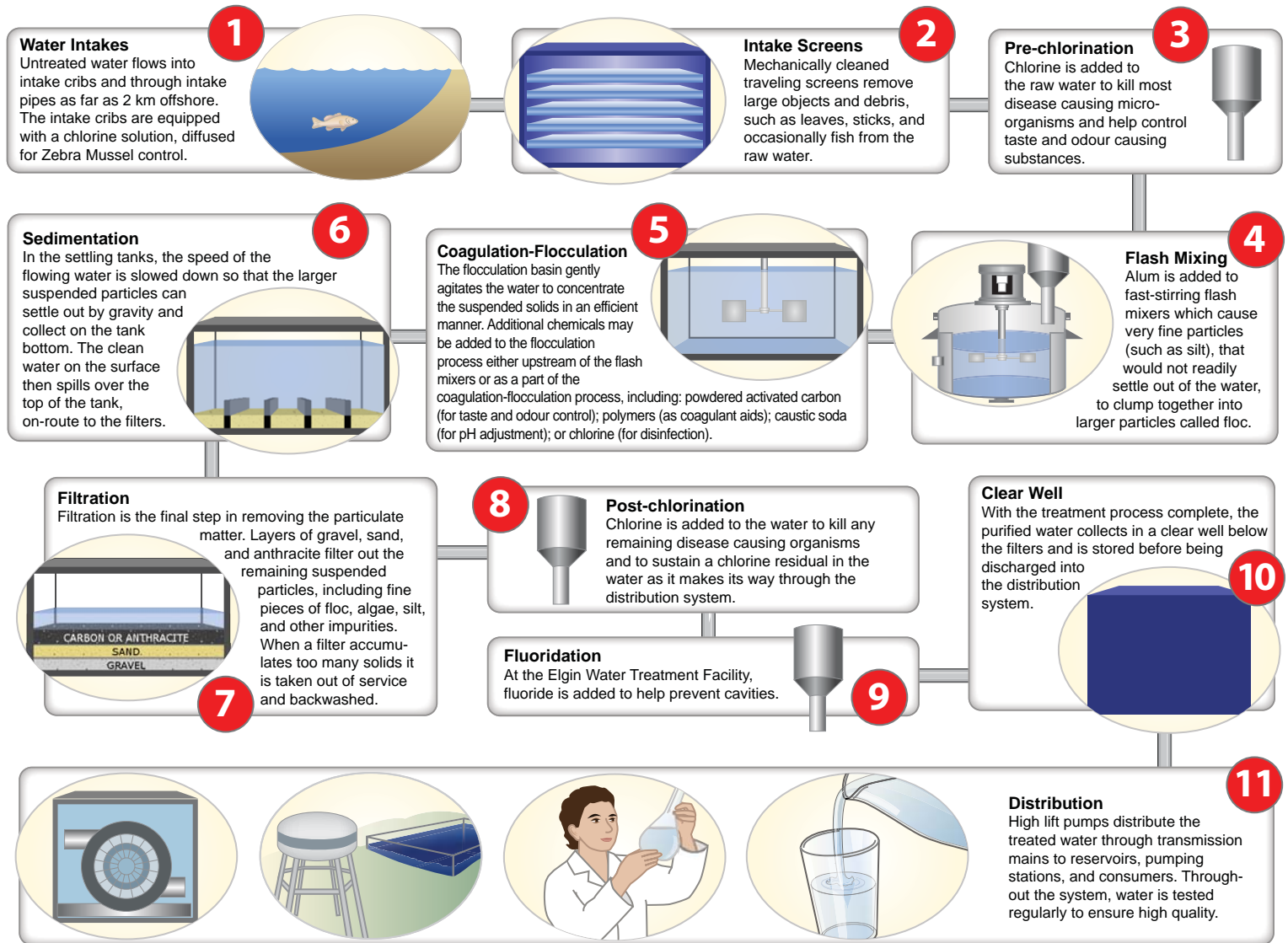


Source Water Protection: Where does your drinking water come from?

Approximately 112,000 people in the cities of London and St. Thomas, the Municipality of Bayham, Municipality of Central Elgin, Township of Malahide, Township of Southwold, and the Town of Aylmer get their drinking water from the Elgin Area Primary Water Supply System (EAPWSS). The EAPWSS has a treatment capacity of 91 million litres of water per day, and is located on the north shore of Lake Erie in the Municipality of Central Elgin, five kilometers east of Port Stanley. Surface water is transported from Lake Erie through an intake pipe into the EAPWSS, where it is treated and then distributed.



Kettle Creek Source Protection Plan

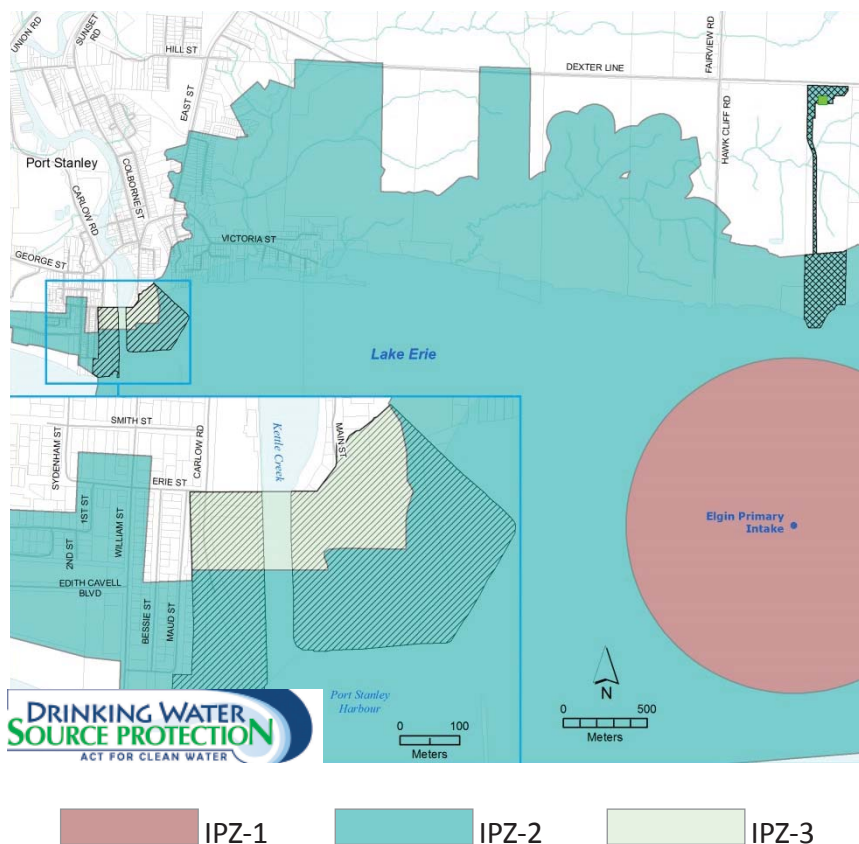
The Kettle Creek Source Protection Plan establishes policies to appropriately and effectively address significant drinking water threats to the EAPWSS. The Ministry of the Environment approved the Kettle Creek Source Protection Plan on September 11, 2014, and the plan took effect on January 1, 2015.

The handling and storage of commercial fertilizer (greater than 5,000 cubic metres) and fuel (greater than 6,000 litres) are significant risks to the EAPWSS. Therefore, Risk Management Plans have been developed and implemented to ensure these existing activities cease to be significant drinking water threats. Future handling and storage of commercial fertilizer and fuel in large quantities are prohibited according to the policies established by the Kettle Creek Source Protection Plan.

Protecting Our Drinking Water from Lake Erie

An intake is the underwater pipe that is used to pump water from a surface water source, such as a lake or large river, before it is treated and distributed as drinking water. An Intake Protection Zone (IPZ) is the area, made up of both water and land, surrounding a surface water intake pipe. It is vulnerable to potential contaminants that may pose a significant threat to the drinking water source. Under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, several Intake Protection Zones have been identified for the EAPWSS. These include IPZ-1 (proximity based - 1 kilometre radius around intake), IPZ-2 (time based - 2 hour time of travel to intake), and IPZ-3 (event based - spillage of large quantities of commercial fertilizer and fuel).

To protect the health of the people who get their drinking water from Lake Erie, it is important to keep pollutants out of the lake. This starts with protecting the water and land immediately around the Intake Protection Zone.



Water Protection

To protect the drinking water source of 112,000 people, it is important to keep pollutants out of Kettle Creek and Lake Erie.

- Don't pour chemicals, detergents, oil or any other materials down the drain, into your toilets or into storm sewers or ditches.
- Clean up pet waste which contains nutrients and pathogens that can run into storm sewers during a rain storm.
- Prevent pollutants from entering into runoff by reducing or eliminating the use of fertilizers, sidewalk salts, and by not overwatering your lawn.
- Manage animal waste on farms to prevent water contamination.
- Keep your septic system in proper working order and empty the tank regularly.
- Protect the vegetation along the banks of creeks and ponds. This helps keep water temperatures cool, improves water quality, and reduces erosion.
- Protect and maintain your private well. Wells provide pathways for contaminants to enter the groundwater system which may eventually resurface in a creek or stream.
- Take care when refueling gas tanks. Avoid spilling fuel on the ground or in the water.
- Dispose of hazardous waste and pharmaceuticals properly. Take unused paints, cleaners, and pesticides to your local hazardous waste facility and return unused pharmaceuticals to your pharmacy.

To find out more, please see the Lake Erie Source Protection Region's website www.sourcewater.ca.