



Where Does My Water Come From?

Drinking water comes from either underground or surface water sources.

Groundwater is found in the tiny spaces between soil particles and in cracks in underground rock. Aquifers are the underground areas of soil or rock where substantial quantities of water are found, and are the water source for wells and springs. Of all the fresh water in the world, two thirds is underground, making groundwater one of the Earth's most valuable resources.

London District Chiefs Council Drinking Water Source Protection

22361 Austin Line, Bothwell, Ontario N0P 1C0
Tel. 519-692-5868 Fax. 519-692-5976

www.sfns.on.ca

This project is a communications tool provided by the LDCC, funded through the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program. This grant is to help raise awareness within the First Nation communities regarding their sources of drinking water.



First Nations with the London District Chiefs Council



Surface water is the water found in oceans lakes, rivers streams and ponds. Most Canadians get their drinking water from surface water sources. These two water sources – groundwater and surface water – are interconnected and affect each other. If one water source becomes contaminated, there is a good possibility that the contaminant will eventually make its way into, and contaminate, the other water source.

In Ontario about 80 per cent of residents get their drinking water from surface water and 20 per cent from groundwater sources.



Aside from Caldwell First Nation members and Aamjiwnaang First Nation purchasing municipal water, the remaining six First Nations manage their own drinking water supplies. Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation have their drinking water source from Lake Huron. Bkejwanong Territory (Walpole Island First Nation) has their supply drawn from the St. Clair River. Chippewas of the Thames, Oneida Nation of the Thames and Delaware Nation rely on groundwater as their communal drinking water source. Munsee-Delaware First Nation purchases some service from Chippewas of the Thames Water Treatment Plant but most community members rely on private wells.

Aamjiwnaang First Nation



Aamjiwnaang First Nation has entered into a service contract with the City of Sarnia for drinking water and sewer service.

The First Nation falls within the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region.

Lambton Area Water Supply System (LAWSS)

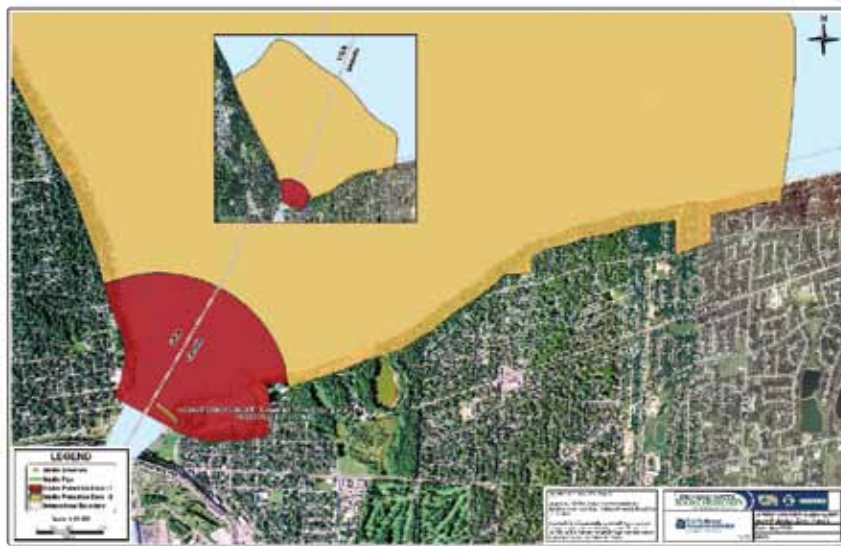
LAWSS is a collection of six municipalities united in the delivery of safe, clean water at an affordable price.

Surface water is the primary source of drinking water for residents within the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Region. Raw water from lakes and rivers is treated in water treatment plants and passed on through pipelines to residents throughout the region. 88% of the residents in Lambton County obtain their domestic water supplies from municipal water systems.

www.lawss.org

What is an Intake Protection Zone?

Protecting the area around a surface water intake means protecting the surrounding water and, in most cases, the land that surrounds the water. This area of water and land is known as an intake protection zone or IPZ.



The Lambton Area Water Supply System located in Sarnia/Point Edward treats Lake Huron water. The water is then distributed to the Village of Point Edward, City of Sarnia, Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Municipality of Lambton Shores and the Townships of St. Clair, Plympton-Wyoming, Warwick, Enniskillen and Brooke-Alvinston

“Aamjiwnaang is an Ahnishenahbek word that has no English equivalent. It is descriptive of a unique characteristic of our territory or hunting grounds. When we first located here there were great rapids at the mouth of the river. Huge rocks were strewn at the entrance of the channel producing many sandbars. Below the rapids the river grew very deep with a strong current. Along the banks of the river there were back currents flowing north back toward the lake. This created many eddies and whirlpools among the choppy waters, which seemed to braid it. It was said that if one looked closely and carefully enough one could catch glimpses of the mahnedoog or spirits just beneath the surface. This is the meaning of the name Aamjiwnaang.”

“The Plains of Aamjiwnaang” – David D. Plain
Permission Granted by Author

Intake protection zones in a large lake, such as a Great Lake, may end up in the shape of a circle and never touch shore, however intake protection zones in smaller lakes or on rivers may also include the land surrounding it, as well as several smaller feeder rivers or tributaries.

The area of water and land within an intake protection zone is determined by a variety of factors such as the amount of time it would take any material spilled in or near the river to flow downstream to the water intake. This is called the time of travel.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF INTAKE PROTECTION ZONES?

A very clear benefit of drinking water source protection in intake protection zones is protecting public health. In addition, preventing drinking water contamination in the first place costs a lot less than cleaning it up after it has been contaminated.



978 Tashmoo Avenue, Sarnia, Ontario N7T 7H5

Tel. 519-336-8410 Fax. 519-336-0382

www.aamjiwnaang.ca

