

## Table of Contents

Executive Summary	i
Preface	1
The History of Source Protection	3
1.0 Introduction	6
1.1 Knowledge and Data Gaps	7
2.0 Watershed Description	8
2.1 Stakeholder and Partners	8
2.1.1 Municipalities	8
2.1.2 Provincial Agencies	14
2.1.3 Federal Government	15
2.1.4 First Nations	16
2.1.5 Interested Stakeholders, Engaged Public and Non-Government Organizations	17
2.2 The Physical Description	19
2.2.1 Bedrock Geology	20
2.2.2 Surficial Geology	24
2.2.3 Topography	27
2.2.4 Physiography	28
2.2.5 Soil Characteristics	33
2.3 Hydrology	35
Drainage	35
2.3.1 Surface Water Hydrology	36
Main Tributaries of the Lakehead Source Protection Area	36
Water Control Structures	49
2.3.2 Groundwater and Hydrogeology	53
2.3.3 Climate	56
2.3.4 Climatic and Meteorological Trends	64
2.4 Naturally Vegetated Areas	65
2.4.1 Wetlands	65
2.4.1.1 Provincially Significant Wetlands	68
2.4.1.2 Locally Significant Wetlands	72
2.4.1.3 Ministry of Natural Resources Sensitive Areas – Various Waterbodies	74
2.4.2 Woodlands and Riparian Areas	74
2.4.2.1 Forest Reserves	77
2.4.2.2 Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)	77
2.4.2.3 Conservation Reserves	82
2.5 Aquatic Ecology	85
2.5.1 Fisheries	85
2.5.2 Aquatic Macro Invertebrates	90
2.5.3 Amphibians	92
2.5.4 Species and Habitats at Risk	94
Birds	95
Mammals	99

	Fish	99
	Insects	101
	Plants	101
	Invasive Species	101
	Aquatic Invasive Species	102
	Terrestrial Invasive Species	107
	Insects	107
	Plants	108
2.6	Human Characterization	109
2.6.1	Population Distribution, Density and Change	109
2.6.2	Land Use	115
2.6.3	Settlement Areas	116
	Township of Conmee	117
	Township of Dorion	117
	Township of Gillies	118
	Municipality of Neebing	118
	Township of O'Connor	119
	Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge	120
	Municipality of Shuniah	121
	City of Thunder Bay	121
	Unorganized Territory	126
2.6.4	Brownfields	126
2.6.5	Landfills	127
2.6.6	Mining and Aggregate Extraction	138
2.6.7	Oil and Gas	142
2.6.8	Hydro	143
2.6.9	Forestry	145
2.6.10	Transportation	153
2.6.11	Wastewater Treatment	160
	Stormwater Management	161
	Serviced vs. Unserviced Areas	162
2.6.12	Agricultural Resources	162
	Agricultural Sector Distribution	162
	Agricultural Areas	164
	Agricultural Trends	166
2.6.13	Recreation	168
2.6.14	Protected Areas	173
	Provincial Parks	173
	Nature Reserves	174
	Municipal Parks	176
	Other Popular Areas	177
	Conservation Areas	178
2.6.15	Other Land Use Related Issues	181
	Archaeological Sites	181
	Cemeteries	182
	Wind Power Generation	183

	Solar Power Generation	183
2.7	Water Uses	184
2.7.1	Drinking Water Sources	184
	Municipal Wells	184
	Communal Wells	184
	Private Groundwater Wells	184
	Surface Water Intakes	184
2.7.2	Recreational Water Use	186
2.7.3	Agriculture Water Use	186
2.7.4	Industrial Water Use	187
	Power Generation	187
2.8	Data Gaps	188
3.0	Water Quality	192
3.1	Surface Water Quality	192
3.2	Groundwater Quality	199
4.0	Water Quantity	203
5.0	Description of Vulnerable Areas	204
5.2	Ground Water – Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPA’s)	204
5.3	Surface Water: Intake Protection Zones (IPZ’s)	204
5.3.1	Municipal Intakes	204
5.3.3	Potential Future Drinking Water Sources	205
6.0	Existing Specific Threats Inventories	205
	Potential Threats to Drinking Water Sources.	206
	Potential Non-Point Sources of Contamination	210
7.0	Summary of Identified Issues and Potential Issues	212
	References	213
	Acronym Summary	AS-1
	Glossary	G-1
	Appendix 1: Summary of Existing Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Watershed Resources	A1-1
	Appendix 2: List of Named Rivers and Streams within the Lakehead Source Protection Area	A2-1
	Appendix 3: List of Named Lakes within the Lakehead Source Protection Area	A3-1
	Appendix 4: List of Known Cemetery Sites within the Lakehead Source Protection Area	A4-1
	Appendix 5: Summary of Wood Manufacturing Industries in Northwestern Ontario	A5-1
	Appendix 6: Summary of Permits to Take Water within the Lakehead Source Protection Area	A6-1

## List of Tables

Table 1: General Stratigraphy in the Lakehead Source Protection Area	26
Table 2: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources 1980 Listing of Dams within the Lakehead Source Protection Area	49
Table 3: Fish and Species within the Lakehead Source Protection Area	86
Table 4: Baitfish Species of the Lakehead Source Protection Area	87
Table 5: Spawning Cycles of Fish Species within the Lakehead Source Protection Area	89
Table 6: Common Freshwater Macroinvertebrates of Ontario	91
Table 7: Common Amphibians of the Lakehead Source Protection Area.	93
Table 8: Unorganized Townships within the Lakehead Source Protection Area	115
Table 9: Cargo Statistics for the Port of Thunder Bay	159
Table 10: 2004 and 2005 Vessel Report	159
Table 11: Farm Hectareage – 2001 Census	167
Table 12: Farm Land Use – 2001 Census	168
Table 13: Historic Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network Sample Sites in the Lakehead Source Protection Area	197
Table 14: Summary of Water Quality	199

## List of Figures

Figure 1: The Hydrologic Cycle	54
Figure 2: Average Degree Days for Thunder Bay Region	58
Figure 3: Monthly Average Temperatures Thunder Bay	59
Figure 4: Days with Maximum Temperature	59
Figure 5: Days with Minimum Temperature	60
Figure 6: Days with Rainfall- Average 1971-2000	61
Figure 7: Days with Snowfall – Average 1971-2000	61
Figure 8: Days of Bright Sunshine – Average 1971-2000	62
Figure 9: Average Wind Chill Recordings 1971-2000	63
Figure 10: Population Demographics for the Township of Conmee	110
Figure 11: Population Demographics for the Township of Dorion	110
Figure 12: Population Demographics for the Township of Gillies	111
Figure 13: Population Demographics for Municipality of Neebing	111
Figure 14: Population Demographics for the Township of O’Connor	112
Figure 14: Population Demographics for Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge	112
Figure 16: Population Demographics for Municipality of Shuniah	113
Figure 17: Population Demographics for the City of Thunder Bay	114

## List of Maps – Maps are contained in Binder #2