



L'Original, December 10, 2013

The Honorable David Oraziotti  
Minister of Natural Resources  
Suite 6630, 6th Floor, Whitney Block  
99 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3

**Re: Amendment to the Aggregate Resources Act for peat moss extraction**


Dear Minister,

The Council of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell, at its meeting of November 27, 2013, discussed a proposal from one of its local municipalities regarding an amendment to the Aggregate Resources Act for the extraction of peat moss – a resource that is significant and abundant in our region, but of which its extractors are not subject to annual fees.

Given that heavy trucks carrying this peat moss contribute to the deterioration of our roads and infrastructures, and that the Act provides that every licensee or holder of an aggregate permit shall pay an annual fee to municipalities – which in turn must ensure the protection of the road network – our Council subsequently adopted a resolution requesting the Ministry of Natural Resources to amend the Aggregate Resources Act to ensure that peat-moss extractors are subject to the same criteria as other aggregate extractors.

I am pleased to enclose a certified true copy of our Resolution 2013/208 for your consideration, in hoping the Ministry of Natural Resources may be of further assistance in this file and consider this amendment to the Aggregate Resources Act. Your opinion on the matter would also be greatly appreciated, as our Council believes this to be an issue facing many municipalities across the province.

Please accept, Minister, my sincere regards,

  
René P. Berthiaume, Warden  
United Counties of Prescott and Russell



**Proposé / Moved By :** François St-Amour

**Date:** 27 novembre / November 27, 2013

**Appuyé / Seconded by :** Marcel Guibord

**Numéro / Number** 2013/208

**RE:** Modification de la législation portant sur l'extraction de la tourbe  
*Amendment to the legislation regarding peat-moss extraction*

ATTENDU que la Loi sur les ressources en agrégats surveille et réglemente l'exploitation des agrégats sur les terres de la Couronne et les terrains privés;

WHEREAS the Aggregate Resources Act controls and regulates aggregate operations on Crown and private lands;

ET ATTENDU que la loi exige que les titulaires de permis ou de licence d'extraction en agrégats versent des droits annuels aux municipalités locales;

AND WHEREAS the Act provides that every licensee or holder of an aggregate permit shall pay an annual fee to local municipalities;

ET ATTENDU que les extracteurs de tourbe ne sont pas assujettis à des droits annuels;

AND WHEREAS peat-moss extractors are not subjected to annual fees;

ET ATTENDU que dans la loi, la définition du mot «terre» exclut le sol arable et la tourbe;

AND WHEREAS in the Act, the word "earth" does not include topsoil and peat moss;

ET ATTENDU que les municipalités doivent assurer la protection du réseau routier mais la circulation des camions lourds transportant de la tourbe contribue à la dégradation des routes;

AND WHEREAS municipalities must ensure the protection of the road network as heavy trucks carrying peat moss contribute to the deterioration of roads and infrastructures;

QU'IL SOIT RÉSOLU que le Conseil pétitionne le ministère des Richesses naturelles de modifier la Loi sur les ressources en agrégats pour assurer que les opérateurs d'extraction de la tourbe soient assujettis aux mêmes exigences que les exploitants d'agrégats.

BE IT RESOLVED that Council petition the Ministry of Natural Resources to amend the Aggregate Resources Act to ensure that peat-moss extractors are subject to the same criteria as other aggregate extractors.

Adoptée

Carried

**COPIE CERTIFIÉE CONFORME/ CERTIFIED TRUE COPY**

Je, Andrée Latreille, greffière adjointe de la Corporation des Comtés unis de Prescott et Russell, atteste que la présente est une copie certifiée de la résolution adoptée par le Conseil le 27<sup>e</sup> jour du mois de novembre 2013. / I, Andrée Latreille, Deputy Clerk of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by County Council on the 27th day of November, 2013.

Andrée Latreille, Greffière adjointe

# MUNICIPALITÉ · EAST FERRIS · MUNICIPALITY

390 Hwy. 94  
CORBEIL, ONTARIO  
POH 1K0



TEL.: 705-752-2740  
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email:municipality@eastferris.ca

October 16, 2013

Kathleen Wynne, Premier  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

I.G.# 2

Dear Premier Wynne:

Re: The Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund

I am writing to advise you of my great disappointment and concern with the recent announcement regarding the distribution of the \$100 million Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund. We received the announcement late Friday October 4<sup>th</sup> 2013.

Municipalities individually and collectively through AMO and ROMA/OGRA have provided honest and quantitative input to your government over the past year regarding the best method to distribute these monies. We have all put a great deal of effort into this process but obviously the consultations were a complete waste of everyone's time and energy. We are back to the hat in hand/lottery system for the distribution of funds. This is a total disregard for the input of the municipalities of this province.

In addition, municipalities are being given less than one month to choose a project and develop an Expression of Interest. Municipalities are currently working on their municipal asset management plans and preparing for their 2014 budget deliberations. Many asset management plans will not be completed before the end of this year yet we are all being asked to submit an Expression of Interest by November 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 which promotes poor priority planning and provides little time for proper decision making.

The proposed process is once again geared to larger urban municipalities which have the capacity to quickly respond to the Expression of Interest call and application submission rather than to the very Small, Rural and Northern municipalities which it is supposed to help.

We have been told that this program was truly going to be for small, rural and northern communities but the definition of 'small and rural' has been confirmed to include municipalities with a population of up to 100,000. We wonder how a city of 100,000 can be considered to be a small and rural community. This also means that 95 per cent of our municipalities will qualify.

Our Municipality was shut out of the first round of MIII funding last year and had to move forward and complete the selected road project this year, at our cost, which resulted in a tax increase for our ratepayers (3.4% this year).

We appreciate the funding that we have received over the years and more recently in 2009 through a Building Canada Fund Program and the NOHFC for the renovation of the East Ferris Community Centre/Arena which extended its life and allows us to continue to serve our residents and those of the surrounding communities. However, the Municipality of East Ferris has not received any substantial funding for our roads for over 5 years and we are in a difficult position. We were completely shut out of both the Stimulus Fund Program and the last Building Canada Fund (BCF) program for roads projects. We have seen the list of approved projects from that round of funding and are aware that while municipalities were told to submit no more than three stimulus fund applications and one BCF application many received far in excess of that number. One municipality received hundreds of approvals for millions of dollars. The total number of approved projects for the northern region was small in comparison to the number of approvals and the total value of approved projects for southern Ontario.

The Municipality of East Ferris has always managed its finances in a very responsible manner. However, we have been told the following on many occasions over the past few years:

1. Your reserves are too high, use them for infrastructure projects;
2. You have never borrowed, borrow for infrastructure projects; and
3. Your residents have a high income level, raise taxes for infrastructure projects.

Premier Wynne, we have been doing all that has been asked of us by the Province and more yet we continue to be shut out of infrastructure funding. The Municipality has:

1. Reduced our reserves by approximately 41% over the past five years by using the monies for various infrastructure projects;
2. Changed from the pay as you go system of budgeting and borrowed last year for the first time ever (\$1.2 million) for roads projects which we had to complete; and
3. Raised our taxes at a level comparable to or greater than the cost of living for each of the past five years.

We have also developed a long term economic development strategy, a facilities master plan, a reserve funds policy and we are nearing the completion of our long term capital asset management plan.

We are trying our best to be creative and innovative in our approach to our planning in an attempt to become financially healthier and move towards greater sustainability in the future. Now we can say that we, together with AMO and most of the other municipalities, are not even being listened to.

We, like many other municipalities, are also being faced with continuing decreases in our funding through the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF); and, significant increases in our policing (OPP) costs. We are also facing the high costs associated with our share of the future redevelopment of the Cassellholme East Nipissing District Home for the Aged (\$60 million dollar project).

We have been and continue to ask for a source of sustainable infrastructure funding for all municipalities. We fully understand that many municipalities, including East Ferris, will have significant infrastructure projects whether they be roads, bridges, water or sewer and that there needs to be monies set aside for these larger projects as well.

AMO has recommended a fair and equitable method to distribute the \$100 million Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund and it or some similar formula should be considered.

Premier Wynne, we are in a very difficult situation as are most small rural communities in this Province.

We are respectfully requesting the following:

1. that this announcement be rescinded and that either the method advanced by AMO to distribute funds through the program or something comparable to it be implemented instead; and
2. to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss options and opportunities for the future.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,

*Original signed*

Mayor Bill Vrebosch, Municipality of East Ferris

Cc. Hon. Jeff Leal, Minister of Rural Affairs  
Hon. Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Hon. Glen Murray, Minister of Infrastructure and Minister of Transportation  
AMO and all Municipalities  
OGRA  
Jay Aspin, MP Nipissing Temiskaming  
Vic Fedeli, MPP Nipissing  
All residents of the Municipality of East Ferris

# GRCA Current



January 2013 • Volume 19, Number 1

## GRCA General Membership

<b>Chair</b>	Jane Mitchell
<b>1st Vice-Chair</b>	Vic Prendergast
<b>2nd Vice-Chair</b>	Jan d'Ailly
<b>Townships of Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Melancthon and Southgate and Town of Grand Valley</b>	Tom Nevills
<b>Townships of Mapleton and Wellington North</b>	Pat Salter
<b>Township of Centre Wellington</b>	Joanne Ross-Zuj
<b>Town of Erin, Townships of Guelph/Eramosa and Puslinch</b>	John Brennan
<b>City of Guelph</b>	Bob Bell, Maggie Laidlaw
<b>Region of Waterloo</b>	Les Armstrong, Todd Cowan, Jan d'Ailly, Rob Deutschmann, Jean Haalboom, Ross Kelterborn, Geoff Lorentz, Claudette Miller, Jane Mitchell, Warren Stauch
<b>Municipality of North Perth and Township of Perth East</b>	George Wicke
<b>Halton Region</b>	J. Barry Lee
<b>City of Hamilton</b>	Jeanette Jamieson
<b>Oxford County</b>	Bruce Banbury
<b>County of Brant</b>	Brian Coleman, Steve Schmitt
<b>City of Brantford</b>	Robert Hillier, Vic Prendergast
<b>Haldimand and Norfolk Counties</b>	Lorne Boyko, Fred Morison

## Land donated to the GRCA

The GRCA now owns 13 hectares (32 acres) south of Cambridge along the Cambridge to Paris Rail-Trail thanks to a donation.

In December ownership of an island and shoreline was turned over to the GRCA by the Girl Guides of Canada which had owned the property since 1961. The area was used as an overnight campsite and excursion destination during the summer, but had not been used in recent years.

The property includes an excellent example of a continuous wooded Carolinian valley in the Grand River watershed and it is a high priority acquisition for the GRCA. It is also a Life Science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI). The property is completely wooded, containing 4.5 hectares (11 acres) of shoreline and a 8.5-hectare (21-acre) island.

## New pass replaces windshield stickers in 2014

The GRCA is replacing the windshield stickers that have been used for many years to gain entry into conservation areas with a wallet membership pass in 2014.

The card-based system will help the conservation areas move to install automatic entry gates. Patrons will also be able to carry the pass with them when they walk to the conservation area.

The card will allow the GRCA to move towards a year-round system that is good for 12 months from the date of purchase. The new card is part of a membership that will include incentives such as two complimentary day passes and a free ski or snowshoe rental.

The fee for a wallet membership will increase from \$122 to \$125, while the senior/disabled pass will increase by a \$1 to \$110.

Individual season passes will be decrease by about \$1 to \$40 for a child, \$50 for adults and \$45 for seniors.

## New 2014 park fees

New 2014 park fees will come into effect Jan. 1.

Seasonal camping rates will increase by about three per cent and there will be an incremental increase in camping rates for waterfront sites, but daily entrance fees and camping rates will not go up.

A new disability discount will bring the price for this group of patrons down to the same level as the senior discount, which was new last year.

The conservation area fees changed significantly in 2013 due to new business plans for all the parks. The new fees will be posted online at [www.grandriver.ca/parks](http://www.grandriver.ca/parks). The report on the changes is available as part of the December agenda on [www.grandriver.ca/meetingreports](http://www.grandriver.ca/meetingreports).

## Partnership agreement with DFO

The GRCA will no longer review projects on behalf of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) as a result of amendments to the federal Fisheries Act that came into effect on Nov. 25.

Under the federal Fisheries Act it is unlawful to carry out a project that causes serious harm to fish unless authorized by DFO. This applies to work conducted in or near water that supports fish and fish habitat, or areas that are part of a commercial, recreational or Aboriginal fishery.

Conservation authorities are working with DFO on a possible new agreement. In the meantime, GRCA staff have been asked to direct questions from landowners to DFO and a notice about the end of the agreement is posted in the planning section on [www.grandriver.ca](http://www.grandriver.ca).

GRCA staff will continue to carry out advisory reviews of changes that involve fish habitat and aquatic resources through provincial legislation.

## Park revenue down

Grand River Parks earned nearly \$6.4 million in 2013, which was about \$380,000 less than expect-



ed. This was due to wet weather and the delayed opening of Byng Island Conservation Area because of water issues. High river flows in Elora Gorge meant tubing was suspended for part of the summer for safety reasons and this also resulted in less revenue.

The revenue shortfall is being offset by a reduction of \$150,000 in capital spending and the rest will be covered by funds from the reserves.

The 2014 budget revenue is expected to be \$6.9 million based on average attendance.

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## Water Management Plan will be released in 2014

The draft of the Grand River Water Management Plan is complete and has been released for endorsement by partners and municipalities.

Their approval is expected by May. The final Water Management Plan will be launched in January 2015.

The partner members on the steering committee, project team and working groups have been actively involved in drafting this plan in recent years. It will ensure the Grand River can be sustainable as the population grows. The findings are reassuring because the 1982 plan upon which it is based was a good one and also due to a culture of best practices for water management throughout the Grand River watershed.

It is a very practical plan and many action items are already part of GRCA's current and planned work. It is a voluntary plan that is based on partnerships of the organizations involved which are not legally required to carry out the actions that have been incorporated into the plan.

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## Planning fees change effective Feb. 1

A new resource planning fee schedule comes into effect Feb. 1.

The new fees were approved by the board in December and reflect a two per cent increase for permit applications, plan review, title clearance and inquiries. Minor fees were not changed. GRCA staff discussed the increase with the Home Builders/GRCA Liaison Committee and the Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association.

These fees help cover the cost of staff time for planning, engineering, terrestrial, aquat-



Hoarfrost on the Grand River taken by Peggy Dietrich for the 2012 GRCA photo contest. A new contest with great prizes is starting Jan. 6. Check [www.grandriver.ca/photocontest](http://www.grandriver.ca/photocontest) for details.

ics and information systems. Over 700 permits were processed in 2013.

The volume and nature of Plan Review applications are more variable than permits and are down slightly to 414 processed in 2013.

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## Source water plans being reviewed

The process of developing a drinking water source protection plan for the Grand River watershed is quietly moving forward.

After several years in development, a source protection plan was submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Environment for its approval. The process to develop the plan was led by the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee, which also oversaw development of plans for the Long Point Region, Catfish Creek and Kettle Creek watersheds.

Ministry staff are reviewing all four plans to ensure they meet the terms of the Clean Water Act, which launched the planning process in 2006.

The review process can take some time, particularly for large and complex plans such as the Grand's.

As the province reviews the Grand River plan, it may make suggestions on ways to

ensure that the plan conforms to the Act and its regulations.

If the province proposes substantial changes, a public information or consultation process may take place in 2014.

A total of 38 source protection plans were produced across Ontario. So far, just the plan for the Thunder Bay area has been approved.

This issue of GRCA Current was published in January 2014.

It is a summary of the December business conducted by the Grand River Conservation Authority board and committees as well as other noteworthy happenings and topics of interest.

The Grand River Conservation Authority welcomes the photocopying, forwarding and distribution of GRCA Current.

**Next board meeting:** Friday, Jan. 24 at 9:30 a.m., GRCA Administration Centre.

Reports mentioned in GRCA Current: [www.grandriver.ca/MeetingReports](http://www.grandriver.ca/MeetingReports).

For coming events, please see [www.grandriver.ca/Calendar](http://www.grandriver.ca/Calendar).

The November-December issue of Grand Actions newsletter available at: [www.grandriver.ca/GrandActions](http://www.grandriver.ca/GrandActions)

# Minister's Annual Report on **Drinking Water**

## 2013

I.G.# 4







# Minister's Message

## MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT ON DRINKING WATER 2013

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Cette publication est également disponible en français.

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ISSN 1920-6690 (Online)

PIBS 9556e

For more information:  
[www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater](http://www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater)

Water is the key to life itself, and Ontario is fortunate to be shaped by the world's largest supply of surface fresh water — the Great Lakes. Many of our cities and towns were established on the shorelines and waterways of the Great Lakes where they could grow and flourish. More than 80 per cent of the people in Ontario rely on the Great Lakes for their drinking water. The Great Lakes drive our economy and help provide for Ontario's high quality of life through recreation, enjoyment and opportunities to connect with nature. Protecting the Great Lakes is a priority for my ministry. This report highlights our efforts to protect the Great Lakes.

As our population grows along with our economy, so do the demands on our water resources. The value of our water cannot be overlooked or taken for granted. Many municipal, private and public partnerships share our concern, and collaborate with my ministry and our many partners to protect the local water supply. I am pleased to report that we are getting results.

Much of what we have accomplished is a result of continuing collaboration with municipalities, owners and operators of drinking water systems, conservation authorities, First Nations, academics, source protection committees and community stakeholder groups. Some of their stories are contained in this report.

We have recently committed \$13.5 million over the next three years to help communities to deliver local drinking water source protection plans. My ministry continues to support communities and partners as they prepare to implement these plans to protect local drinking water.

Our Chief Drinking Water Inspector's latest report confirms that Ontario's drinking water safety net is working. Our safety net helps to ensure Ontario's drinking water is protected, from source to tap. In addition to regular inspections and constant water monitoring, we are also working on innovative ways to maintain the safety of our drinking water as demands increase.

This year's report includes progress we have made under the Water Opportunities Act. For example, we established the Water Technology Acceleration Project, also known as WaterTAP. WaterTAP's focus is the growth of Ontario's highly skilled water technology and services sector. Complementing the Water Opportunities Act is our Showcasing Water Innovation program which fosters innovative and cost-effective solutions for managing water systems in Ontario communities.

We have achieved much over the past year and our work is ongoing. Regular testing using the best science and innovation are the keys to maintaining Ontario's high drinking water standards.

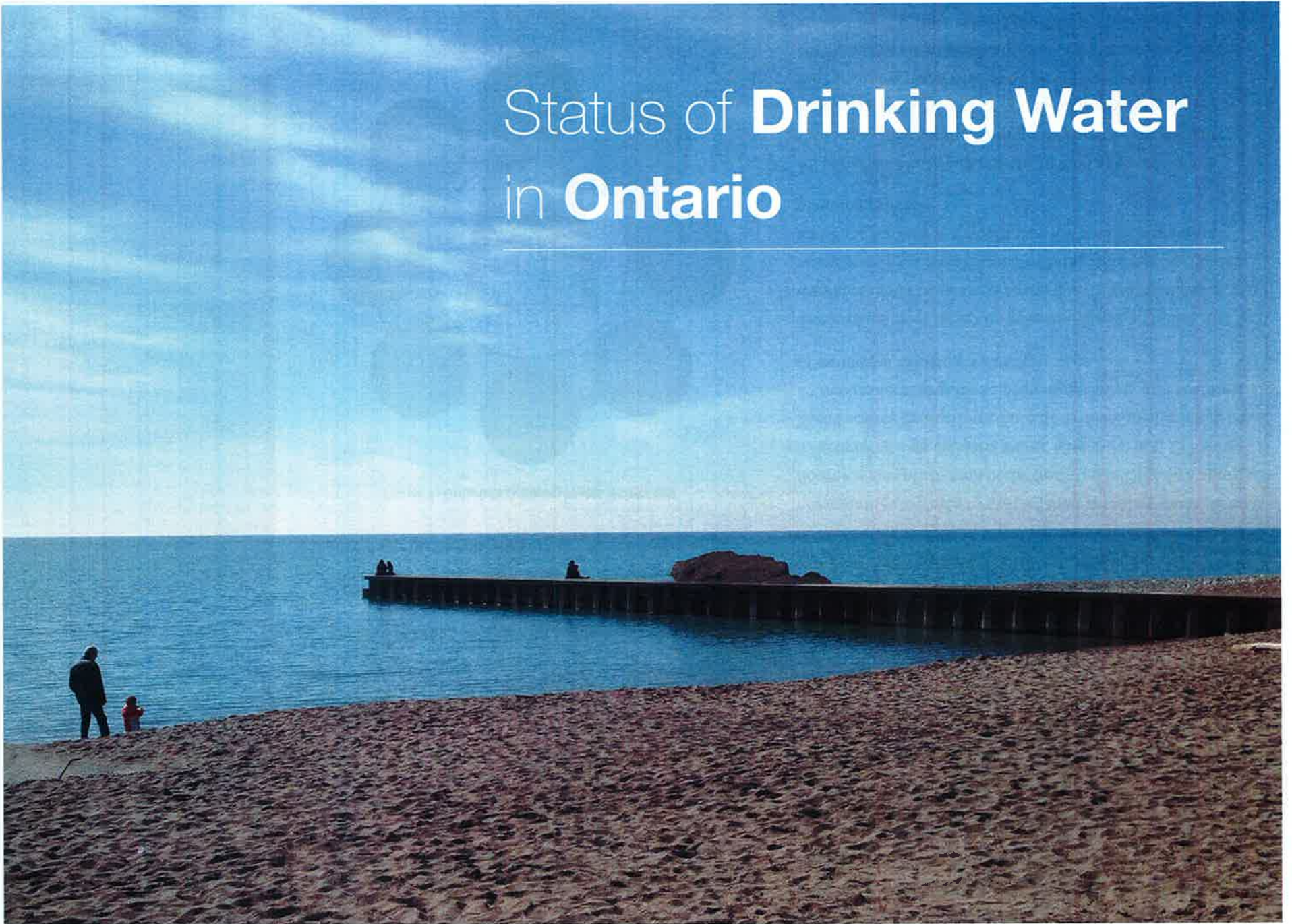
I look forward to working with all of our partners to continue to provide the people of Ontario with clean, safe drinking water.

**The Honourable Jim Bradley**

Minister of the Environment  
Government of Ontario  
December 2013

# Status of **Drinking Water** in **Ontario**

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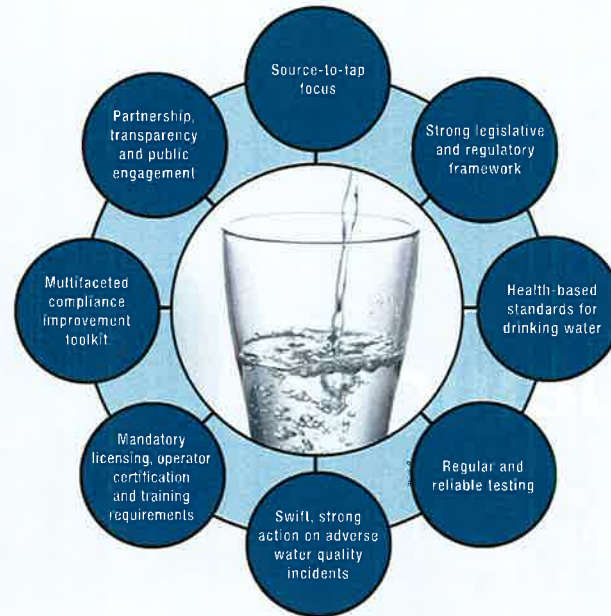


This section of the report provides an overview of the performance of Ontario's drinking water systems as reported in **Ontario's Chief Drinking Water Inspector's 2011-2012 report**. It includes statistics on drinking water quality, inspection results and information on the ministry's enforcement activities.

## Ontario's Drinking Water Safety Net

The Ministry of the Environment has been collecting and carefully examining data related to your drinking water and reporting it to the public since 2005. We believe that effective drinking water protection starts at the source and continues

Figure 1: Ontario's Drinking Water Safety Net



until you turn on your tap. This is Ontario's drinking water safety net. This multi-barrier system includes strong legislation, stringent standards, regular and reliable testing, highly trained and licensed operators, regular inspections and the most comprehensive source protection program in Canada.

The eight parts of the safety net are in place to help ensure that Ontario's drinking water is of high quality and remains among the best protected in the world.

## Strong Legislation and Regulatory Framework

Adopted in the aftermath of the drinking water tragedy in Walkerton, the Clean Water Act helps to ensure that communities are able to protect their drinking water sources. Source water protection is the first step in Ontario's approach to delivering safe drinking water. Under the act, 19 locally-based source protection committees developed science-based source protection plans to protect the safety and sustainability of municipal drinking water resources.

These plans were based on assessments of activities and land uses that could pose a risk to the quality and quantity of raw water sources. Consultations with the public, stakeholders and First Nations were built into the source protection planning process.

All plans have been submitted and the Lakehead Source Protection Plan for the Thunder Bay area was approved in January 2013. Ministry staff are currently reviewing the remaining plans which will be implemented through a collaborative effort involving municipalities, conservation authorities, landowners and provincial ministries.

To support the implementation of the source protection plans, my ministry has trained 160 risk management officials and inspectors as of September 30, 2013. We will continue to support conservation authorities as they work with local partners and municipalities to help them understand their roles and responsibilities. Once all plans are in place, they will help to protect more than 450 drinking water sources — both groundwater and surface water.

## Operator Certification and Training

Ontario's drinking water operators are among the best trained in the world. To become certified, operators must complete rigorous training, write examinations and meet continuing education requirements to renew and maintain their certification.

Drinking water operators are certified and trained according to the type and class of facility they operate. They may hold multiple certificates if they work in more than one type of drinking water system. As of March 31, 2013, 6,340 operators held a total of 8,775 certificates.

A new operator starts as an operator-in-training. In 2012-13, 1,231 drinking water operator-in-training certificates were issued to 719 individuals in the province including those from First Nations communities.

## The Walkerton Clean Water Centre

The Walkerton Clean Water Centre provides high quality operator training programs. They deliver province-wide training with a focus on small and remote drinking water systems including those serving First Nations. The Centre offers hands-on and classroom training as well as technology demonstrations in their state-of-the-art facility.

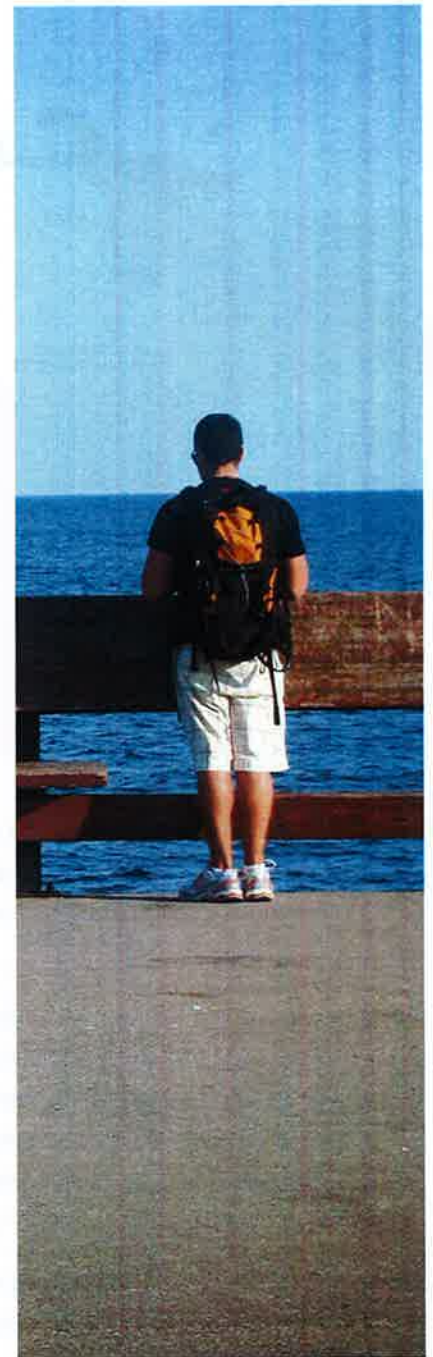
As of September 30, 2013, 45,751 new and existing professionals have been trained by the Centre.

For more information about the Walkerton Clean Water Centre and the programs offered, visit [www.wewc.ca](http://www.wewc.ca).

## Drinking Water Safety

My ministry works with owners and operators of drinking water systems to help ensure they meet all regulatory requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act so Ontario's drinking water continues to be among the best protected in the world.

The act protects public health through regulations that oversee many of the safeguards and measures that make up Ontario's drinking water safety net. These regulations cover licensing and operation of drinking water systems, regular and reliable testing services, drinking water quality standards, certification of drinking water system operators and compliance and enforcement activities.





## FIRST NATIONS

My ministry continues to support First Nations communities and, at their request, has provided valuable support in several areas related to drinking water.

The federal government has jurisdiction over on-reserve drinking water systems in Ontario. My ministry encourages operators for First Nations communities to achieve provincial certification and provides training through the Walkerton Clean Water Centre.

The Canada-Ontario First Nations Drinking Water Quality Improvement Initiative that was launched in July 2011 is designed to help First Nations improve their drinking water quality using innovative approaches and technologies. While the federal government is providing a total of \$5 million to fund this collaborative work, the province and the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation are providing technical support and training.

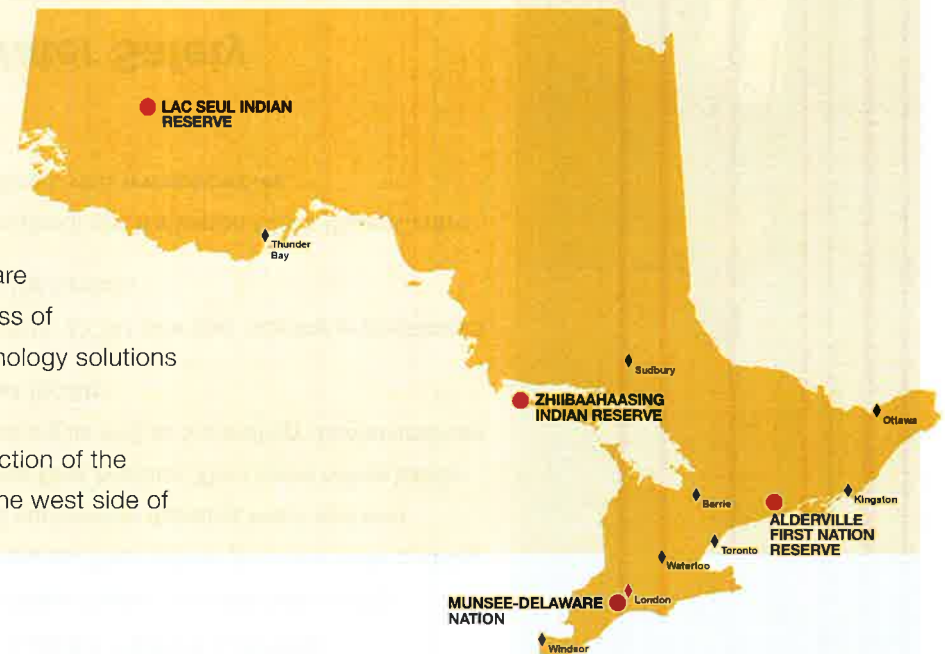
As I reported to you in 2012, the four participating First Nations communities of Zhiibaahaasing, Lac Seul, Munsee-Delaware and Alderville are currently leading the process of commissioning appropriate design and technology solutions for their communities.

Steady progress is being made. The construction of the new treatment plant for Zhiibaahaasing, on the west side of

Manitoulin Island, is now complete and work on individual cisterns in this community has begun.

The construction work in Lac Seul, just northwest of Sioux Lookout, is now in progress, and the contract for the construction of the treatment plant in Munsee-Delaware has been awarded. Currently, the Alderville community in collaboration with other stakeholders and partners is finalizing its Request for Proposal to begin the construction work.

Next steps include the completion of current construction projects, commissioning and monitoring of all four projects and providing customized training for each community.



## Drinking Water Standards

Ontario has 158 health-based water quality standards for testing the province's drinking water.

Ontario's health-based drinking water quality standards set limits for contaminants in drinking water. Most of these standards are based on Health Canada's Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines which are reviewed regularly to ensure they reflect new information as it becomes available.

Ontario's Advisory Council on Drinking Water Quality and Testing Standards continues to provide advice to my ministry on the most up-to-date practices and technologies related to drinking water.

## Monitoring the Quality of Ontario's Source Water

The Drinking Water Surveillance Program has been monitoring the quality of Ontario's source water and treated drinking water since 1986. The program monitors emerging contaminants such as algal toxins and perfluorinated compounds. A number of municipalities and First Nations communities participate voluntarily in the program.

Another key step in protecting the safety of Ontario's drinking water is monitoring the water quality in the Great Lakes, inland lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater across the province.

Monitoring helps us understand the state of our water resources, the impacts of human activities and helps identify emerging problems. The scientific information from monitoring is used to develop new protection measures and to track and report on our progress in protecting and improving our water resources.

The results of our monitoring efforts can be found in the [Water Quality in Ontario Report 2012](#).



A woman with dark hair, wearing a dark jacket, is smiling and drinking from a red cup. She is outdoors in a park-like setting with trees and fallen leaves in the background. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day. The text 'Ontario's Drinking Water Report Card' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Ontario's **Drinking**  
**Water** Report Card

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## Drinking Water Quality Test Results

To learn more about the Chief Drinking Water Inspector's Annual Report 2011-2012, please visit [www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater](http://www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater).

Ontario's drinking water is regularly tested by qualified and eligible laboratories. They perform detailed analyses of drinking water samples that are submitted by system owners and operators. In 2011-12, these laboratories reported 653,670 test results to my ministry.

### In 2011-12

- **99.87** per cent of test results from municipal residential drinking water systems met our strict health-based quality standards — this number continues to be consistently high.
- **99.45** per cent of test results from non-municipal year-round residential drinking water systems, such as mobile home parks, met Ontario's stringent health-based quality standards.
- **99.52** per cent of test results from systems serving designated facilities, such as schools and day nurseries or health centres in rural Ontario, met the health-based quality standards.

## Inspection Results for Drinking Water Systems

Ministry staff annually inspect all municipal residential drinking water systems to ensure they meet the province's strict regulatory requirements. Overall, these systems continue to perform well, showing consistently excellent results.

In 2011-12, we inspected 676 municipal residential drinking water systems in Ontario. Of these, 99.5 per cent achieved ratings greater than 80 per cent with 60 per cent receiving inspection ratings of 100 per cent.

## Inspection Results for Laboratories that Test Drinking Water

Recently, our Chief Drinking Water Inspector reported there were 53 qualified and eligible laboratories that performed drinking water analysis for Ontario's regulated drinking water systems.

Because these laboratories play an important role in our safety net, ministry staff regularly inspect them to ensure they continue to be managed and operated in a manner that meets their licensing terms and Ontario's strict standards and regulations.

During the period covered in this report, ministry staff carried out 105 inspections of these qualified and eligible laboratories and they continue to meet Ontario's strict regulatory requirements.





## Compliance and Enforcement Activities

Through regular inspections of our drinking water systems ministry staff ensure that owners and operators are complying with their legal and regulated obligations to provide safe and high quality drinking water to the public.

When necessary, they may issue an order or refer the matter to the ministry's Investigations and Enforcement Branch.

### In 2011-12:

- Six orders were issued to six municipal residential drinking water systems and one additional order was issued to a municipal residential drinking water system as a result of an incident that occurred outside of a scheduled inspection.
- Eighteen orders were issued to 18 non-municipal year-round residential drinking water systems and systems serving designated facilities.
- During this period no orders were issued to drinking water systems operated by local services boards.
- There were 12 cases involving convictions at 13 regulated drinking water systems with fines totalling \$94,000.

### DOOR-TO-DOOR TESTING – *What You Need to Know*

Health-based drinking water testing is strictly regulated in Ontario. Neither my ministry nor its agencies perform door-to-door testing of your tap water. Testing and analysis of Ontario's drinking water is carried out by qualified and eligible laboratories which report the results to my ministry. We inspect these laboratories regularly as part of our safety net.

In some Ontario communities, salespeople have been going door-to-door offering to test tap water using an electrical device. When this device is inserted into the water sample, it turns the sample brown, giving the false impression that the drinking water sample is not clean. This type of test cannot identify contamination that might result in illness but people who have this test performed are often urged to purchase a costly water treatment unit.

If you are approached by someone offering to test your drinking water, I would encourage you to contact your municipality or local health unit. They can answer any questions you may have about home-based water tests.

For more information on home-based water testing, contact the ministry directly by calling our Public Information Centre toll-free at **1-800-565-4923** or in the GTA at **416-325-4000**.

If you suspect fraud in connection with a home-based water test, contact your local police, or call the Ministry of Consumer Services toll-free at **1-800-889-9768** or in the GTA at **416-326-8800**.

# New Research and **Best** Science

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## Pharmaceuticals

My ministry is constantly working to find the best science available to protect your drinking water. Recent advancements in highly specialized analytical equipment have enabled us to detect even the smallest amount of pharmaceutical compounds in our water supplies.

In two separate research projects aimed at optimizing the water treatment process, ministry staff studied the effects of ozonation on five major pharmaceuticals frequently detected in water.

Our research results are promising. The studies showed that when ozone and hydrogen peroxide are combined at the right ratios, they are capable of breaking down these pharmaceutical compounds into small and degradable molecules. These studies also confirmed that by-products, which are normally formed during the ozonation process, were either not detected or were greatly reduced. More studies are needed to strengthen these results and to evaluate ozone's effectiveness on other emerging compounds.

## Perfluorinated Compounds

Perfluorinated compounds are a family of chemicals used to make products resistant to heat, oil, stains and grease. These compounds are found in many products such as non-stick cookware, stain-resistant fabrics and firefighting foams.

Studies conducted in other jurisdictions showed the presence of these chemicals in their waters so Ministry of the Environment staff implemented projects to look for these chemicals in Ontario. The levels of these compounds were found to be extremely low.

The Ministry of the Environment's monitoring data on these compounds was used by Health Canada to develop new interim health-based guidelines for perfluorooctane sulfonate and perfluorooctanoic acid while they develop final guidelines for the most commonly detected perfluorinated compounds.



Broader **Water** Agenda



When we think about water resources in Ontario, we cannot place enough emphasis on how important the Great Lakes are to our health, our economy and our quality of life. Eighty per cent of North America's fresh water is contained in the Great Lakes. The Lakes appear resilient and eternal but they face a wide range of stressors such as population growth, climate change and invasive species. Managing such a large and valuable water resource is no easy task.

Protecting the Great Lakes involves many partners and programs. These have to fit and work together to ensure that Ontario, along with our partners, is making progress on Great Lakes protection.

Our partnerships range from working with community groups which are taking action in their corner of the Great Lakes to researchers who have Great Lakes expertise to share.

To further advance Great Lakes protection, Ontario re-introduced Bill 6, the proposed Great Lakes Protection Act, in February 2013. If passed, the act will provide new tools to enable us to restore and protect the Great Lakes.

For example, it would create a Great Lakes Guardians' Council to improve collaboration and identify priorities and partnerships. We would also be able to set targets to identify clear and measurable outcomes and, together with local partners, take appropriate actions to target a particular geographic area.

The act, if passed, will also help us to ensure that Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy is maintained and that its progress is monitored and reported to the public.

The proposed Great Lakes Protection Act is currently moving through the legislative process.

## Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy

Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy is our first road map to guide future actions to protect the Great Lakes.

Released in December 2012, the strategy builds on engagement with a wide variety of stakeholders including Great Lakes experts, municipalities, agricultural and tourism sectors, local groups, First Nations and Métis communities.

The strategy is designed to focus provincial resources and enhance collaboration with other governments and the broader Great Lakes community so the Lakes continue to be drinkable, swimmable and fishable.

The strategy covers a diverse range of activities such as work to protect water quality and quantity and our efforts to support climate change adaptation. Actions in the strategy are designed to protect and restore the ecological health of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin by advancing the following six goals:

1. Engaging and empowering communities
2. Protecting water for human and ecological health
3. Improving wetlands, beaches and coastal areas
4. Protecting habitats and species
5. Enhancing understanding and adaptation
6. Ensuring environmentally sustainable economic opportunities and innovation

## CITY OF GUELPH H2O GO WATER FESTIVAL

When it comes to conserving water and protecting our water resources, sharing and caring as a community is an ideal way to raise awareness of how water is a shared resource and worth every drop of our attention.

Guelph, unlike many municipalities in Ontario, relies on a finite groundwater source.

In March of 2013, the City of Guelph chose to celebrate Canada Water Week by partnering with the Ontario Centres of Excellence and the University of Guelph School of Engineering to host a special water festival. The “H2O GO Festival: An engaging celebration of water”, was a one-day event that entertained and educated the public about the importance of water conservation by focusing on the many simple ways to protect the local water supply.

Activities included interactive displays, information booths, children’s activities and an online forum for the sharing of ideas through art and science. Expert workshops were offered on greywater reuse, rainwater harvesting and efficient landscaping.

The City’s Canada Water Week programming also included “Water Wednesdays” hosted by the Guelph Public Library. This family-centred series, offered throughout March 2013, explored how Guelph gets its drinking water, the water cycle, water conservation and “Trout Unlimited” — Canada’s famous “Yellow Fish Road” program, a national conservation education initiative.





## Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund

The Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund is helping communities take action to protect and restore their corner of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. The first round of funding supported 80 projects, such as cleaning up a shoreline or restoring a wetland.

The second round of funding will see approximately 80 applicants awarded funds with announcements of successful recipients beginning in December 2013.

## Drafting a New Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes

For more than four decades, my ministry and other Ontario ministries have worked with the federal government under the Canada-Ontario Agreement to restore, protect and conserve the Great Lakes. This collaboration, along with the efforts of the Great Lakes community and our implementation partners, has resulted in real progress being made toward solving some of the more difficult challenges facing the Lakes.

For example, under the agreement, we have been able to achieve significant reductions in the amount of toxic substances entering the Lakes. This improves the health of Great Lakes fish and birds while reducing the strain on our water treatment facilities.

Within the Great Lakes basin, major sewage infrastructure improvements have been made and many critical habitats have been conserved. For example, in 2013-14, Ontario and its partners are helping to protect and restore over 12,000 hectares of wetlands, woodlands and other Great Lakes habitat.

Through the negotiation of a new Canada-Ontario Agreement, the province is seeking commitments to support its proposed Great Lakes Protection Act and Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy. Ontario is strongly committed to protecting Great Lakes water quality and ecosystems.

## Stormwater Management

Several Ontario communities experienced flood damage this year, a reminder of the importance of stormwater management. Rainwater flowing through urban areas can carry unwanted nutrients and harmful pollutants into Ontario's ground and surface water. This can put a strain on water treatment facilities that clean and protect our drinking water.

Showcasing Water Innovation is the province's \$17 million funding program for innovative water management approaches that help to reduce stormwater runoff. For example, the program is supporting the Credit Valley Conservation Authority's collaborative work with public and private sector partners to encourage low impact development approaches to manage stormwater and conserve water. In the near future, the conservation authority will publish guides to support municipalities in implementing best practices in stormwater management.



# Water **Opportunities** Act

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In this section, I am pleased to report on some of our achievements under the Water Opportunities Act. The act came into effect in 2010 and over the past three years, it has paved the way for us to advance Ontario's reputation as a continental leader in the \$557 billion global water technology market.

The act is aimed at achieving three outcomes:

- Encouraging all Ontarians to use water more wisely.
- Promoting sustainable infrastructure and conservation planning using made-in-Ontario technologies.
- Creating more economic opportunities and jobs by making Ontario the North American leader in the development and sale of water technologies.

I would like to provide some details on our progress in each of these three areas.

## Encouraging Ontarians to Use Water More Efficiently

The province adopted the WaterSense labelling program in 2012. The program helps Ontario families and businesses conserve water and save money by labelling water-efficient household products. A WaterSense label identifies faucets, showerheads, toilets and pre-rinse spray valves that use 20 per cent less water.

Using less water protects natural resources and reduces demand on water heaters, pumps and related facilities.

Practicing water conservation also saves money on energy bills for individuals, businesses and municipalities.

Under the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement, Ontario adopted water

conservation goals and objectives that are consistent with those for the Great Lakes Basin.

These goals and objectives are designed to enhance long-term, sustainable water use practices and management. They will also help promote water conservation and efficiency, improve monitoring and data sharing among jurisdictions in the Great Lakes Basin and develop science and research as well as education and outreach that would help advance our water conservation efforts.

A number of the projects funded by the province's Showcasing Water Innovation program are developing innovative municipal approaches to use water more efficiently. For example, Greater Napanee Utilities is reducing wastage from leaking water pipes by lining water mains with an innovative synthetic barrier.

Ontario made changes in its 2012 Building Code to clarify and expand on the circumstances and rules for re-using rainwater as well as water from stormwater and greywater systems as a water supply for a variety of purposes. The changes in the Code will also improve water efficiency requirements for urinals, some toilets and residential showerheads. These amendments are expected to take effect January 1, 2014.

My ministry will continue promoting water conservation and efficiency, including promoting WaterSense labelling for water-efficient consumer products. We will also continue our work with stakeholders on potential water conservation plans by public agencies.

Visit [www.Ontario.ca](http://www.Ontario.ca) for water conservation tips to protect shorelines and beaches as well as water-saving tips for your lawn and garden, around your home and specifically for kids.

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## Strengthening Municipal Infrastructure Planning

The Municipal Infrastructure Strategy which was released in August 2012 builds on the key principles of Building Together, the province's long-term infrastructure plan.

My ministry will engage stakeholders in considering options for municipal water sustainability plans and performance indicators as well as developing tools for municipal water asset management that align with Building Together requirements.

The requirement for long-term asset management by municipalities is a cornerstone of the Municipal Infrastructure Strategy. Municipalities seeking provincial capital funding are required to demonstrate how their proposed project fits within a comprehensive asset management plan.

Through the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative, Ontario is providing nearly \$90 million to address critical projects and up to \$9 million to help municipalities prepare asset management plans.

Ontario is providing an additional \$100 million through its Small, Rural and Northern Municipal Infrastructure Fund, for critical road, bridge, water and wastewater projects and to support the development and implementation of asset management plans in the smallest municipalities.

Steady progress has been made in assisting municipalities with long-term water infrastructure planning through capacity building, knowledge transfer and incentive funding.

Since its launch in April 2011, the Showcasing Water Innovation program has funded 32 projects with a value of nearly \$50 million in Ontario's cities, towns and First Nations communities. The new technologies, services and approaches developed through these projects will help municipalities as they undertake sustainable municipal water infrastructure planning.

## Innovative Water Management

The Water Opportunities Act enabled the establishment of the Water Technology Acceleration Project, better known as WaterTAP. WaterTAP supports research and commercialization of technologies in Ontario's water sector.

WaterTAP is a key component of the Water Opportunities Act. More than 300 members of Ontario's water community participated in WaterTAP's Innovation in Action forum held in February 2013. The event focused on ways to move from innovation to commercial application and was an opportunity to share big ideas for building a stronger Ontario.

In addition to my ministry's efforts to promote the local water industry, the Ontario Clean Water Agency is establishing relationships with a number of organizations within Ontario, across North America and around the world to share resources and develop opportunities for innovation and business partnerships that promote Ontario's water technologies to a broader market.

For example, the Ontario Clean Water Agency is assisting entrepreneurs to pilot their innovative products and services

## TOWN OF MOOSONEE ADVANCED WATER METERING

According to an Environment Canada survey in 2009, Canadian municipalities which do not meter any households on their water system use an average of 65 per cent more water per person than municipalities which meter all households on their water system.

In Ontario, about 95 per cent of the population in single-family homes on municipal systems are metered.

The Town of Moosonee is one of the most recent municipalities in Ontario to install advanced water meters. This initiative has created an awareness among residents about water conservation and helped the town manage its water and wastewater systems more efficiently while saving on the cost of water treatment chemicals.



under real operating conditions. The Agency has also established relationships with Mekorot, the international water utility in Israel, to share best practices for operating water and wastewater facilities, and to promote Ontario products and services.

The Southern Ontario Water Consortium is creating a platform for turning water ideas into water innovations through research, development, testing and demonstration of technologies and solutions to water problems in real world environments. For more information, visit [sowc.ca](http://sowc.ca).

The Walkerton Clean Water Centre's Technology Demonstration Facility supports research to assess possible improvements for drinking water treatment processes. For more information on this topic, visit [www.wcwc.ca/en/research](http://www.wcwc.ca/en/research).

## THE CANADIAN URBAN INSTITUTE

Directing growth and sustainable development in Ontario requires more sophisticated methods of managing water. An important part of my ministry's mandate is optimizing the use of water while minimizing the impact of water use on the natural environment.

The Canadian Urban Institute has partnered with the Ontario cities of Guelph, London, Barrie, and Hamilton as well as Environics Analytics to develop an integrated water mapping project. The project is exploring how large urban centres can use existing data to better manage municipal water systems, improve water conservation programs, enhance customer communications and develop more accurate guidelines for future land use and water system planning.

By bringing these pieces of the water puzzle together, water service providers can look at how demand varies with the type of residence or business, age of the structure and land area.

A better understanding of local demands on water resources and usage allows for more accurate water planning and helps ensure an adequate supply of clean water is always available.

## MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT'S AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

The Minister's Award for Environmental Excellence recognizes outstanding achievement, leadership and innovation in environmental protection.

The 2011 and 2012 awards focused on water protection and conservation. The Steam Whistle Brewing Company, Summerhill Impact and Pine River Watershed Initiative Network were three of the recipients:

- **Steam Whistle Brewing**, an independent brewery located in Toronto, has installed a new brewhouse to incorporate technologies that have greatly reduced the company's environmental footprint. As a result of this initiative, Steam Whistle Brewing now uses about 4,500,000 fewer litres of water, minimizing the amount of sewage/wastewater produced every year. The brewhouse also decreases energy consumption by capturing and recovering energy from the steam released during the brewing process and using it to generate all the hot water needed for brewing, bottling, canning, keggling and cleaning.
- **Summerhill Impact** is a national not-for-profit organization that developed the first mercury recovery program in Canada. Mercury is a highly toxic substance commonly found in vehicles produced prior to 2003. If not properly contained and disposed of, mercury has the potential to harm air, water and the health of ecosystems. "Switch Out", the award-winning program, developed by Summerhill Impact, collects, recovers, and properly manages mercury switches found in hundreds of thousands of retired vehicles.
- The local Bruce County landowners who form the **Pine River Watershed Initiative Network** are helping to prevent erosion and keep soil, manure and bacteria out of the Pine River. Working together with landowners, local municipalities, conservation authorities, governments and others, the group has carried out projects to build habitat and improve water quality. Since 2006, the group and its collaborators have reforested 20 kilometres of stream bank by planting more than 200,000 native trees and installed nine kilometres of fencing to keep cattle out of the water. Every action to protect the Pine River watershed also benefits Lake Huron.

Minister's Award for  
**Environmental Excellence**





# Closing **Message**

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Protecting your water from source to tap is a fundamental priority for my ministry. Working with municipalities, conservation authorities, innovative water technology companies, First Nations communities, community groups and individuals, we are continually improving our ability to monitor and protect your drinking water.

Ministry staff and inspectors are dedicated to supporting this goal by providing guidance to our stakeholders and ensuring compliance with our regulatory framework. Our collaborative approach enables us to safeguard Ontario's drinking water so that when you turn on your tap in Ontario, you can be confident that the water you drink continues to be among the best protected in the world.