



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

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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.

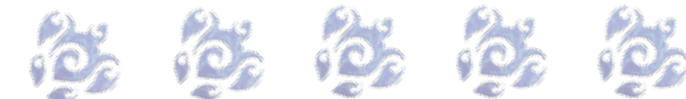


First Nations with the London District Chiefs Council



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.

Delaware Nation



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

The drinking water source for the First Nation is determined to be 'Groundwater Under Direct Influence of Surface Water' or GUDI. Groundwater is water found beneath the Earth's surface between the cracks and space in soil, sand and rock.

Groundwater is Under Direct Influence of surface water (GUDI) where it has:

1. physical evidence of surface water contamination (eg. insect parts, high turbidity)
2. surface water organisms (e.g. campylobacter, aerobic spores, cryptosporidium, giardia).

<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/techdocs/4167e.htm>

HOW IS WATER TREATED?

Chlorination Filtration

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

- 150 households are serviced
- About 2% of the community use private wells as their source of drinking water
- Approximately 20 kilometres of water line service the community
- The water tower has a capacity of 750,000 litres
- There are 125 fire hydrants on the community
- These water lines are maintained by Delaware Water Department

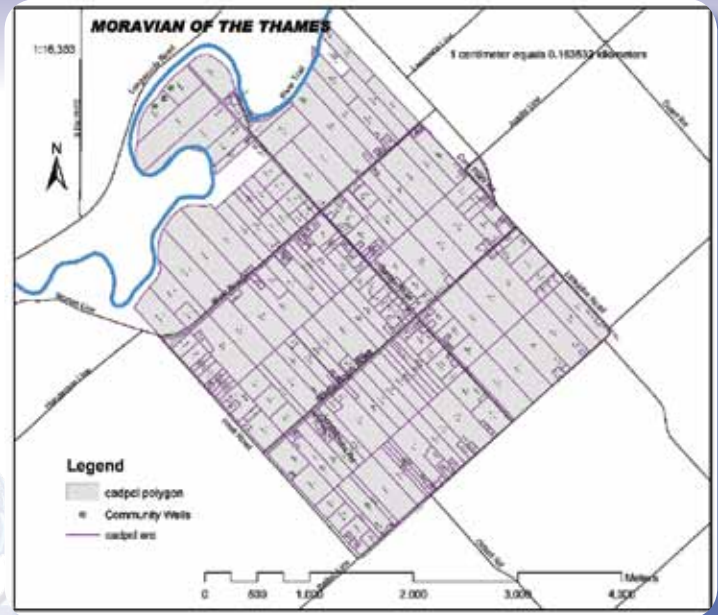


IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES CONTACT:

Water Department
519-692-9612

Gus Tobias, Water Treatment Operator
Cell 519-350-6364

14760 School House Line, R.R.#3 Thamesville, ON N0P 2K0
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SAFEGUARDING THE PUBLIC STEPS FOR COLLECTING SAMPLES

- Wash your hands
- Use only the cold water tap
- Remove aerators, screens, hoses, filters from the tap
- Let the tap run at least two minutes, before collecting the samples
- Use only the bottles supplied by the laboratory
- Check the bottles to make sure that the seal has not been broken
- Label the bottle accordingly, place, date, time, and who took the sample
- Do not rinse the bottle
- Do not handle the preservative that is in the bottle
- Do not touch the inside of the cap or inside the bottle
- Place the container in a cooler and keep it chilled to less than 10 degrees Celsius
- Send the sample to a licensed laboratory



Delaware Nation Water Department Staff: Gus Tobias and Eunice Ryk

