

St. Clair Township Water Distribution System

2023 Annual Summary Report – O.Reg. 170/03

Waterworks/Drinking Water System (DWS) # 260006464
Drinking Water Works Permit (DWWP) # 039-201
Municipal Drinking Water Licence (MDWL) # 039-101

Introduction

The Corporation of the Township of St. Clair owns and operates the St. Clair Township Water Distribution System and supplies potable water to residents and businesses throughout the Township. Potable water is purchased from the Lambton Area Water Supply System (LAWSS), which operates a Water Treatment Plant in Sarnia and a trunk distribution system, serving six Lambton County municipalities.

The Township of St. Clair and LAWSS operate their facilities in accordance with the Provincial Drinking Water Systems Regulation 170/03, introduced in June 2003 under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002. Among the requirements of the regulation is the production of an Annual Report summarizing the results of water quality testing and an Annual Summary Report outlining the general operation of the water system.

The reports and detailed test results are available at the St. Clair Civic Centre, 1155 Emily Street, Mooretown, Ontario. The Annual Report may also be viewed on the internet at stclairtownship.ca/government/departments-2/water-sewer/.

History

The current water supply system serving St. Clair Township has evolved significantly over the years. Initially, several of the urban areas developed their own independent water distribution systems. These systems obtained drinking water from communal wells or the St. Clair River. In the early 1950's, with the development of the Shell Canada Refinery, a piped water supply was obtained from the City of Sarnia to service the Shell Refinery and Corunna.

In the early 1970's, the Ontario Water Resources Commission and local municipalities developed an area water system, LAWSS. It supplied treated water to Point Edward, Sarnia, Moore, Sombra and part of Sarnia Township. This system was expanded in the late 1980's to service municipalities in the northeastern part of Lambton County. LAWSS provided a safe treated water supply to the urban areas of Brigden, Corunna, Courtright, Mooretown, Port Lambton and Sombra Village in the mid 1970's. In the late 1980's expansion of the Township distribution system began, to service the rural areas of the Township. Today, over 95% of the population is serviced with a piped water supply.

LAWSS is currently governed by six-member municipalities and operated under contract by the Ontario Clean Water Agency. The Council of the Township of St. Clair controls the St. Clair Township Water Distribution System.

System Description

Treated Water is supplied by LAWSS No. 210000906 and distributed to the customers of the St. Clair Water Distribution System No. 260006464. The system has one re-chlorination point at the Brigden Elevated Water Tower and has emergency interconnections with adjoining Municipalities.

A SCADA system monitors pressure, flow, and chlorine residual at the Brigden Elevated Water Tower. Distribution system continuous monitoring is located at the Port Lambton Storm Station to sample for free chlorine residual as per O. Reg. 170/03. Weekly Distribution System sampling and testing requirements as per O. Reg. 170/03 are conducted by OCWA. Customers are metered for water usage. Replacement of aging infrastructure is performed under Capital Projects.

The St. Clair Water Distribution System No. 260006464 is currently supplying drinking water to the City of Sarnia Water Distribution System No. 260003136, at St. Clair Parkway and LaSalle Line as well as Virgil Avenue and LaSalle Line, owned and operated by the City of Sarnia. The City of Sarnia Water Distribution No. 260003136 is currently supplying St Clair Water Distribution System No. 260006464 at Plank Road North of LaSalle Line.

St. Clair Township supplies all the drinking water to Stag Island (no drinking water system number) and Fawn Island System No. 8425LM98S.

Processes outside of our control include the Port Lambton Water Tower, which is owned by LAWSS and operated by OCWA.

Annual Highlights

1. Monthly watermain flushing and chlorine residual testing is completed to ensure that residuals are remaining at acceptable levels. Monitoring is conducted across the entire Township to ensure that water quality is being maintained.
2. Hach was onsite January 17, 2023 and June 19, 2023, to calibrate and perform maintenance on the continuous chlorine analyzers (CL17) at the Brigden Water Tower and the Port Lambton Storm Station.
3. On May 30, 2023, SAI Global completed the DWQMS Surveillance System Audit and the Audit Report was issued on June 4, 2023. There were no non-conformances and no OFI's (Opportunities for Improvement).
4. An AWQI (adverse water quality incident) was reported to the MECP SAC (Spills Action Centre) and the Lambton Public Health Inspector on September 27, 2023. Two weekly samples collected at 336 Lyndoch Street and 1550 St. Clair Parkway on September 25, 2023 were adverse and detected total coliform. The samples were resampled immediately on September 27, 2023 as well as upstream and downstream of the adverse samples for a total of six samples. The resamples detected zero total coliform. The AWQI #163673 was resolved October 4, 2023.
5. An AWQI was reported to the MECP SAC and the Lambton Public Health Inspector on November 22, 2023. One weekly sample collected at 2393 Courtright Line on November 20, 2023 was adverse and detected total coliform. The sample was resampled immediately on November 22, 2023 as well as upstream and downstream of the adverse sample for a total of three samples. The resamples detected zero total coliform. The AWQI #164082 was resolved November 27, 2023.
6. Landmark completed a safety inspection on the Brigden Elevated Water Tower on December 1, 2023. The Township is still waiting for the final inspection report.
7. There was no MECP inspection completed in 2023. The MECP completed an unannounced annual water inspection on January 10, 2024.

Water Quality

Testing throughout the distribution system is conducted on a weekly basis for chlorine residual and microbiological parameters. The maintenance of chlorine residual in the distribution system is one important step used to prevent microbiological contamination of the water supply. Chlorine is added at the treatment plant and at various locations throughout the distribution system to ensure adequate disinfection capabilities are maintained. The Township is careful to avoid possible contamination during the repair of water mains, the installation of new connections and services, and during routine maintenance.

Appendix 'A' summarizes the results of distribution system testing conducted from January through December 2023. Monitoring is required for parameters such as lead, quarterly for parameters such as trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids, weekly for parameters such as E-Coli, Total Coliform, Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC) and daily for parameters such as free chlorine residual as per O. Reg 170/03. Appendix 'A' also summarizes the results from the non-regulatory continuous online chlorine analyzer at the Brigden Water Tower. Appendix 'B' addresses the various parameters of water quality that are tested and definitions.

Compliance

Ontario Regulation 170/03 requires that the Annual Summary Report list any requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the regulations under the SDWA or the drinking-water system's approval, the drinking water works permit, the municipal drinking water licence, and any orders that the system failed to meet at any time during the period covered by the report. There were no non-compliances to report in 2023.

System Capacity

Ontario Regulation 170/03 requires that the Annual Summary Report include a summary of the quantities and flow rates of the water supplied during the year such that the Owner of the system will be able to assess the capability of the system to meet existing and planned uses of the system. As per MDWL #039-101 Issue #2, regulatory relief has been given to this requirement and replaced with a calculated monthly and annual water quantity for the purpose of fulfilling Schedule 22, section 22-2(3)1.

Table 1 lists the purchased volumes of water from LAWSS distribution system each month throughout the year.

Table 1

Month (2023)	Monthly Volume 2023 (m3)
January	390,365
February	349,945
March	360,952
April	330,625
May	442,769
June	551,937
July	605,096
August	479,776
September	405,501
October	365,190
November	400,220
December	417,980
Total Purchased Volume 2023 (m3)	5,100,356

The purchased volume is calculated using the metered volume and the 4% assumed leakage.

Table 2

Year	Total Volume Invoiced from LAWSS (m3)	Water Loss
2013	5,047,166	11%
2014	4,650,522	12%
2015	4,955,073	12%
2016	5,100,646	10%
2017	4,561,060	14%
2018	5,303,627	14%
2019	5,256,499	12%
2020	4,915,400	13%
2021	5,184,370	20%
2022	5,525,610	31%
2023	5,100,356	20%

The water loss calculation includes the 4% assumed leakage.

The higher water loss over the last few years can be contributed to an Industrial water user having several water leaks. The issue is being addressed.

The Lambton Area Water Treatment Plant has a rated maximum daily flow rate of 181,844 cu.m./day. St. Clair Township's proportion of the normal flow rate is approximately 29% in 2023.

Large industrial consumers accounted for approximately 70% of the total volume of water used in St. Clair Township in 2023. The largest users in the water distribution system are Nova Moore and St. Clair Ethanol.

APPENDIX 'A'

2023 Water Quality Test Results

(Waterworks # 260006464)

	O.Reg. 170/03	Sampling Period	Number of Samples	Number of Detectable Results	Range	MAC or IMAC	Exceedance	Typical Source of Parameter
<u>Microbiological Parameters</u>								
Total Coliforms (membrane filter analysis) (counts / 100ml)	Schedule 10-2	Jan/01 - Dec/31 (sampled weekly and resample)	467 ¹	3	0-17 ²	0*	Yes	Indicates possible presence of fecal matter.
Fecal Coliforms (E. Coli) (membrane filter analysis) (counts / 100ml)	Schedule 10-2	Jan/01 - Dec/31 (sampled weekly and resample)	467 ¹	0	0-0	0*	No	Definite indicator of fecal contamination.
Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC) (spread plate) (counts/1mL)	Schedule 10-2	Jan/01 - Dec/31 (sampled weekly and resample)	155	155	<10-790	--	N/A	Indicates overall water quality.
Background Count (membrane filter analysis) (counts / 100ml)		Jan/01 - Dec/31 (sampled weekly and resample)	467 ¹	4	0-122	200	No	Indicates presence of aerobic bacteria and effectiveness of disinfection.
* indicator of adverse water quality if detected in treated water								
<u>Parameters Related to Microbiological Quality</u>								
Free Chlorine (Distribution System) (mg/l)	Schedule 6-3	Jan/01 - Dec/31 (sampled weekly and resample)	467 ¹	467	0.64 – 2.09	--	N/A	Recommended level of at least 0.2mg/l in system to maintain microbiological quality.
Free Chlorine (Operational - Flushing)	◆	Jan/01 - Dec/31	853	--	0.16 – 2.02	--	N/A	Recommended level of at least 0.2mg/l in system to maintain microbiological quality.
Free Chlorine (Daily SCADA) ⁵	Schedule 7-2(3)	Jan/01 - Dec/31	105,120 ³	--	0.00 – 1.65 ⁴	--	N/A	
Free Chlorine (SCADA)	◆	Jan/01 - Dec/31	105,120 ³	--	0.00 – 2.32 ⁴	--	N/A	
<u>Volatile Organics</u>								
Trihalomethanes (running annual average) (ug/l)	Schedule 13-6	Jan/01 – Dec/31 (sampled quarterly)	4	4	37-62	100	No	Byproduct of chlorine reacting with naturally occurring organics.
<u>General Organics</u>								
Haloacetic acids (running annual average) (ug/l)	Schedule 13-6.1	Jan/01 – Dec/31 (sampled quarterly)	4	4	15.1-23.2	80	No	Byproduct of chlorine reacting with naturally occurring organics.
<u>Inorganic Parameters</u>								
Lead (ug/l)	Schedule 15.1	2023 Distribution (summer and winter)	8	8	0.01 – 0.45	10	No	Results from corrosion of lead pipe or lead solder in plumbing. Health Canada's new MAC is 5 ug/L.

¹ The number of samples significantly exceeds the required number (23 per month – 276 annually).

² Re-sampling and re-testing yielded acceptable results.

³ A full year of data consists of 105,120 samples when taken at 5-minute intervals.

⁴ High / Low chlorine levels were attributed to maintenance, power outages and/or equipment malfunction.

⁵ Daily free chlorine is read at 5-minute intervals through the SCADA at the Port Lambton Storm Station.

♦ Indicates additional operational testing not required by O.Reg. 170/03.

APPENDIX 'B'

WATER QUALITY PARAMETERS

What parameters do we test for?

Some parameters may be present in source water before it is treated. Here is a description of the various groups of parameters. The presence of these substances in drinking water does not necessarily mean that the water poses a health risk.

Microbiological parameters such as bacteria may come from sewage plants, livestock operations, septic systems and wildlife. Microbiological quality is the most important aspect of drinking water quality because of its association with dangerous water-borne diseases, which can strike quickly.

Inorganic parameters such as salts and metals can be naturally occurring or a result of urban storm runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, mining or agriculture. Some may be a result of treatment and distribution of water (for example, lead from old solder in pipes).

Organic parameters can be naturally occurring, but most organics of concern are synthetic. They originate from industrial discharges, urban storm runoff and other sources. Included in this group are pesticides that originate from both rural and urban areas. Some may originate from treatment of drinking water (for example, chlorination byproducts such as trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids).

Definitions

Here are some terms you should know about before reading the information below.

MAC

Maximum Acceptable Concentration. This is a health-related Ontario drinking water standard established for contaminants that have known or suspected adverse health effects when above a certain concentration. The length of time the MAC can be exceeded without injury to health will depend on the nature and concentration of the parameter.

IMAC

Interim Maximum Acceptable Concentration. This is a health-related Ontario drinking water standard established for contaminants when there are insufficient toxicological data to establish a MAC with reasonable certainty, or when it is not practical to establish a MAC at the desired level.

Parameter

This is a substance that we sample and analyze for in the water.

mg/l

milligrams per litre. This is a measure of the concentration of a parameter in water, sometimes called parts per million (ppm).

ug/l

micrograms per litre. This is a measure of the concentration of a parameter in water, sometimes called parts per billion (ppb).