



Water is an essential element for life. Its protection, both in quality and quantity, is vital to maintaining the environment everywhere and our quality of life.

The **Niagara Water Quality Protection Strategy** is an initiative to provide safe water for drinking, swimming and fishing for today and for future generations.



**The Niagara Region from Space**  
Satellite picture courtesy of AIR-SAT Image Maps



**Ministry of the Environment**

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## Niagara Water Quality Protection Strategy

*Protecting  
Water  
In Niagara  
Now and in  
the Future*

## Who and What We Are

The *Regional Municipality of Niagara* in partnership with the *Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority* and the *Ministry of the Environment* is developing a protection strategy for Niagara's water.

The *Niagara Water Quality Protection Strategy* will be a guide on how to best manage human activities in order to minimize the impact on our surface and ground water. The strategy will use public input to develop a watershed approach that plans actions to protect and improve water quality and manage water quantity in the Niagara Peninsula.



The **Niagara Peninsula Watershed** includes areas of **Haldimand County** and the **City of Hamilton** and can be divided into three main watersheds.

## Central Themes

To help focus strategy planning, these five key themes have been developed:



### HUMAN HEALTH

*Clean and abundant drinking water for safe human consumption*

### PROPERTY RISK AND LIABILITY

*Protection for residential, employment and public land uses from adverse flooding and erosion*



### RECREATION

*Sufficient and clean water to support and sustain recreational uses*

### AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE

*Clean and abundant water for agriculture and economic opportunities*



### NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

*Sufficient water of a satisfactory quality in natural settings to restore and maintain healthy flora, fauna and ecosystem integrity*

## Water in Niagara

- There are 78 watersheds and over 100 creeks and streams within the three major watersheds of the Niagara Peninsula.
- The watershed is surrounded on three sides by water - Lake Ontario to the North, Lake Erie to the South and the Niagara River to the East.
- The peninsula watershed covers 2424km<sup>2</sup>, has a population of 465 000 residents and hosts over 12 million visitors a year.
- About 80% of residents in the peninsula rely on municipal water supplies, while the rest rely on groundwater and other private sources.
- Water use nearly doubles in the summer, mostly due to lawn and garden watering.



In school, at home and in the community, learn more about water projects and how water affects you.

The Niagara Water Quality Protection Strategy is currently being developed for implementation.

**We need your involvement !**

**To find out what you, your group or your neighbours can do, call 1-800-263-7215 or 905-685-4225 ext. 3745 or check out the website**

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