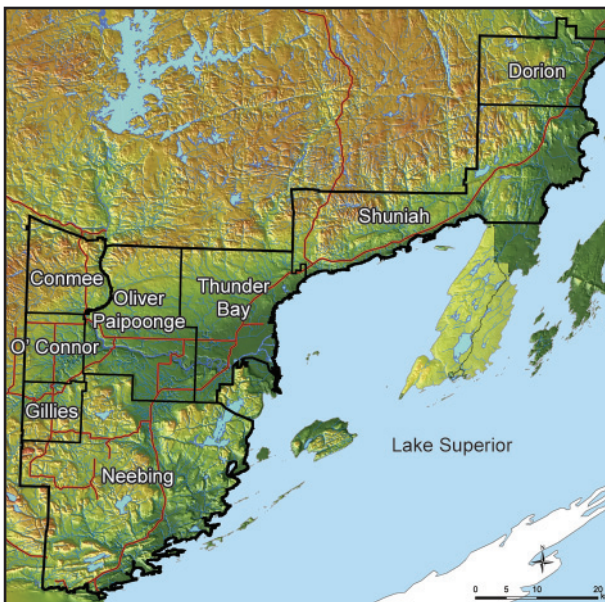
Our drinking water comes from:

- Lakes
- Rivers
- Streams
- Underground sources (aquifers)

Drinking water sources can be easily contaminated and have a limited tolerance for stress. Contamination can lead to long term problems that are extremely costly or even impossible to correct.



Cascades Conservation Area



Lakehead Region Conservation Authority:

Our boundaries correspond to those of our eight participating municipalities; encompassing an area of over 2700 sq. km, extending along 200 km of Lake Superior shoreline.

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority is a community-based environmental agency, responsible for the wise management of renewable natural resources in our watershed. Conservation Authorities undertake a broad range of programs, including: flood control; floodplain management; wetland protection; erosion control; reforestation; conservation lands; and conservation education.

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SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

Ensuring there is enough safe, clean water for all of our uses, now and in the future.



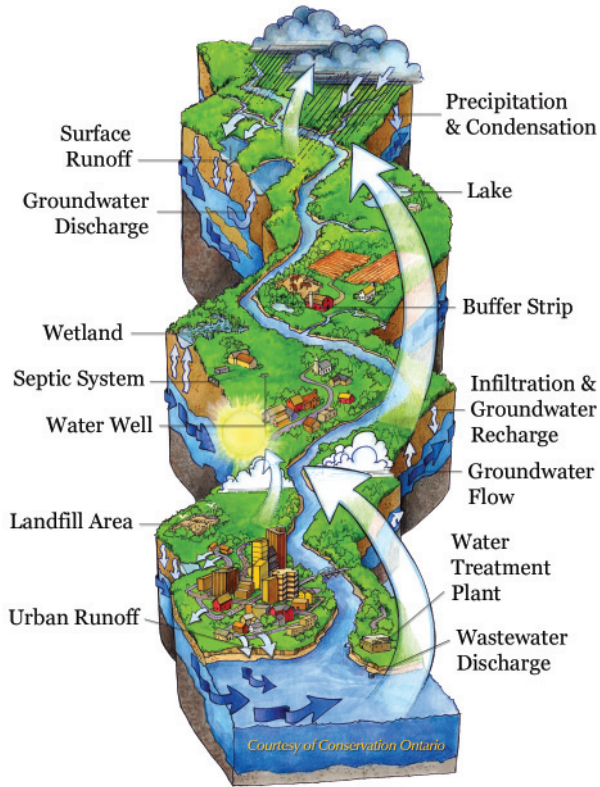
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Lakehead Region Conservation Authority

Conserve Today...For A Better Tomorrow

Watersheds: We are all connected



Courtesy of Conservation Ontario

A watershed is an area of land that is drained by a river or stream and its tributaries to a body of water such as a lake or ocean. Each watershed is made up of interconnected ecosystems including wetlands, forests, rivers, lakes, streams and wildlife. No matter where you live on the surface of the earth, you are living in a watershed.

Source water protection means keeping our rivers, streams, lakes and groundwater healthy. Everything we do ultimately impacts the health of our watersheds. We all have a part to play in maintaining the health of our water.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

What is source water?

Source water is untreated water from streams, lakes or underground aquifers that people use to supply private wells and public drinking systems.

What is source water protection?

Source water protection means protecting those water resources from contamination or overuse.

Source water protection is the first of five barriers preventing drinking water from becoming contaminated.



Courtesy of Conservation Ontario

The five barriers are:

- Source water protection
- Up-to-date water treatment systems
- Reliable distribution systems
- Professional training for water managers
- Careful testing of our water supplies

Why protect water sources when we can treat water before it gets to our taps?

It is cheaper and safer to stop water from getting polluted in the first place than to pay to clean it up later.

To be successful, we need a blend of all five barriers to ensure that we are doing everything possible to keep our drinking water clean.

Source water protection is even more important to rural residents who don't have access to all of the sophisticated and expensive testing and treatment systems used by municipal systems.



Cedar Falls Conservation Area

How can we protect source water?

We protect water sources by making sure water is free from man made contaminants before it enters the ground or river. This is best done on a watershed basis, because water flows across traditional jurisdictions such as municipal and provincial boundaries.

What is risk identification?

It is important to identify threats to the watershed and determine the risk they pose to the drinking water supply. Once identified, a strategy for managing these risks will be developed based on the relative threat they pose.