

# DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

Lakehead Source Protection Area

Lakehead  
Region  
Conservation  
Authority



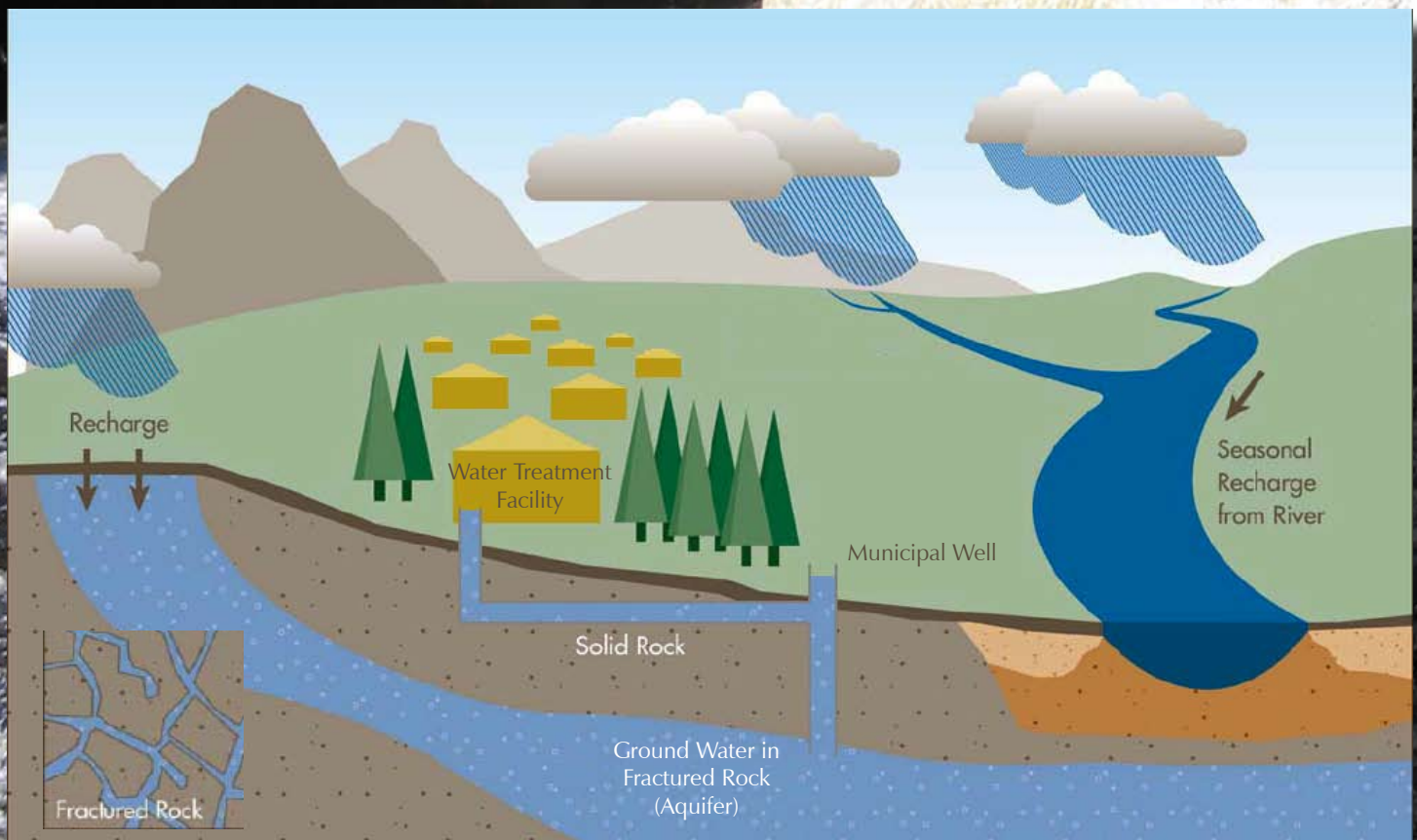
## GROUND WATER SOURCE WATER FROM A WELL

### WHAT IS GROUNDWATER?

The term GROUNDWATER refers to water that has seeped into the soil from the earth's surface and becomes trapped in the cracks, crevices and pores of rock found underground, similar to how a sponge traps and holds water. As groundwater moves, it can collect underground in areas known as aquifers. Communities such as Rosslyn Village use this SOURCE of groundwater within an aquifer to provide Municipal and private wellheads with water that we treat for drinking and everyday use. Protecting the quality and quantity of our GROUNDWATER now and in the future is a focus of Drinking Water Source Protection under the "Clean Water Act".

### WATER QUICK FACT!!

- Of the total world's fresh water supply, 30.8% is ground water.
- 68.9% of the earth's fresh water exists in the form of glaciers and permanent snow cover.
- Only 0.3% of total global fresh water is stored in lakes and rivers.



Source: [www.epa.gov/seahome/groundwater/src/hydrocyc.htm](http://www.epa.gov/seahome/groundwater/src/hydrocyc.htm), adapted from The Source Water Protection Primer (Pollution Probe, 2004).  
[www.pollutionprobe.org/Publications/Primers.htm](http://www.pollutionprobe.org/Publications/Primers.htm)



# CAN I IMPACT THE GROUNDWATER I USE FOR DRINKING?

Of Course! Our day to day lives have a huge impact on the groundwater in our communities. Over the past few years, industrial regulations have strengthened and as a result current sources of water pollution are largely residential. This means that what you do in your home and back yard on a daily basis can directly affect the water you drink by impacting the groundwater we use.

## ***DAILY THREATS TO GROUNDWATER HEALTH***

- *Old or abandoned wells.*
- *Leaky septic tanks.*
- *High water consumption ( i.e. long showers, leaky taps, running toilets).*
- *Use of lawn fertilizers and pesticides.*
- *Improper disposal of household hazardous wastes (medicines, cleaning products and electronics).*
- *Storm sewer contamination (soap from car washing, animal wastes).*
- *Contaminated runoff from oil, gasoline and road salt.*



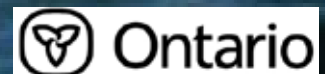
## **HOW DOES THIS AFFECT ME?**

The quality and quantity of our drinking water affects us all; our health and our way of living all depend on having clean and abundant water resources. The Lakehead Source Protection Committee along with local Municipalities and community stakeholders are working to develop a Drinking Water Source Protection Plan aimed at helping landowners take action to reduce threats to local Municipal drinking water sources. By protecting our drinking water at its source, we can help to preserve a healthy water supply for our present requirements and our future needs.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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