

The Sarnia Observer

Glass is more than half full

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The environmental group Ecojustice has given Ontario an "A" in its latest drinking water report card, though the federal government earned a failing grade.

The report released Tuesday says Ontario is home to some of the country's strongest water treatment and testing requirements, as well as its most ambitious and well-funded source water protection program.

Locally, source water protection efforts are administered by the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority, said Sarnia Coun. Terry Burrell.

He sits on the authority's local source protection committee, as well as serving as vice-chairperson of the Lambton Area Water System System (LAWSS) that oversees the water treatment and distribution system for Sarnia and five other municipalities in the county.

"I think that we have a superlative record for our water, and I think people can drink it with confidence," Burrell said.

Reports on the system are posted on its website, <http://lawss.org>, for the public to view, he said.

Ecojustice gave the federal government a failing grade in part because it hasn't created rigorous national drinking water standards.

"The federal government has completely failed in its responsibilities to ensure all Canadians have access to clean, safe water," report author Randy Christensen said in a release.

But, Burrell said, "If all of your provinces are doing a good job, the need for a federal program is kind of moot, I would think."

Burrell said Sarnia-Lambton is fortunate to have Lake Huron as the source of its drinking water.

"The risks to it are low."

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