

LAKE ONTARIO: IT IS OUR BUSINESS TO KEEP IT CLEAN

Each of us has a responsibility to conserve and protect drinking water sources for future generations, and Burlington's vibrant business community has a special role to play.

Burlington **business owners** are an important part of source water protection.

Whether large or small, complying with all business and industrial sector environmental legislation will ensure your company is helping to protect our water.

All business owners and their employees are encouraged to learn as much as possible about their important role in source water protection. Small businesses, in particular, are encouraged to go to www.cielap.org/swp/ for more information.

*With funding support from
the Ministry of the Environment*



THE CLEAN WATER ACT

The Ontario government has put strong legislation into place to protect all drinking water sources throughout the province. The *Clean Water Act* identifies prevention as a fundamental principle and key component of a multi-barrier approach to protecting drinking water and human health. And, of course, it is more economical and much easier for water treatment plants to purify lake water when it is clean to start with.

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEES

The *Clean Water Act* requires the establishment of Source Protection Committees that must develop local science-based protection policies to safeguard water sources in vulnerable areas. The committees are also expected to raise public awareness about the importance of source water protection, whether it is lake water or municipal well water.

The City of Burlington is part of the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region, whose Source Protection Committee is actively encouraging public input into the development of a source protection plan. This plan will include policies intended to protect water sources and will be implemented following approval by the Ministry of the Environment.



For more information visit

www.protectingwater.ca



RESPECT
THE WATER
BURLINGTON
DRINKS





Did you know?
*All of urban Burlington
 relies on Lake Ontario
 as its sole source
 of tap water*

WHAT'S ON TAP?

Turning on a tap is simple, but safeguarding water is not. Everyone in urban Burlington depends on Lake Ontario tap water. We have a shared responsibility to respect and protect this incredibly important source of water.

THIRSTY TO KNOW MORE?

Lake Ontario receives water from the many rivers, streams and creeks that flow into it. Smaller amounts of water enter the lake through precipitation and from groundwater discharge. It is important that these transport pathways are kept clean and pure, particularly, those near Lake Ontario intake pipes and water purification plants.

HOW DOES CLEAN WATER GET TO MY TAP?

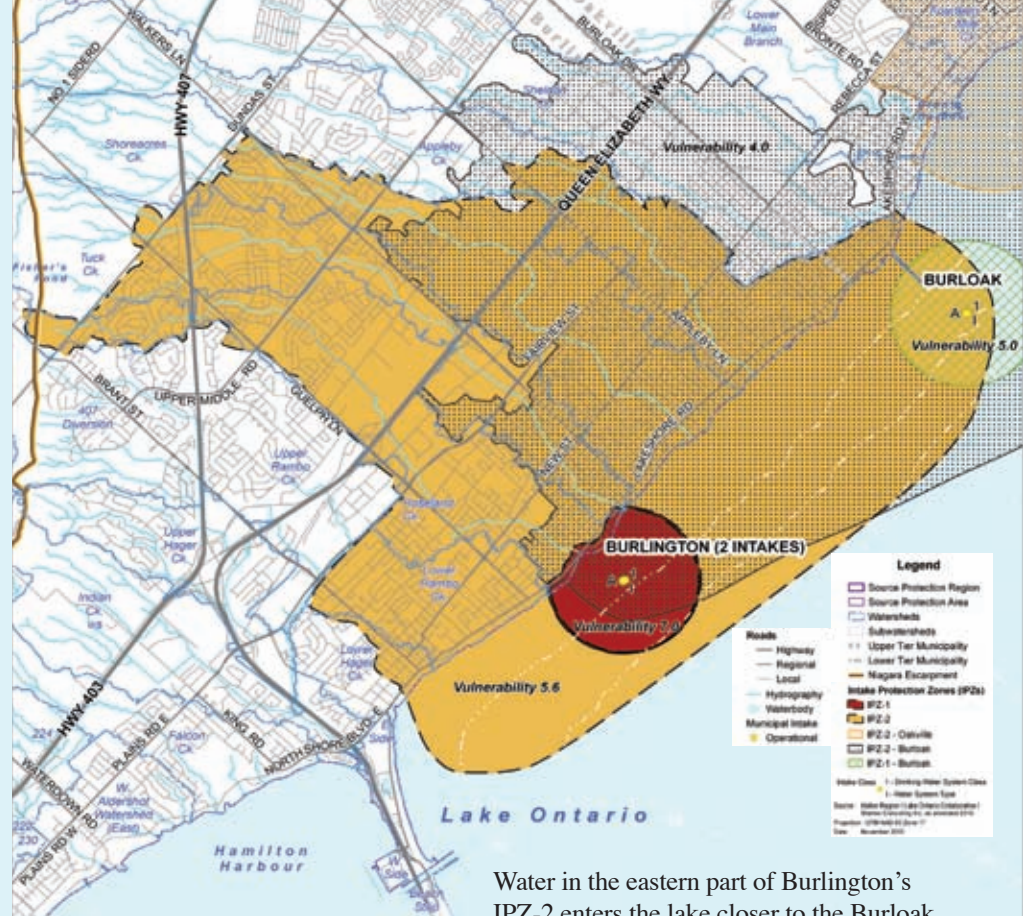
Two large intake pipes, more than 1.5m wide, stretch 750m into the lake, lying more than 5m below the water surface. The first pipe was built in 1964 and the second in 2002. They take Lake Ontario water directly to Halton Region's Burlington Water Purification Plant. It is here where a multi-barrier treatment process purifies the water before it is pumped to homes and businesses throughout the city.

TWO CRITICAL HOURS WHY YOUR ACTIONS MATTER

Anyone who lives, works or plays in the red or yellow zones of this map should be aware that common hazardous chemicals such as fertilizer, road salt, motor oil, gasoline, paint, pharmaceuticals and cleaning solvents can reach the lake in as little as two hours. Even if spilled on the ground, they will make their way to creeks or storm sewers that lead to the lake. It would take longer outside of these zones, but the results would be the same.

INTAKE PROTECTION ZONES (IPZ)

IPZ-1 (red) encompasses the area within one kilometre of an intake pipe. This is the most vulnerable area and it poses the highest risk to water entering the treatment plant. The protection zone extends inland 120m, primarily between Guelph Line and Walkers Line.



IPZ-2 (yellow) includes the area where water could reach the intake within two hours. That is how long it can take for the water treatment plant operator to respond to notification of a potential impact.

Water in the eastern part of Burlington's IPZ-2 enters the lake closer to the Burloak intake pipe, which provides water for other places, such as the newer parts of Milton.

For more information, go to the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection website www.protectingwater.ca

HOW TO PROTECT

- Use environmentally responsible products
- Look for the EcoLogo symbol when you shop. For a list of available certified products visit www.ecologo.org
- Take residential hazardous household materials (20 L maximum) to: **Halton Waste Management Site** at 5400 Bronte Road (Hwy. 25) or refer to a list of retail partners at www.halton.ca/takeitback
- Ensure that only clean rainwater runs from your property to the street

YOUR SOURCE OF

- Repair leaky engines: 1 drop of oil contaminates 25 litres of drinking water!
- Use salt sparingly in the winter. Salt can damage vegetation, soil, water quality, vehicles and infrastructure.
- Store kerosene and other solvents safely in closed jars
- Limit the use of any fertilizer because they all contain phosphorus, and excess phosphorus can create algal blooms that impact water quality
- Prevent spills of gas, oil or other contaminants into the lake when boating and clean up any spill if there is one

DRINKING WATER

Check out www.cielap.org/swp/waterfootprint.html for more information about protecting drinking water sources.

