

Innovations for Sustaining Rural Drinking Water Services

RPLC Rural Water Infrastructure Webinar
Sarah-Patricia Breen
March 22, 2018





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graph LR; A[Problem] --> B[Context]; B --> C[Asset Management]; C --> D[Human Capacity Building]; D --> E[Lessons]
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Problem

Context

Asset
Management

Human
Capacity
Building

Lessons

Outline

The Problem

*"Furthermore, the
Canada's municipal
despite continued e
If this trend con
repair will increase*

- The role of infrastructure
- General: Infrastructure Deficit
- Specific: Drinking Water



Problem

Context

Asset
Management

Human
Capacity
Building

Lessons

The Context

- Demographics
- Scale
- Isolation
- Capacity
 - Human
 - Financial
- Public acceptability



Problem

Context

Asset
Management

Human
Capacity
Building

Lessons

New Technology

“Our primary concern was to digitize our valuable records, as a means of preserving them. Another key objective was to make it very easy for the maintenance staff, to help them identify where water lines are in the ground, rather than having to go through boxes of files, which could take hours on end, to look for [the] record of lines that had been buried in the ground over 30 years ago” (Daniels 2014, pp.1-2).

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Problem

Context

Asset
Management

Human
Capacity
Building

Lessons

New Collaborations

“Our water utility personnel have a lot of existing expertise and informal learning is happening every day. Until now, that expertise hadn’t been tapped as a way to build formal knowledge and earn Environmental Operators Certification Program (EOCP) Continuing Education Units.” (Joe McGowan, Director of Public Works City of Cranbrook)

“We have a lot of new employees so we train every day on our job site—it is just not formally structured or documented. When the P2P pilot project came up, it was a good opportunity to get a structure in place to help me teach and to document the training. Getting the CEUs was a bonus.” (Gino Elia, City of Fernie)



Lessons Learned

Critical Components

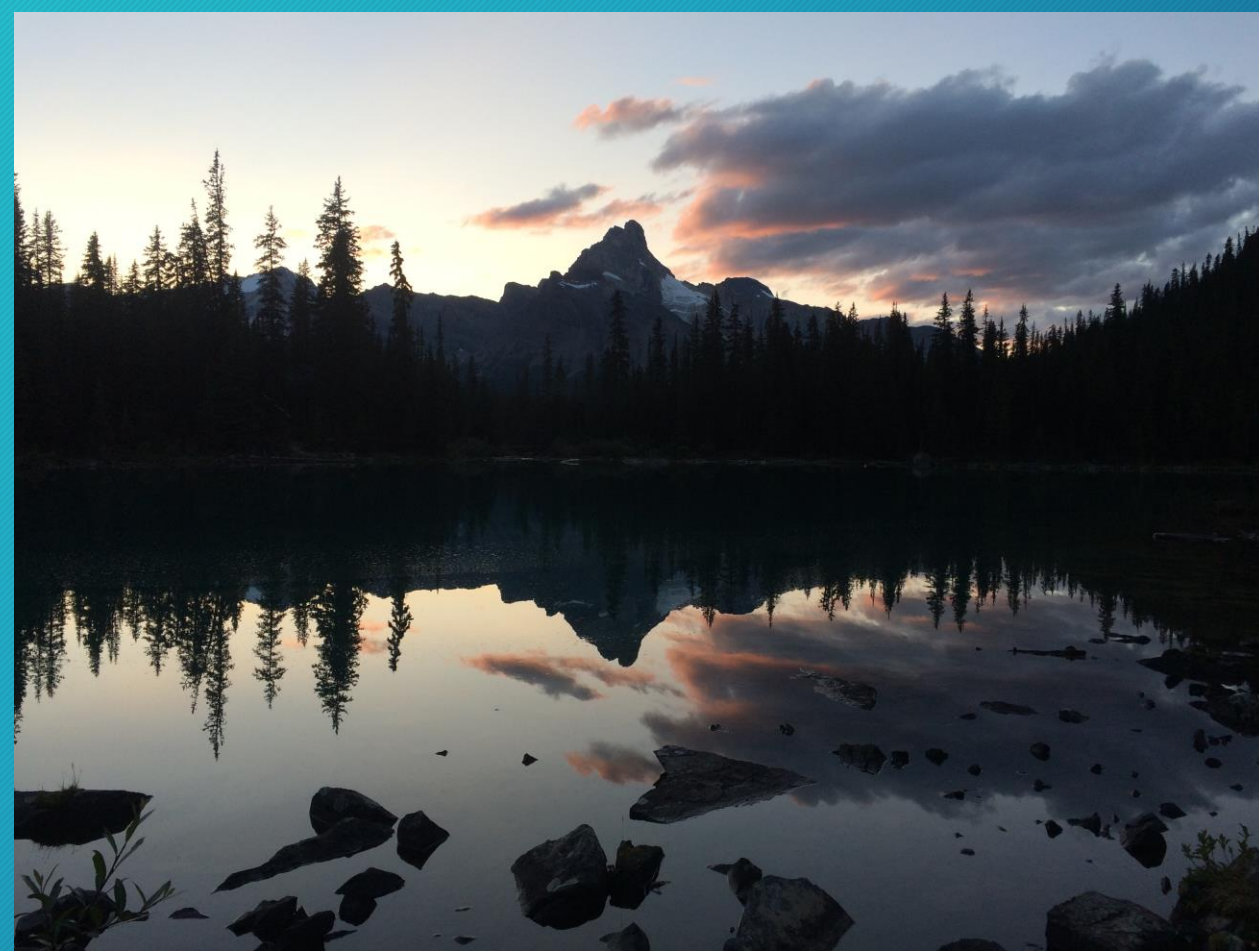
- Innovation
 - Product
 - Process
- Place-based
- Collaboration

Challenges

- Financial capacity
- Support from third party organizations
- Changing the status quo



Thank you!



Sarah-Patricia Breen
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Rural Water Infrastructure in Newfoundland and Labrador

Gerry Lahey
Environmental Scientist
Water Resources Management Division

Outline of Presentation

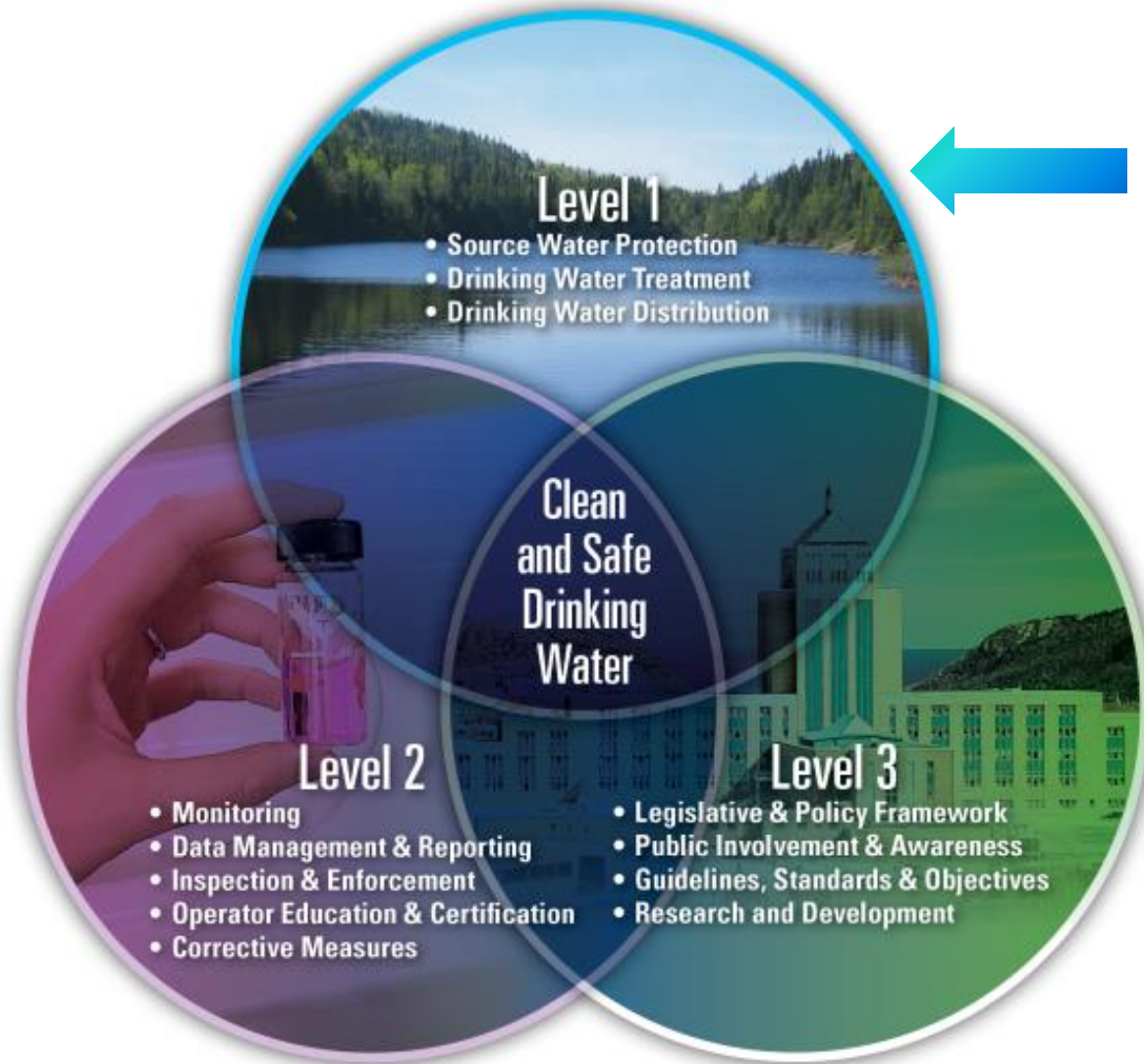
- Multi-Barrier Strategic Action Plan for Drinking Water
- Current Challenges & Solutions
- Path Forward

Multi-Barrier Approach

The Multi-Barrier Approach is...

- .. an integrated system of procedures, processes and tools that collectively prevent or reduce the contamination of drinking water from source to tap in order to reduce risks to the public

Multi-Barrier Strategic Action Plan for Drinking Water Safety in NL



Level I of MBSAP



Source Protection

Drinking Water Treatment



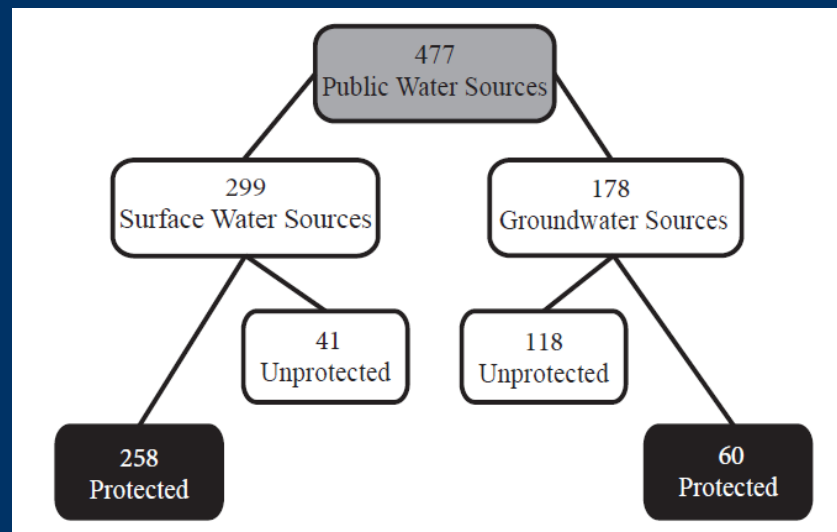
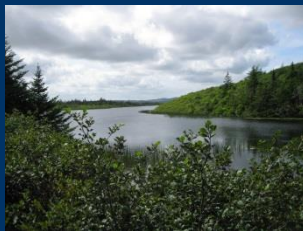
Drinking Water Distribution



Level I Source Protection

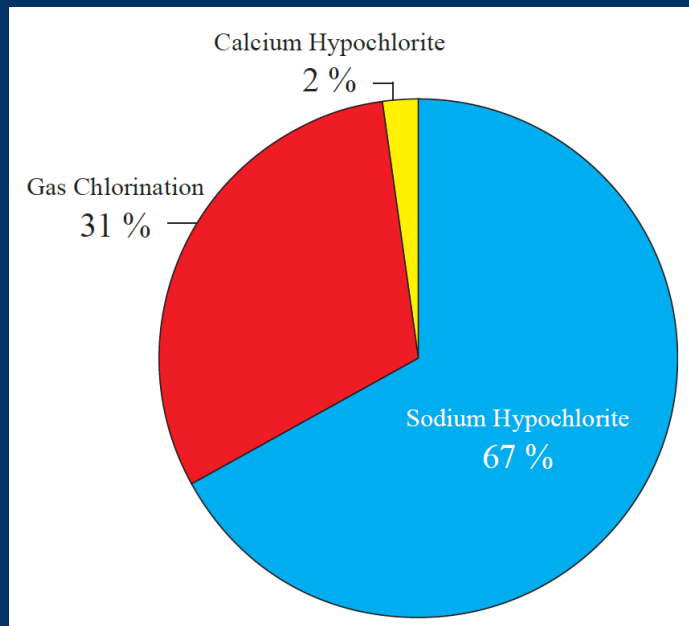
- Section 39 (SW) & 61 (GW) of the Water Resources Act.
- Information on Protected Public Water Supplies are available online.

<http://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/waterres/quality/drinkingwater/protectedareas.html>



Level I Drinking Water Treatment

Chlorination Systems used in NL



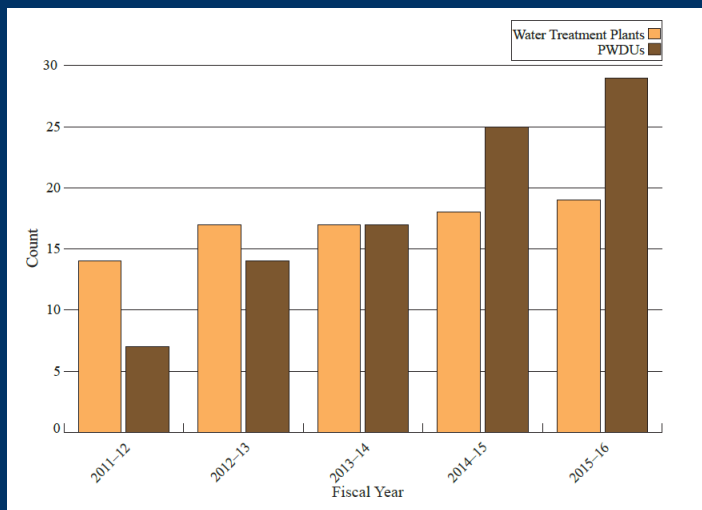
Disinfection Systems

Type of Disinfection System				
Chlorination	Ultraviolet Light	Mixed Oxidants	Ozone	Chloramines
443	33	8	4	1



Level I Drinking Water Treatment

WTPs per Fiscal Year



Water Treatment Systems

Type of Drinking Water Treatment System						
pH adjustment	Micron/pressure filters	Infiltration galleries	Arsenic removal	Iron/Manganese removal	Lead removal	Strontium removal
53	34	22	10	5	1	1

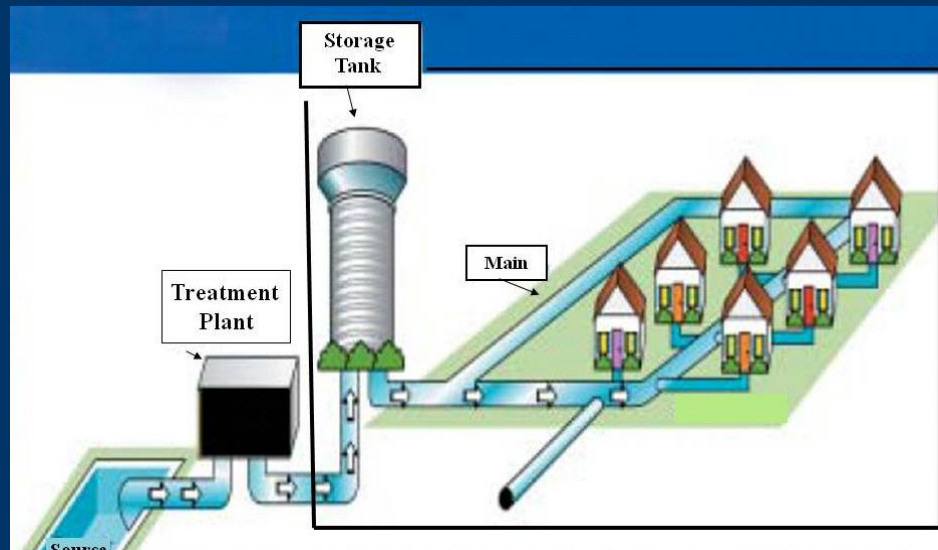


Level I Drinking Water Distribution

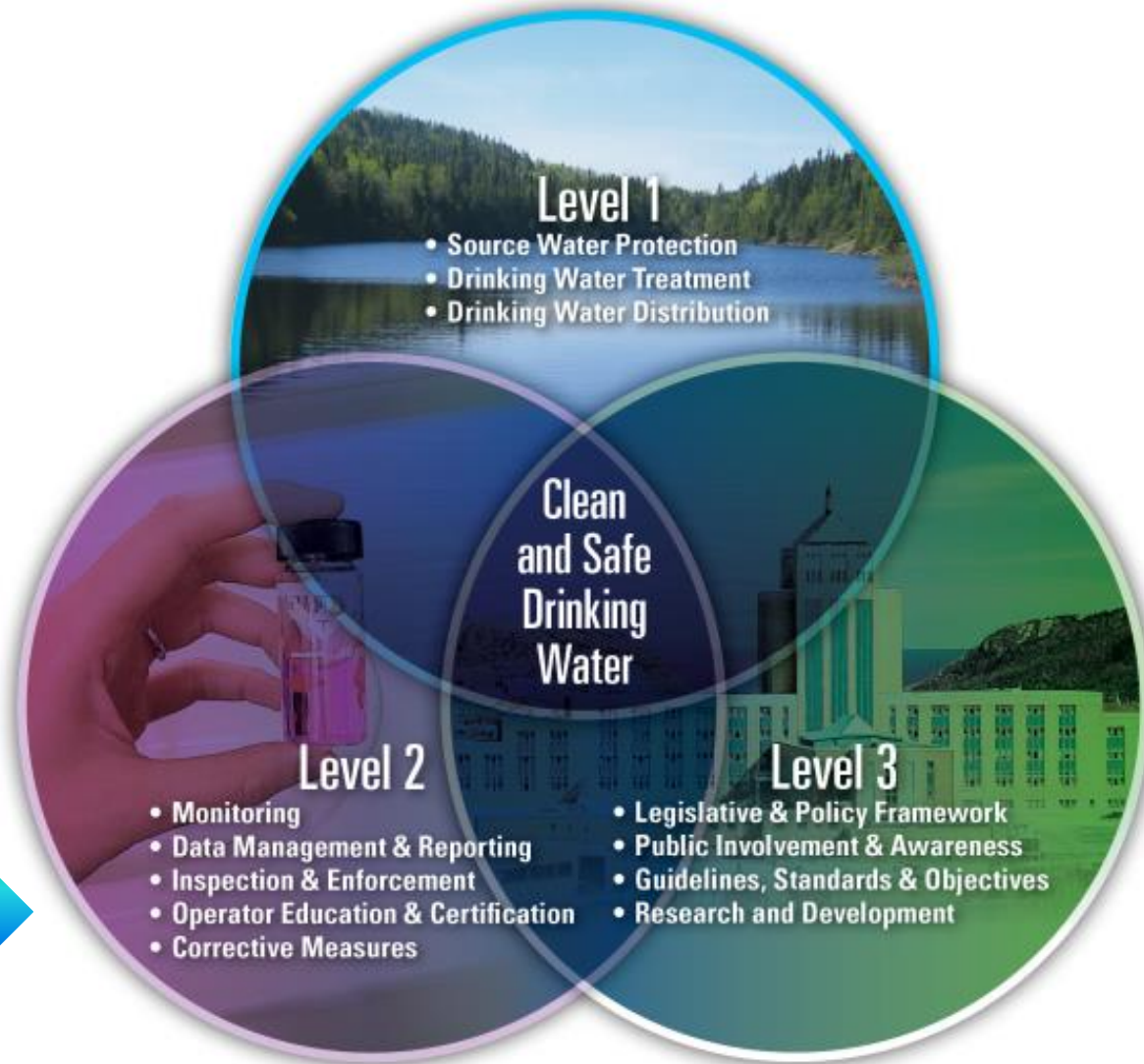
- Water distribution system classes

Size (population served)	> 50,000	15,001 - 50,000	1,501 - 15,000	501 - 1,500	≤ 500	Total
Count	1	5	36	80	386	508

76% have very small systems



Multi-Barrier Strategic Action Plan for Drinking Water Safety in NL



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Level II

Operator Education, Training
& Certification

Monitoring



Data Management and Reporting

Inspection and Enforcement



Corrective Measures

Level II Monitoring

Unique monitoring system within North America

- Provincial Government is responsible for regular monitoring:
 - Bacteriological (Service NL)
 - Total coliforms
 - E.Coli
 - Chemical (ECC)
 - Physical
 - Metals
 - Disinfection by-products



Level II Monitoring

Region	Source	Tap	THM	HAA	Total
Eastern	22	454	421	388	1,285
Western	24	300	266	273	863
Central	20	87	83	55	245
Labrador	10	74	100	105	289
Other (Special)	4	0	0	0	4
Total	80	915	870	821	2,686

Number of chemical
water quality samples
taken by WRMD for
2016-17

Region					Total
St. John's	Eastern	Central	Western	Northern	
7,610	973	3,963	4,330	1,693	18,569

Number of
bacteriological
samples taken by
Service NL for
2016-17

Level II

Data Management & Reporting

- Large volume of data requires a stringent QA/QC program to ensure quality of data.
- Data is available on Water Resources Portal:

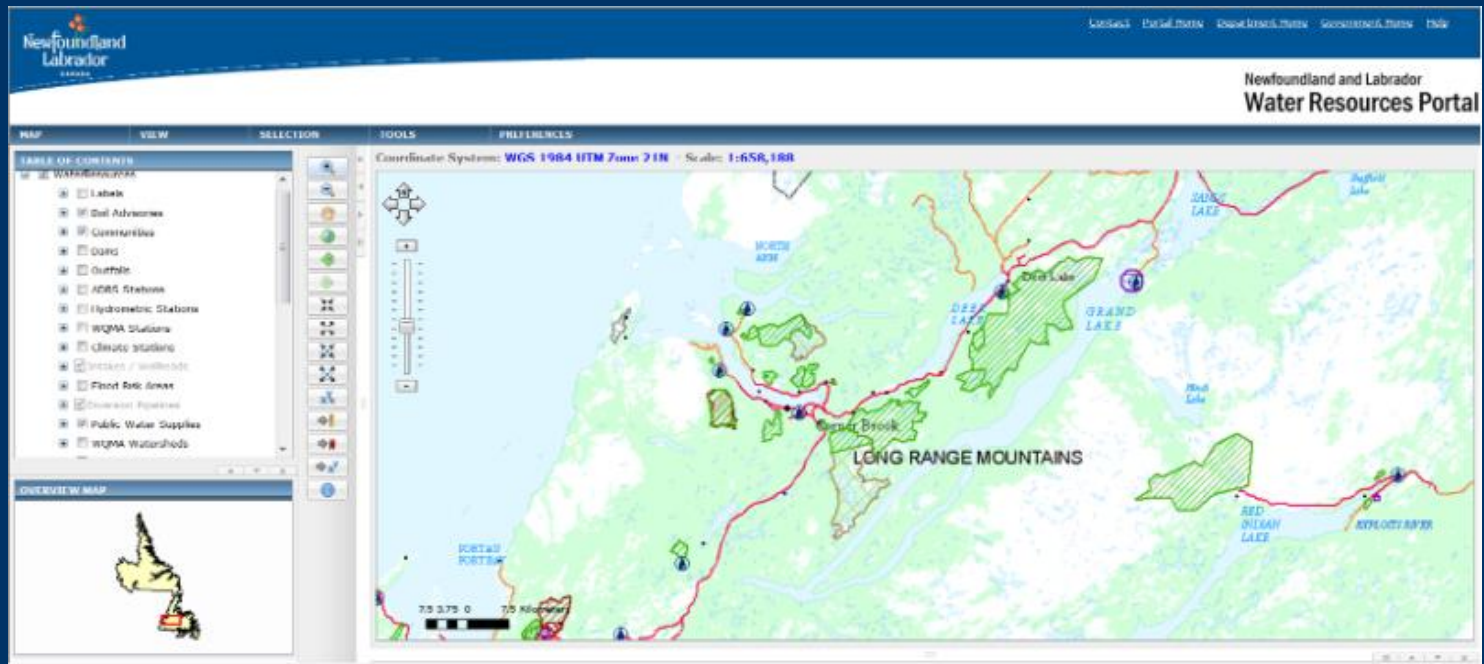


<http://maps.gov.nl.ca/water/>

Level II

Data Management & Reporting

- Water Resources Portal Mapping:



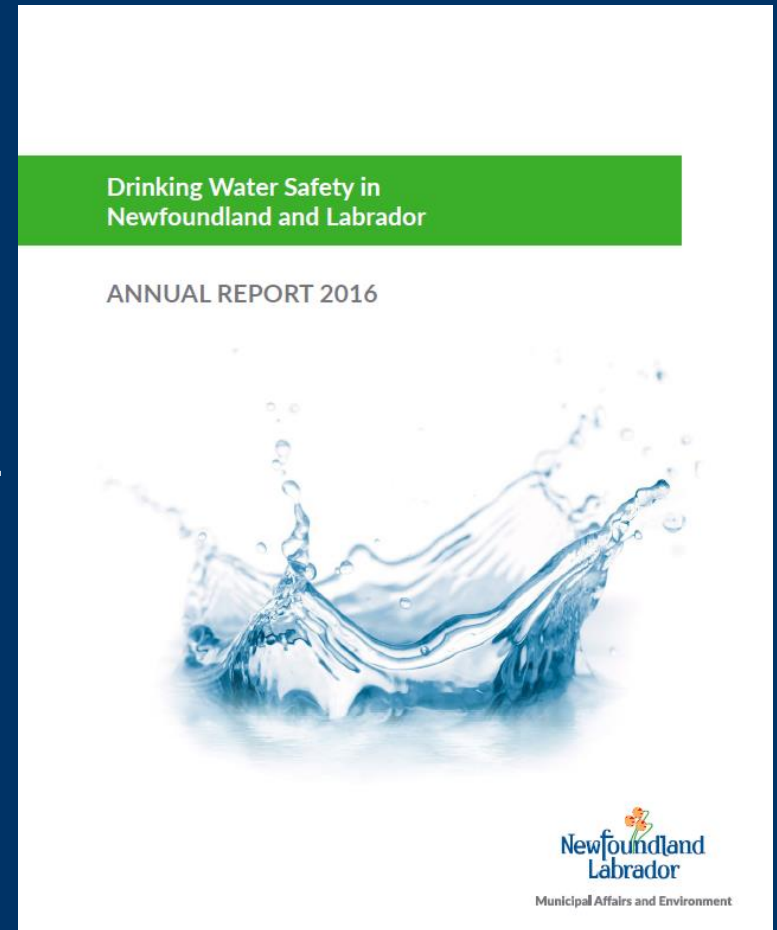
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Level II

Data Management & Reporting

- Reports provided by WRMD:
 - Seasonal community drinking water quality email notifications
 - Exceedance reports
 - Annual Drinking Water Safety in NL reports
 - Web documents:
 - “What’s New”



Level II Operator Education, Training & Certification

A UNIQUE APPROACH TO TRAINING

Theory: Classroom style seminars



Hands on: On-site training with Mobile Training Units



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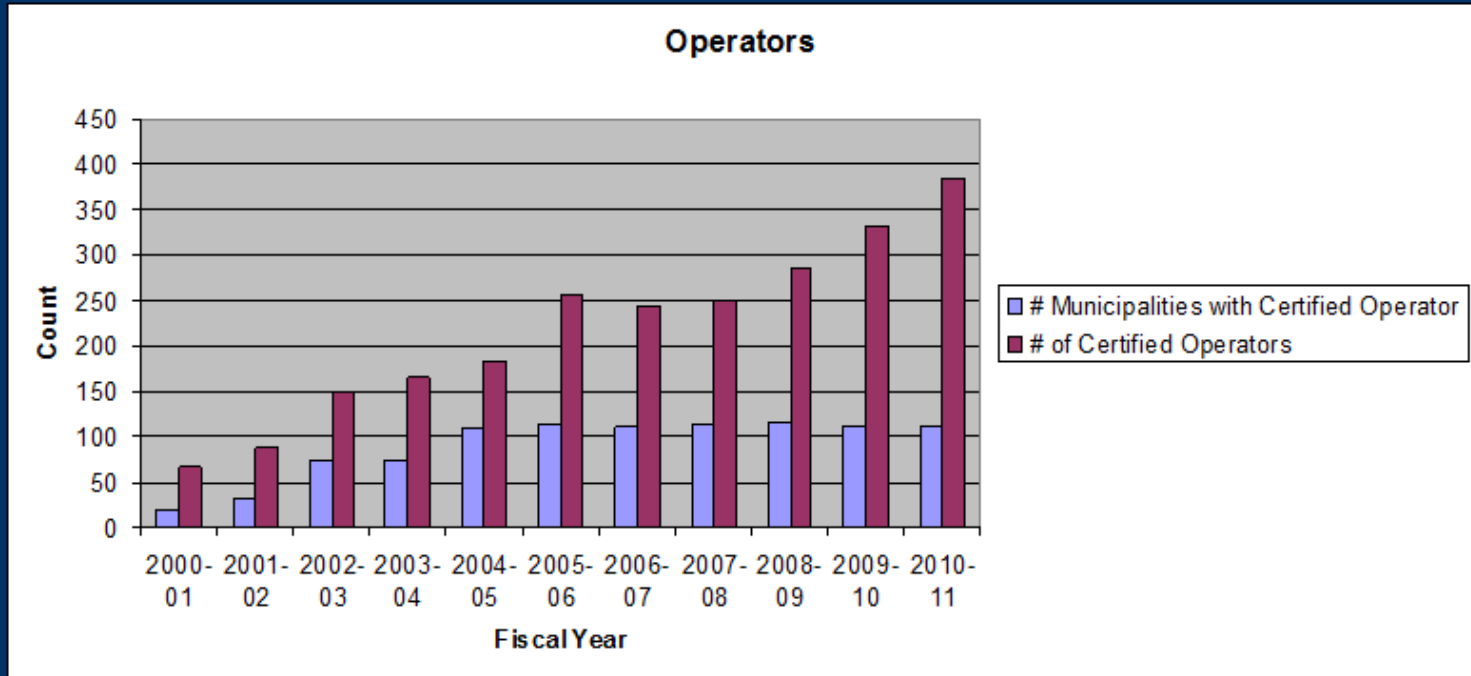
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Certification: Local access to certification exams

Certification became mandatory in 2012

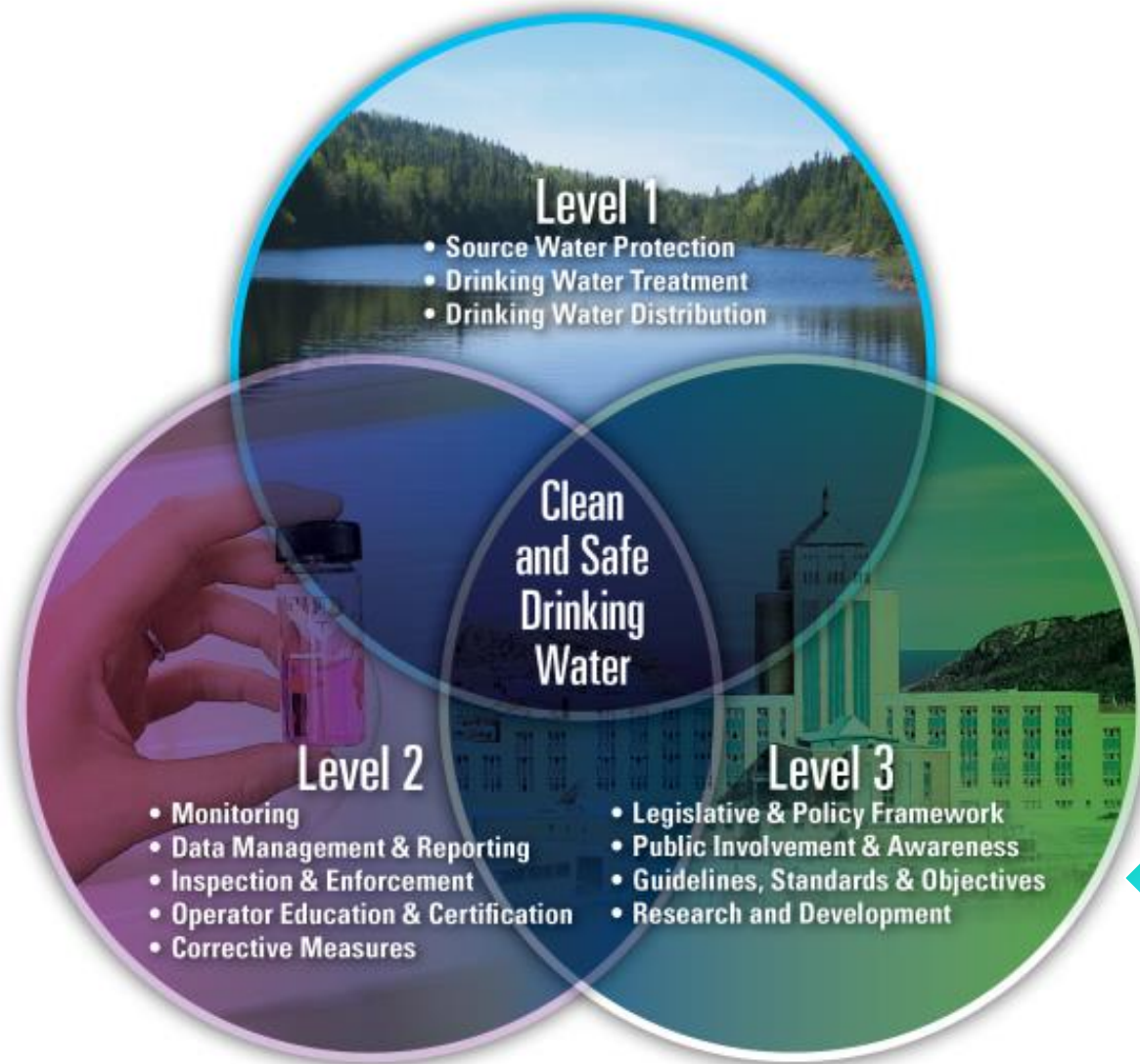
Level II

Example: Corrective Measures



- High rate of improvement.
- Still holdout communities that will not participate in free training.
- Operators starting to retire.

Multi-Barrier Strategic Action Plan for Drinking Water Safety in NL



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Level III

Legislative and Policy Frameworks

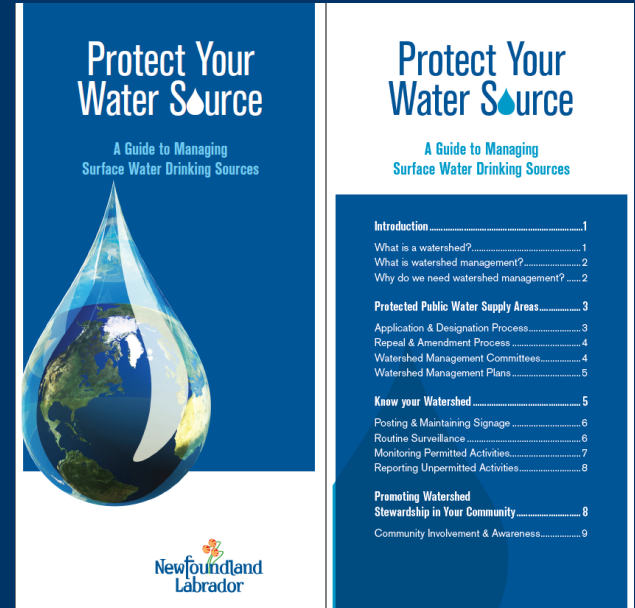
Public Involvement & Awareness

Guidelines, Standards & Objectives

Research & Development

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Legislative & Policy Frameworks

- Water Resources Act regulates administration of:
 - water rights,
 - protection of PPWSAs, and
 - a range of construction and operating permits pertaining to drinking water systems.

- Municipal Affairs Act administers:
 - the management of waterworks.

- Municipalities Act grants powers to municipalities:
 - for the construction, operation, and maintenance of water systems and for the allocation of funds for this work.

Public Involvement & Awareness

- Water Resources Management webpage

<http://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/waterres/index.html>

- New public outreach videos

<http://www.youtube.com/NLWaterResources/>

- New public outreach brochures

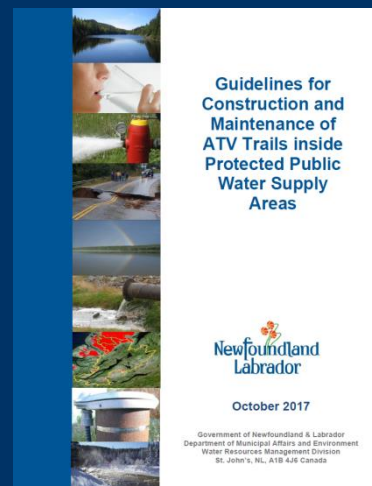
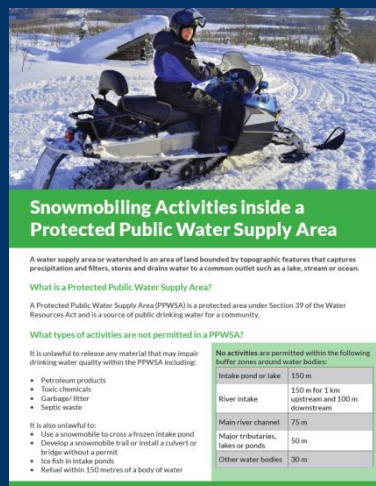
<http://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/waterres/quality/drinkingwater/protectedareas.html>



How to Access your
Community's Drinking
Water Quality Data

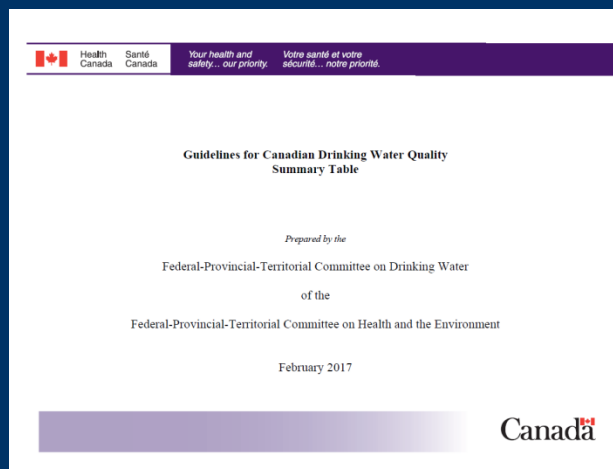
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Guidelines, Standards & Objectives

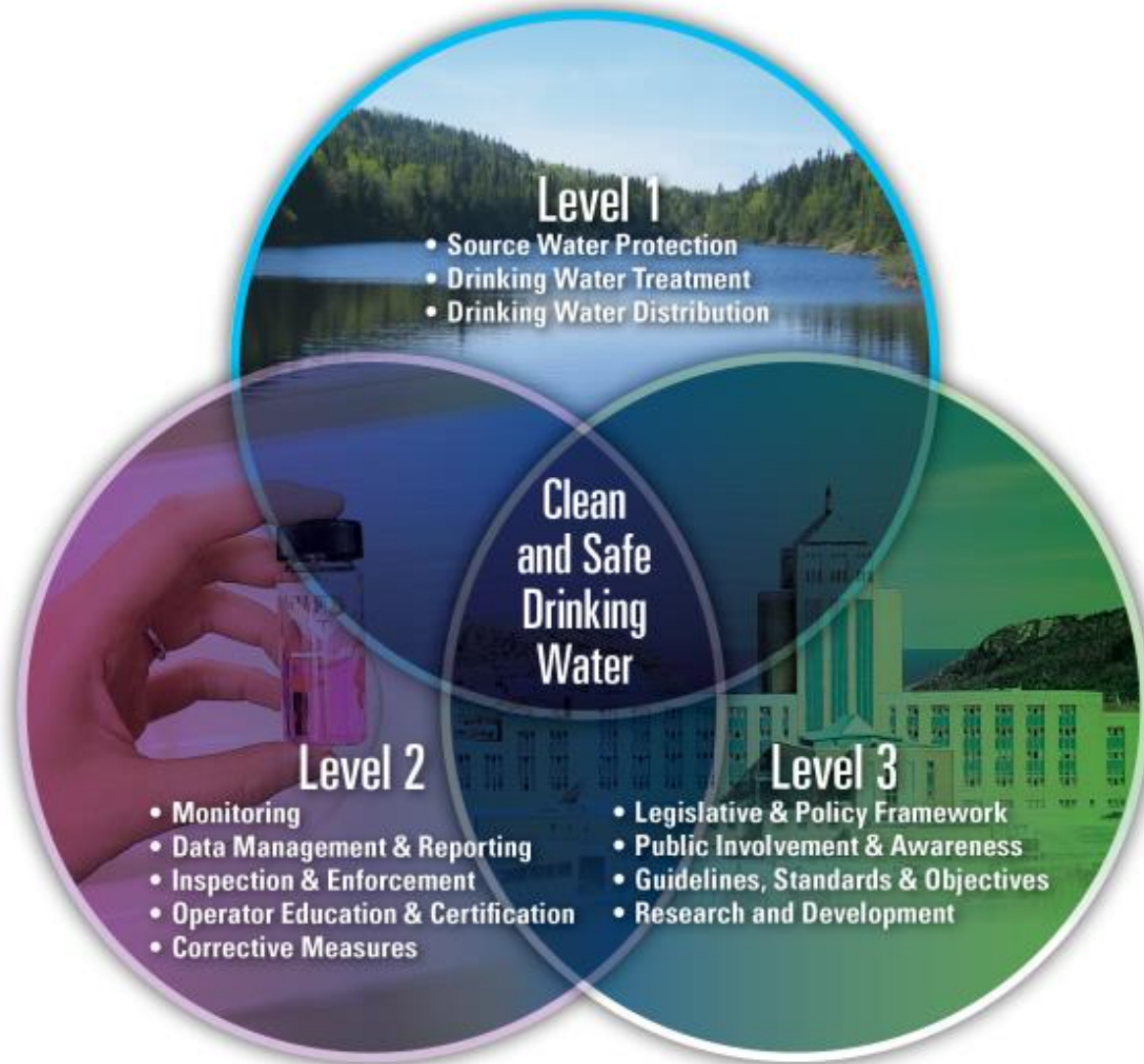
- Water Quality Guidelines
 - Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality.



Type ¹	Parameter (approval, reaffirmation)	MAC (mg/L)	Other value (mg/L)	Common sources of parameter in water	Health considerations	Comments
I	Iron (1978, 2005)		AO: ≤ 0.3	Naturally occurring (erosion and weathering of rocks and minerals); acidic mine water drainage, landfill leachates, sewage effluents and iron-related industries		Based on taste and staining of laundry and plumbing fixtures; no evidence exists of dietary iron toxicity in the general population.
I	Lead (1992)	0.010		Leaching from plumbing (pipes, solder, brass fittings and lead service lines)	Health basis of MAC: Biochemical and neurobehavioural effects (intellectual development, behaviour) in infants and young children (under 6 years) Other: Anaemia, central nervous system effects; in pregnant women, can affect the unborn child; in infants and children under 6 years, can affect intellectual development, behaviour, size and hearing; classified as probably carcinogenic to humans	Because the MAC is based on chronic effects, it is intended to apply to average concentrations in water consumed for extended periods. Exposure to lead should nevertheless be kept to a minimum; plumbing should be thoroughly flushed before water is used for consumption; most significant contribution is generally from lead service line entering the building.
I	Magnesium (1978)	None required		Naturally occurring (erosion and weathering of rocks and minerals)		Guideline value not necessary, as there is no evidence of adverse health effects from magnesium in drinking water.
P	Malathion (1986, 2005)	0.19		Leaching and/or runoff from agricultural and other uses	Health basis of MAC: Nervous system effects (cholinesterase inhibition)	Not expected to leach into groundwater.
I	Manganese (1987)		AO: ≤ 0.05	Naturally occurring (erosion and weathering of rocks and minerals)		Based on taste and staining of laundry and plumbing fixtures.
I	Mercury (1986)	0.001		Releases or spills from industrial effluents; waste disposal; irrigation or drainage of areas where agricultural pesticides are used	Health basis of MAC: Irreversible neurological symptoms	Applies to all forms of mercury; mercury generally not found in drinking water, as it binds to sediments and soil.

- Infrastructure Guidelines
 - Guidelines for the Design, Construction and Operation of Water and Sewerage Systems.
 - Chlorination Equipment Selection Guidelines.

Multi-Barrier Strategic Action Plan for Drinking Water Safety in NL



Current Challenges

Boil Water
Advisories

Disinfection
By-Products

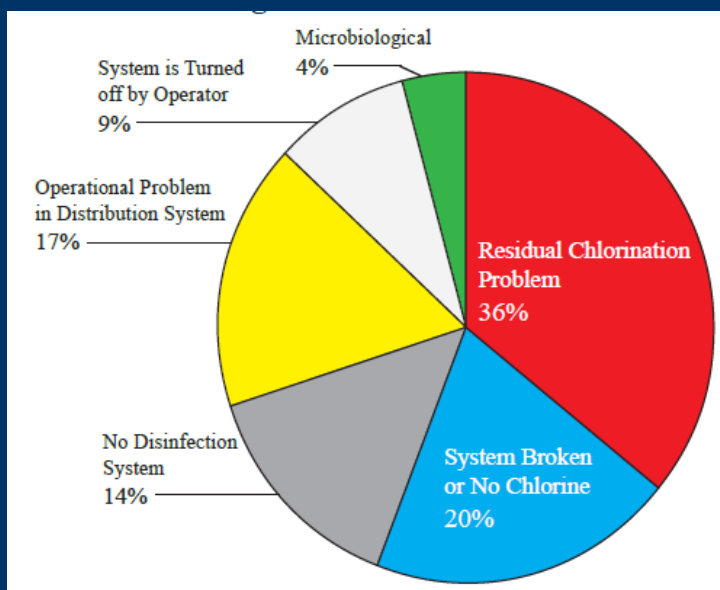
Department	Exceedances						
	Parameters	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	
Service NL	Bacteriological	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	196	133	132	211	92
		Total coliforms	844	930	962	932	970
Environment and Conservation	Chemical and Physical	Turbidity	98	103	78	170	83
		Arsenic	4	4	13	6	8
		Barium	2	1	2	1	0
		Fluoride	0	1	0	0	0
		Lead	8	4	2	4	6
	Disinfection By-Products	Trihalomethanes (THMs)	129	132	117	93	108
		Haloacetic Acids (HAAs)	165	147	153	117	134
		Colour	514	433	466	307	424
		pH	361	335	368	196	225
		Total Dissolved Solids	11	17	19	11	17

Current Challenges

Boil Water Advisories

As of February 22, 2018 there are 194 boil water advisories in place. There are about 146 communities affected by these boil water advisories, serving a population of about 35,545. The affected population is about 8.04% of the population serviced by Public Water Supplies.

Reasons used to issue BWA



>60% of BWA have been in effect for a period of five years or greater. These are classified as long-term BWAs.

Addressing Current Challenges

Boil Water Advisories

- Standard operating procedures for removing boil water advisories:
 - BWA System Assessment Tool
 - Preventative Maintenance Checklists, Logs & Forms
 - Fact Sheets
 - Full Cost Accounting Assessment Tool

<http://www.mae.gov.nl.ca/waterres/quality/drinkingwater/sopbwa.html>
- 90/10 funding split for small communities (pop <3000) on chlorination systems.
- Extensive on-site and classroom training for disinfection systems.

Addressing Current Challenges

Potable Water Dispensing Units

"Small scale water treatment system"

- Across Newfoundland and Labrador:
 - 29 Operating
- Water is treated on-site at a centralized location for manual collection by users.
- Mimics practice of collecting water from potential unsafe roadside springs, common in many rural communities.
- Intended to treat only drinking water portion of total water demand:
 - 0.5 to 3 L/person/day



Addressing Current Challenges

Potable Water Dispensing Units

- Uses many of the same treatment processes found in full scale WTPs.
- Common treatment components:
 - Multi-media filtration
 - Activated carbon filtration
 - Filter cartridges
 - Reverse osmosis
 - Ozone disinfection
 - UV disinfection
 - Chlorine disinfection
- Cost of PWDU affordable for small communities vs. full scale WTP.



Multi-media filters



Reverse Osmosis Unit

What's Next? - Opportunities

- Continue to explore innovative approaches (PWDU, regional operator, regional system, etc.) for small systems.
- Continued coordination of MBSAP.
- Public engagement – social media.
- Promote risk-based management approach in drinking water systems.



Thank You



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Applying Nature/Natural Systems as Green Infrastructure (GI) in the Planning of Resilient Rural Communities (with a Water Focus)

Paul Kraehling OPPI RPP
Rural Studies PhD Candidate

March 22, 2018
Webinar



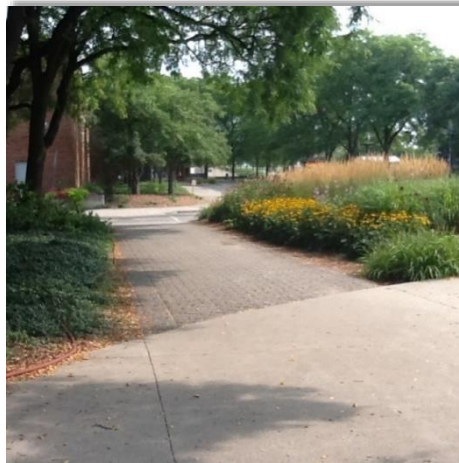
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AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE**
SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Outline

- Definition of Green Infrastructure (GI) & elements
- Rural area general issues/resilience challenges
- A resiliency response using GI:
 - Observations from Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) research
 - Other general comments
- Conclusion

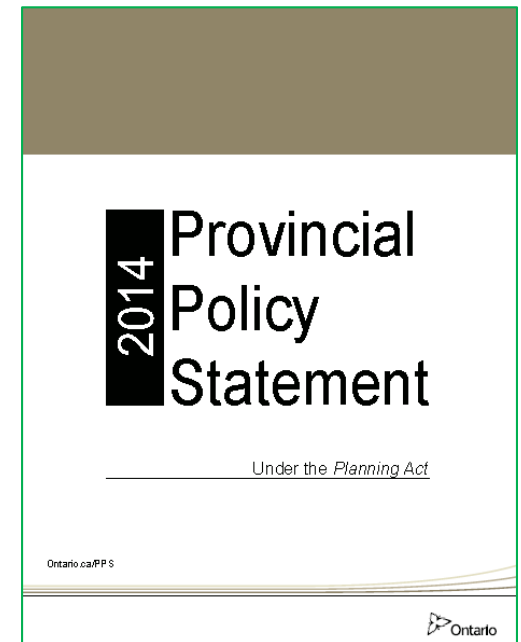
Kraehling, 2016



Definition of Green Infrastructure (GI)

- Natural elements (real and artificial) that provide multifunctional benefits to both human and natural communities.
- Info taken from the PPS

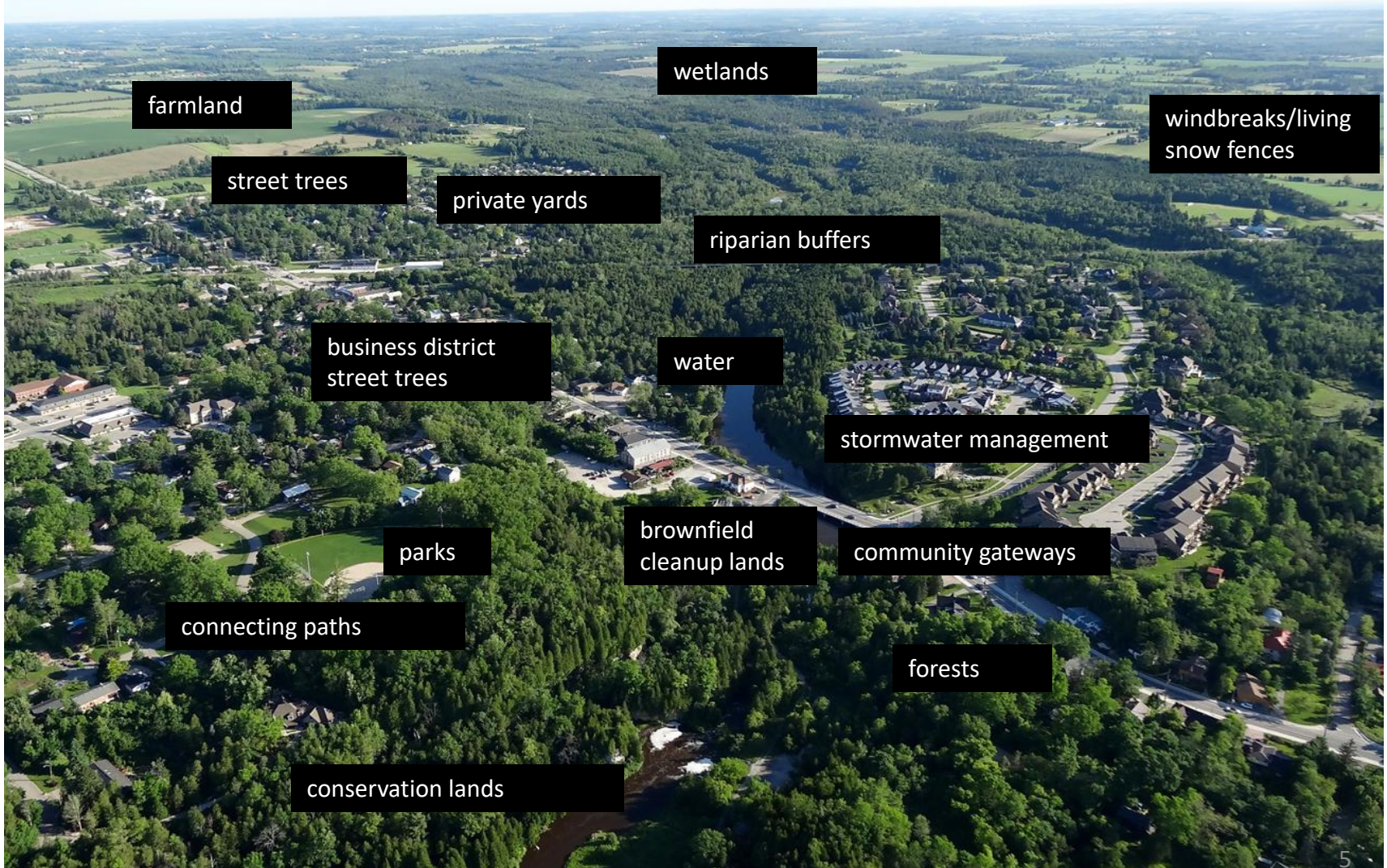
*...Green infrastructure: means natural and human-made elements that provide ecological and **hydrological functions and processes**. Green infrastructure can include components such as natural heritage features and systems, parklands, stormwater management systems, street trees, urban forests, natural channels, permeable surfaces, and green roofs.*



What are example elements contained within a GI planning framework?

Local & Neighbourhood Scale	Town & District Scale	Regional & Prov./National Scale
Street trees, verges and hedges Green roofs and walls Pocket parks Private gardens Urban plazas Town and village greens and commons Local rights of way Pedestrian and cycle routes Cemeteries and churchyards Institutional open spaces Ponds and streams Small woodlands Play areas Local nature reserves School grounds Sports pitches Swales, ditches Allotments Vacant and derelict land	Business settings (corporate business parks) City/district parks Urban canals Urban commons Forest parks Country parks Continuous waterfronts Municipal plazas Lakes Major recreational spaces Rivers and floodplains Brownfield land Community woodlands (Former) mineral extraction sites Agricultural land Landfills	Regional parks Rivers and floodplains Shorelines Strategic and long-distance trails Forests, woodlands and community forests Reservoirs Road and railway networks Designated greenbelt and strategic gaps Agricultural land National parks National, regional or local landscape designations Canals Common lands Open countryside

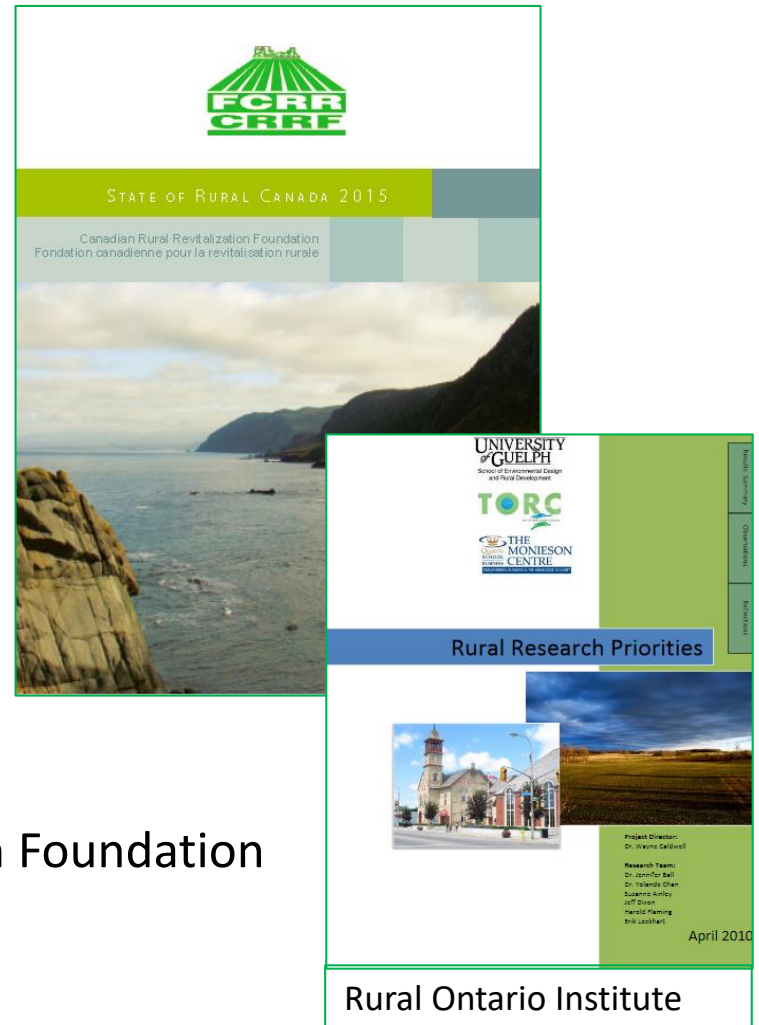
Illustrative Example of GI Elements – A Southern Ontario Community



Challenges to Rural Community Resilience

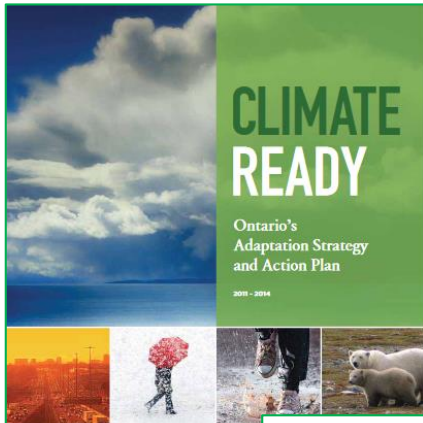
- Socio-economic issues, i.e. job creation, population retention & community age schisms
- 'Hard' infrastructure upkeep
- Paying for/retention of local municipal services
- Rural reduced municipal capacities

Background info from: Cdn. Rural Revitalization Foundation and Rural Ontario Institute

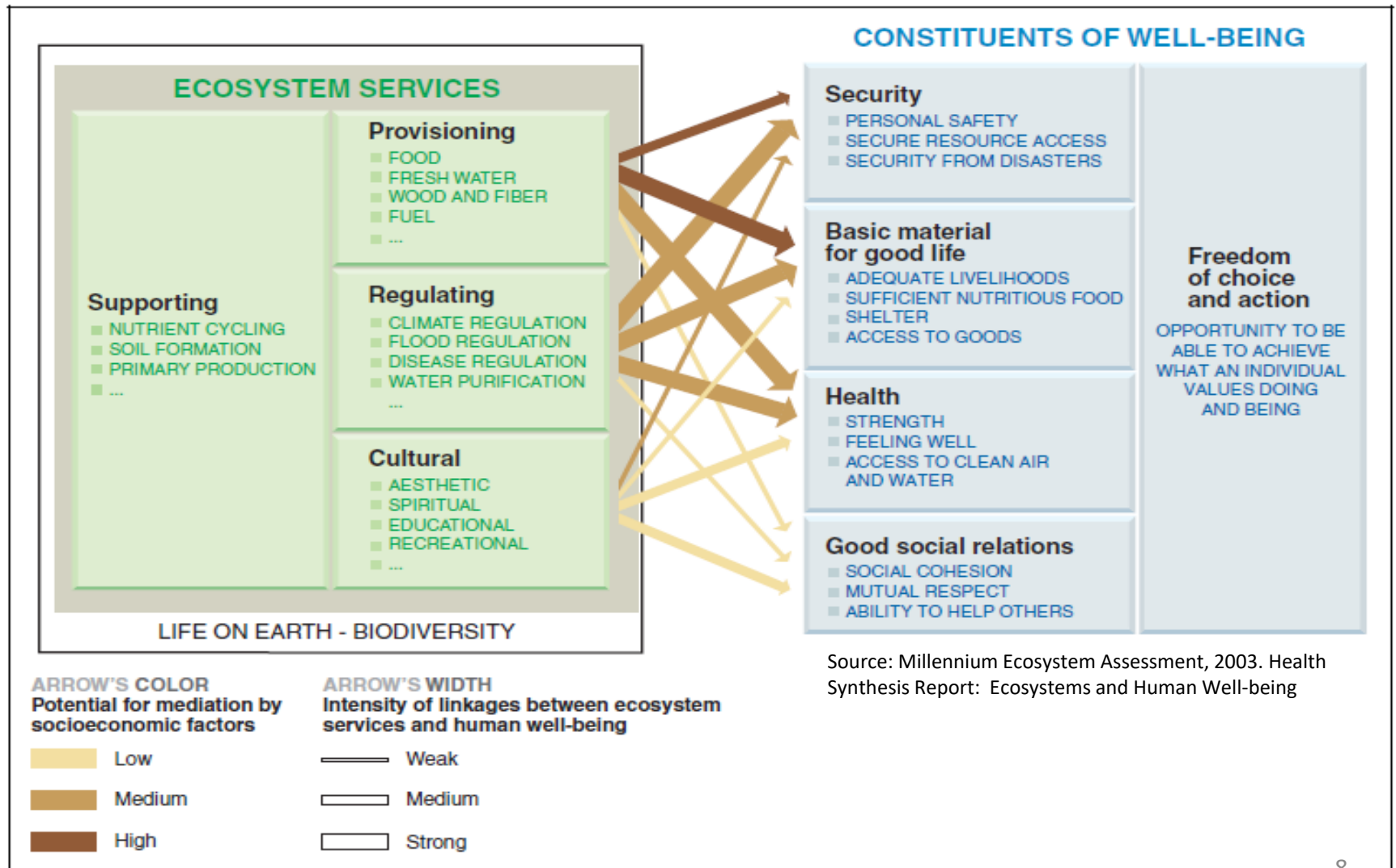


General Societal Aspirations Impacting Rural Places

- Climate change adaptation/mitigation
- General environmental stewardship
- Biodiversity protection



A Conceptual Framework for GI: The 'Goods + Services of Nature' Assisting Humankind



Recent OMAFRA – U of G Research: GI for Ontario's Rural Communities: Using Nature for Economic Development and Community Resilience

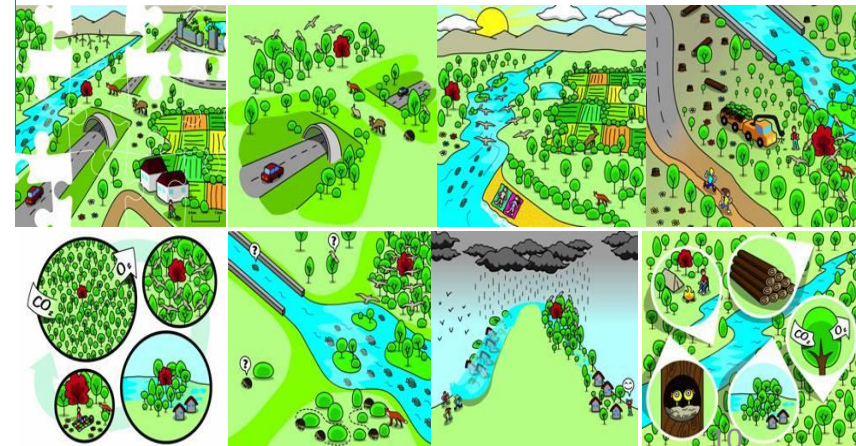
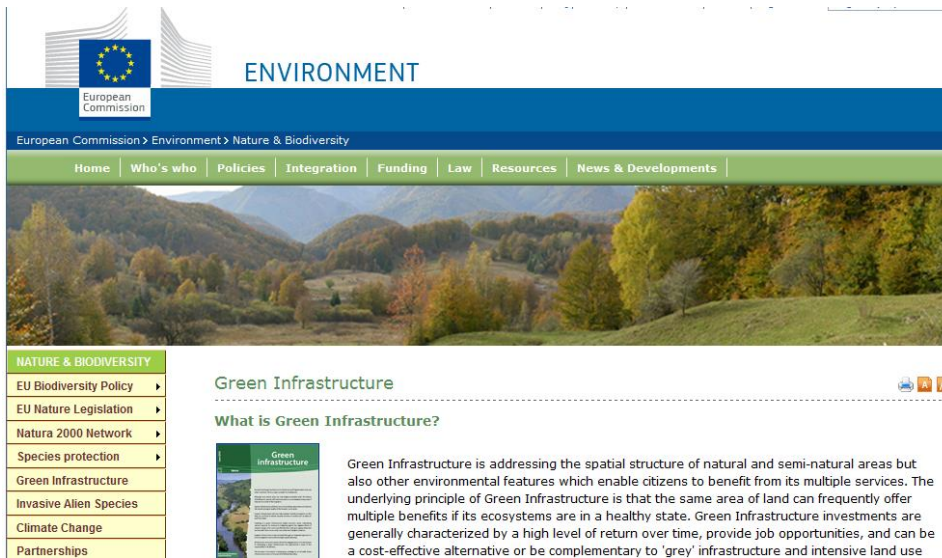
- Literature review
- Survey rural community leaders
- Key informant interviews
- Case study write-up



Innovative Use of GI Practices in Rural Ontario – Survey Results Summary

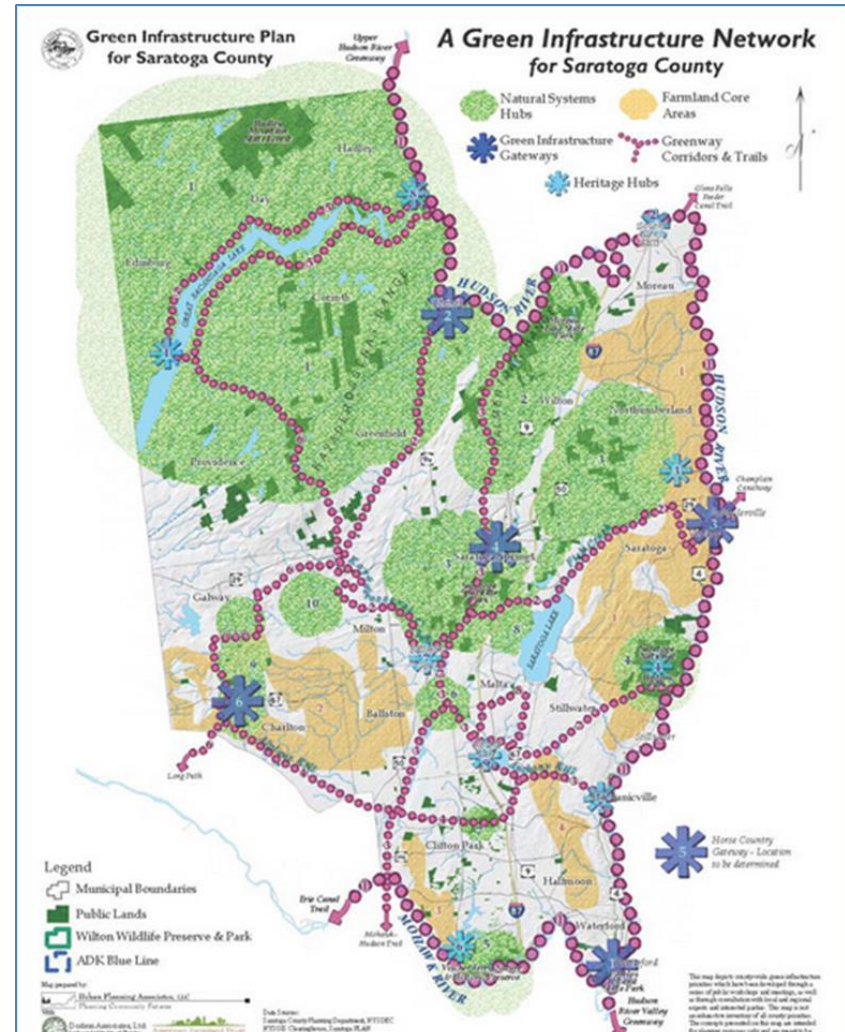
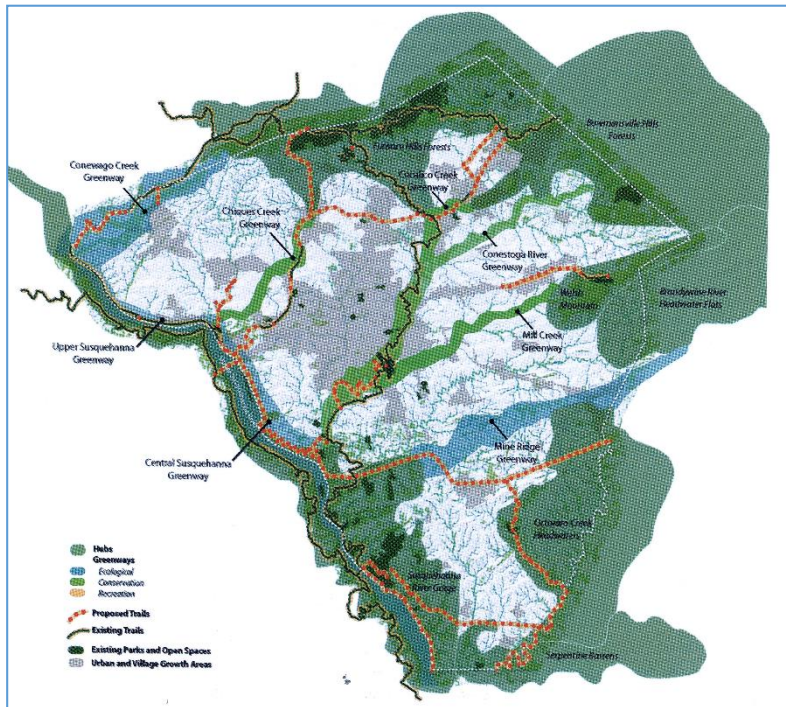
Lit Review - GI Planning in Europe

- Significant literature on the subject. . . Strong EU interest in addressing climate change impacts and protection of biodiversity



Lit Review - GI Planning in USA

Lancaster County, PA Green Infrastructure Plan



OMAFRA Survey - Innovative GI Elements

- Official Plans
- Sustainability planning
- Stewardship incentives
- Eco-cultural tourism
- Permaculture projects
- Local food
- Active transportation
- Parks, trails
- Soil erosion control
- Soil quality enhancement
- Woodlots
- Tree planting
- Rain gardens

- Natural habitat restoration
- Green linkages
- Prairie habitat
- Windbreaks, buffers
- Pollinator plantings
- Streetscapes
- Species at risk
- Watershed protection
- Source water protection
- Wetland protection
- Shoreline protection
- Climate change adaptation planning
- Sense of place cultural landscapes

Research shows varied approaches to integrating GI into rural municipalities.

OMAFRA Case Studies - Economic Benefits

- Growth of green industry: jobs in design, construction, maintenance
- Horticultural/landscaping jobs
- Less spending by municipalities
- Decreased energy costs
- Avoids cost of flooding, road repair
- Mitigates drought costs
- Attracting visitors – spending in local economy
- Eco-tourism
- Economic spinoffs
- Attracting young professionals
- Attracting & retaining residents
- Increased property value
- Timber sales
- Reduced healthcare costs – clean air & water, green space, increased physical activity
- Local food production
- Generates money from fees
- Creates niche markets – i.e. permaculture
- Environmental resilience
- Cost savings to farmers (inputs)
- Safeguarding soils
- Increase yields
- Education
- Preserves wildlife habitat
- Complements ‘grey’ infrastructure provision

GI provides multiple opportunities for stimulating economic activity, providing jobs, and offering cost benefits to rural municipalities.

GI Element Themed Categories

Community Livability (strategic planning)
Culture, Education, Recreation, Tourism
Local Food, Soil Quality Enhancement
Biodiversity, Habitat/Species Protection
Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation
Water, Stormwater Management
Woodlands, Woodlots, Street Trees
Other (recycled land, brownfields)

Source: European Environment Agency, 2011



Source: Pollination Guelph



Source: Urban Toronto



Source: Tourism Windsor Essex

Case Study/GI Theme Matrix

	Themes	Community Liveability	Culture Educ. Rec. Tourism	Local Food, Soil Quality Enhancement	Biodiversity, Habitat & Species Protection	Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation	Water, SW Mgmt.	Forests Trees Woodlots	Other (AT, brown-fields)
Case Studies									
Take Action for a Sustainable Huron		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Georgian Bay OP		X	X		X		X		X
Essex - CWATS		X	X						X
Clean Water ~ Green Spaces		X		X	X		X	X	X
Garvey Creek / Glenn Drain		X		X			X		
Maitland River video		X	X						
Rainscaping, Phosphorous Offsetting		X				X	X		
Mississippi Valley CA Climate Change model		X	X			X	X		
Transition Perth permaculture		X	X	X					
Simcoe Forests		X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Temagami Tourism		X	X		X				
Wingham Ecological Park		X	X		X		X		X
Green Legacy		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Case Study – Clean Water ~ Green Spaces

- Incentive program for landowners that aims to improve regional water quality; increase & protect existing natural areas/biodiversity
- Funding directed at:
 - Natural area restoration
 - Buffer strips, windbreaks, tree planting, soil erosion controls
 - Wetland construction
 - Pollinator plantings



Essex Region Conservation Authority



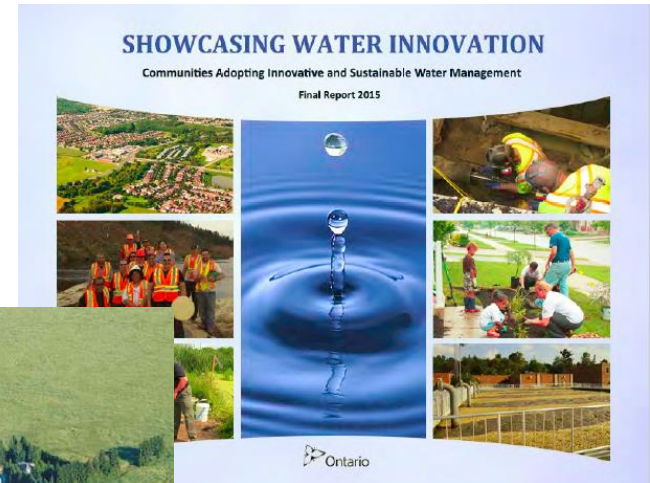
Background context – part of Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, Great Lakes Protection Act, Detroit River Cleanup & Cdn. Heritage River



Case Study – Garvey Creek-Glenn Drain Sub-Watershed

County
of Huron

- One of 5 project watershed areas along southeast Lake Huron, investigating mechanisms to improve water quality & reduce soil erosion
- Pre & post monitoring rural stormwater run-off metrics, and stewardship efforts



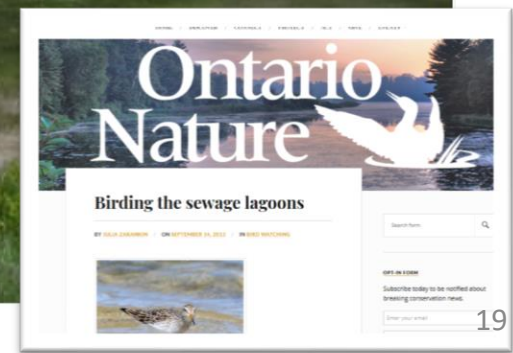
Garvey-Glenn Watershed Stormwater Management Features

- Natural channels
- Constructed wetlands
- Erosion control berms/controlled outlets (WASCoB)
- Grassed swales



Other GI Elements: Constructed Wetlands for Wastewater Treatment (Rural Sewage Lagoons)

Cobalt, Ont. Constructed Wetland



Other GI Elements: Strategic Tree Placement for Living Snow Fences, Windbreaks, Shading



Other GI Elements: Floodplain Riparian Buffers & Marginal Farmland Retirement



Maitland Valley CA Stormwater
infiltration and remediation galleries



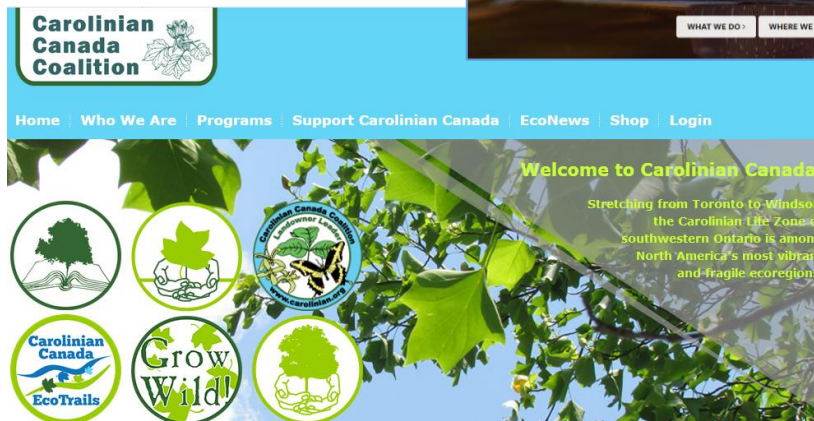
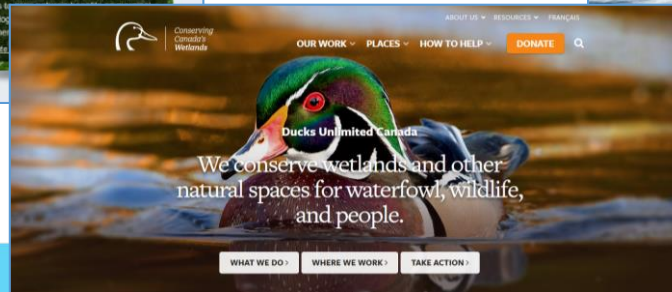
Grand River CA riparian buffer and
creek setback

Other GI Elements:

Recreation & Temporary Stormwater Storage



Other GI Elements: Leverage NGO and Senior Government Program \$ to Assist Local Stewardship Efforts



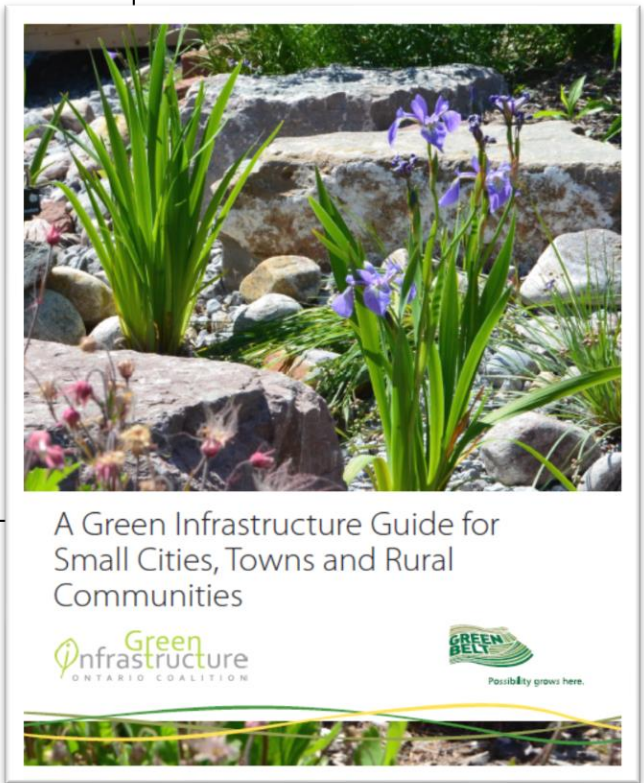
Source: OSCIA, Environmental Farm Plan & GLASI

Other GI Elements:

Web info sources on GI



Ontario Green Infrastructure Coalition

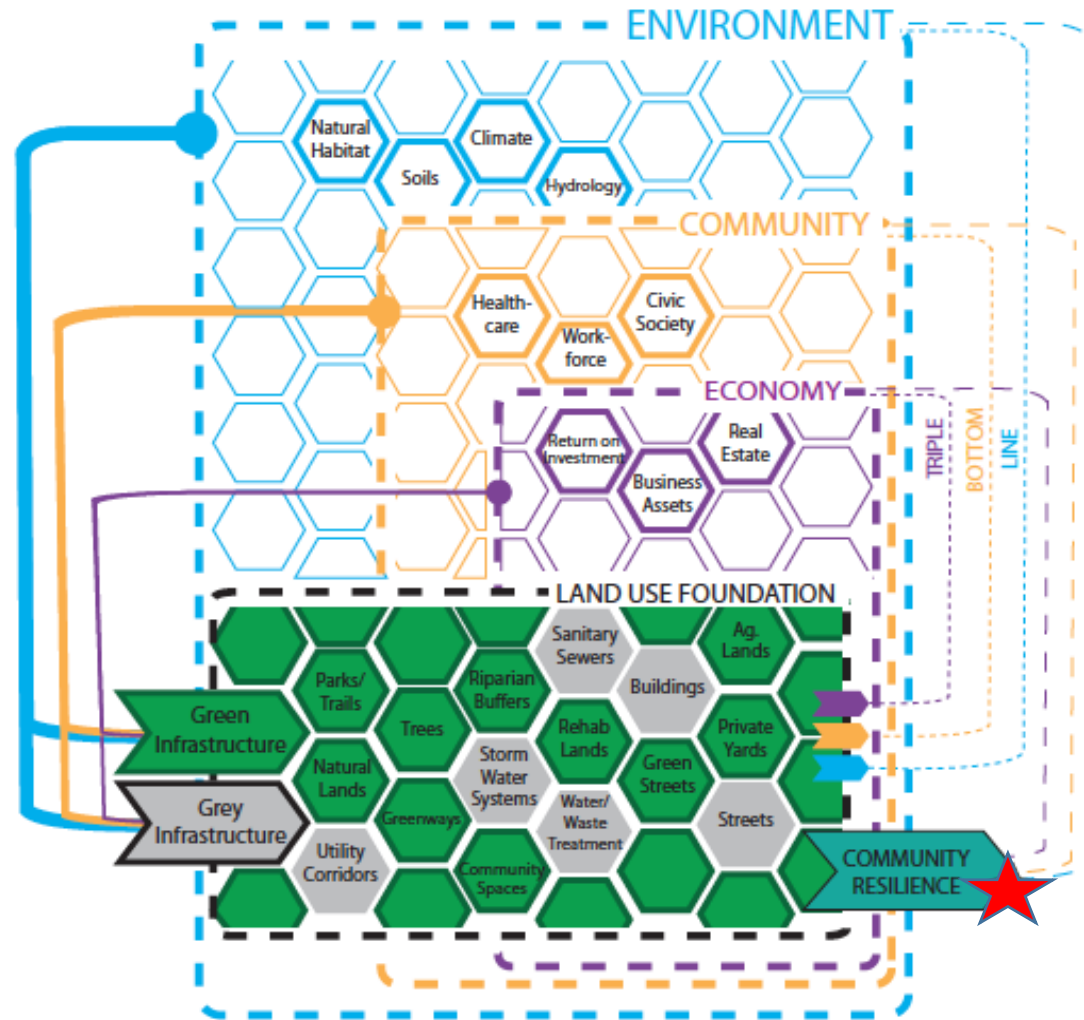


Greenbelt Foundation
Guidebook

GI & Grey Infrastructure Working Together:

GI Strategic Community Planning Conceptual Framework

Adapted from Rouse & Bunster-Ossa, 2013



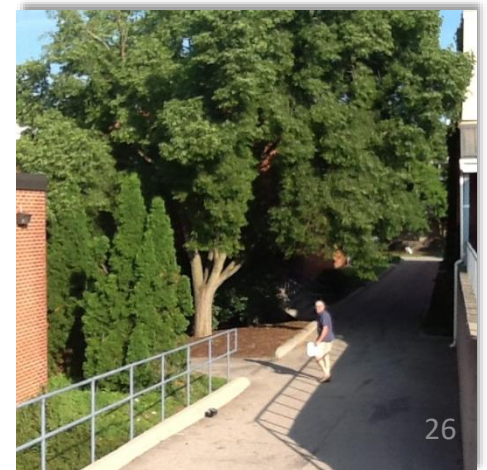
Key



Conclusions

- Green infrastructure elements can be effective in addressing many challenges found in rural places
- Natural elements are cost effective and adaptable to many settings
- Land use planning using GI elements (with traditional 'grey' infrastructure) can be leveraged for community resiliency

Kraehling, 2016





Applying Nature/Natural Systems as Green Infrastructure (GI) in the Planning of Resilient Rural Communities (with a Water Focus)

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GI OMAFRA/UofG Report @ <http://waynecaldwell.ca/Projects/greeninfrastructure.html>



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