

Niagara's Water

Because water is critical to all aspects of daily life, it is important to ensure a safe and reliable source of water exists, now and in the future.

Niagara Region, together with the City of Port Colborne, ensures that treated water is available for your home or business year-round.

In Port Colborne, freshwater from Lake Erie travels through the Welland Canal into Port Colborne Water Treatment Plant, owned and operated by Niagara Region. Here, the source water makes its way through a multi-barrier treatment process. This process ensures that your community receives high quality, safe, reliable drinking water.

These barriers include:

- Source water protection
- Up-to-date water treatment systems
- Reliable distribution systems
- Professional training for water managers
- Careful and regular testing of our water supplies

Clean Water Act, 2006

The Clean Water act was introduced by the Province of Ontario in 2006. The aim of the Clean Water Act is to ensure communities are able to protect their municipal drinking water supplies through developing collaborative, locally driven, science-based source protection plans (SPP).



Niagara's Source Protection Plan is a key step to ensuring we have abundant safe drinking water for present and future generations.

Visit www.sourceprotection-niagara.ca to view the approved Source Protection Plan and stay up-to-date throughout the implementation process.

Niagara Region | Water and Wastewater Services

Risk Management Official
905-685-4225 ext. 3787

Environmental Centre
3501 Schmon Pkwy.
P.O. Box 1042
Thorold, ON
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www.niagararegion.ca



Niagara  Region



Source Water Protection

Protecting What Matters Most
in Port Colborne

Where we are vulnerable...

Niagara's Source Protection Plan policies address potential threats to Niagara's municipal drinking water sources through defined Intake Protection Zones. These zones are near water treatment intakes and are considered vital in the delivery of safe drinking water. The policies apply to specific land-based activities within these zones which have greater potential to impact water quality.

Port Colborne's Intake Protection Zone

The map below shows Port Colborne's Intake Protection Zone, where threat policies apply.



How does this affect you?

If your home or business is located within an Intake Protection Zone and you engage in activity that could pose a threat to a drinking water supply, you may be affected by Niagara's SPP policies.

If you are following recognized best practices and regulations for your industry then it is likely you are already doing enough to manage your activity. In the instance where a landowner or business is operating in a manner that poses risk to a drinking water supply, they may have to make changes to the operation.

Are you...

- obtaining a building permit?
- making a planning application?
- responsible for pesticide storage?

If you answered yes to any of the above activities and have questions about Niagara's Source Protection Plan policies, please contact Niagara Region's Risk Management Official at 905-685-4225 ext. 3787.

For planning or building-specific questions please contact the City of Port Colborne's Planning and Development Department at 905-835-2900.

What can you do?

Whatever changes that may be required, remember that the cost of cleaning up a contaminated source of water is always much higher than protecting it in the first place.

Regardless of where you live or work, Niagara residents can contribute to the protection of Niagara's drinking water sources by being proactive about:

- Maintaining septic systems
- Disposing of hazardous waste properly
- Minimizing use of pesticides, fertilizers and de-icing salt
- Storing fuels properly

If you own or operate a farm you can also:

- Control field and stream bank erosion
- Use safe storage and handling systems for manure
- Create a nutrient management plan
- Control barnyard runoff and divert clean water

Source water protection is everyone's responsibility. We urge you to report hazardous spills or pollutant spills to the Ministry of the Environment by calling 1-800-268-6060, or contact your local Risk Management Official (*contact on reverse*).