

# DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

Lakehead Source Protection Area

Lakehead  
Region  
Conservation  
Authority



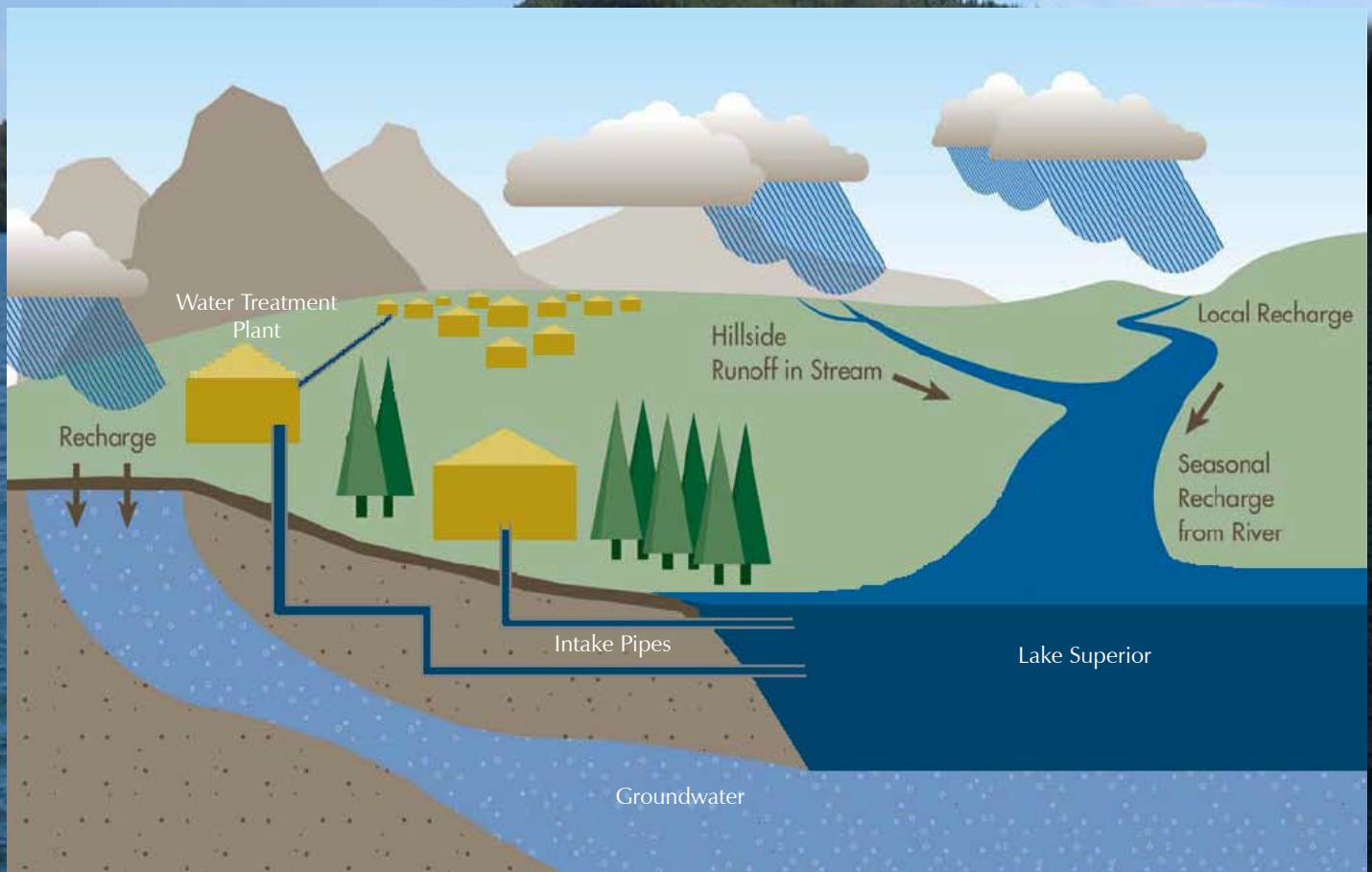
## SURFACE WATER SOURCE WATER FROM LAKES AND RIVERS

### WHAT IS SURFACE WATER?

**SURFACE WATER** refers to water found on the surface of the earth. Lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands are all examples of surface water. In Ontario, we rely on the largest surface water system in the world, the Great Lakes, for clean water to drink and for every day use. The largest of the lakes, Lake Superior, is the **SOURCE** of the Municipal residential drinking water supply for the City of Thunder Bay. Currently, Lake Superior is healthy and provides us with clean and abundant water, a valuable resource that we should not take for granted. Protecting the quality and quantity of our **SURFACE WATER** now and for the future use is a goal of Drinking Water Source Protection under the "Clean Water Act".

### ***WATER QUICKFACT!!***

- *8.5 million Canadians get their drinking water from the Great Lakes.*
- *Only 1% of the waters of the Great Lakes are renewed each year by snow melt or rain.*
- *The Great Lakes are the largest system of freshwater in the world, containing 18% of the world's supply.*



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 SURFACE WATER I USE FOR DRINKING?

Definitely!! Our actions have a huge influence on SURFACE WATER health. Over the past few years, industrial regulations have strengthened and as a result, current sources of water pollution are largely residential. Which means what you do in your home and back yard on a daily basis can directly affect the water you drink by impacting the lakes, rivers and wetlands in our communities.

### ***DAILY THREATS TO SURFACE WATER HEALTH***

- *High water consumption ( i.e. long showers, leaky taps, running toilets).*
- *Use of lawn fertilizers and pesticides.*
- *Old or abandoned wells.*
- *Leaky septic tanks.*
- *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.*



Monitoring the health of our lakes and rivers is an important part of the Drinking Water Source Protection Program



## HOW DOES THIS AFFECT ME?

The quality and quantity of our drinking water affects us all; our health and our way of living all rely on having clean water resources. The Lakehead Source Protection Committee along with local Municipalities and community stakeholders are working to develop a Source Protection Plan aimed at helping landowners take action to reduce threats to local Municipal residential drinking water. 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.

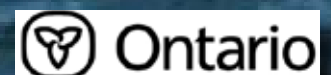
### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Lakehead Region Conservation Authority  
P.O. Box 10427, 130 Conservation Road  
Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7B 6T8

[www.sourceprotection.net](http://www.sourceprotection.net)

Email: [info@lakeheadca.com](mailto:info@lakeheadca.com) [www.lakeheadca.com](http://www.lakeheadca.com)

1-807-344-5857



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