

Lake Major Watershed Newsletter



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Winter 2011

Lake Major Watershed Protected Water Area

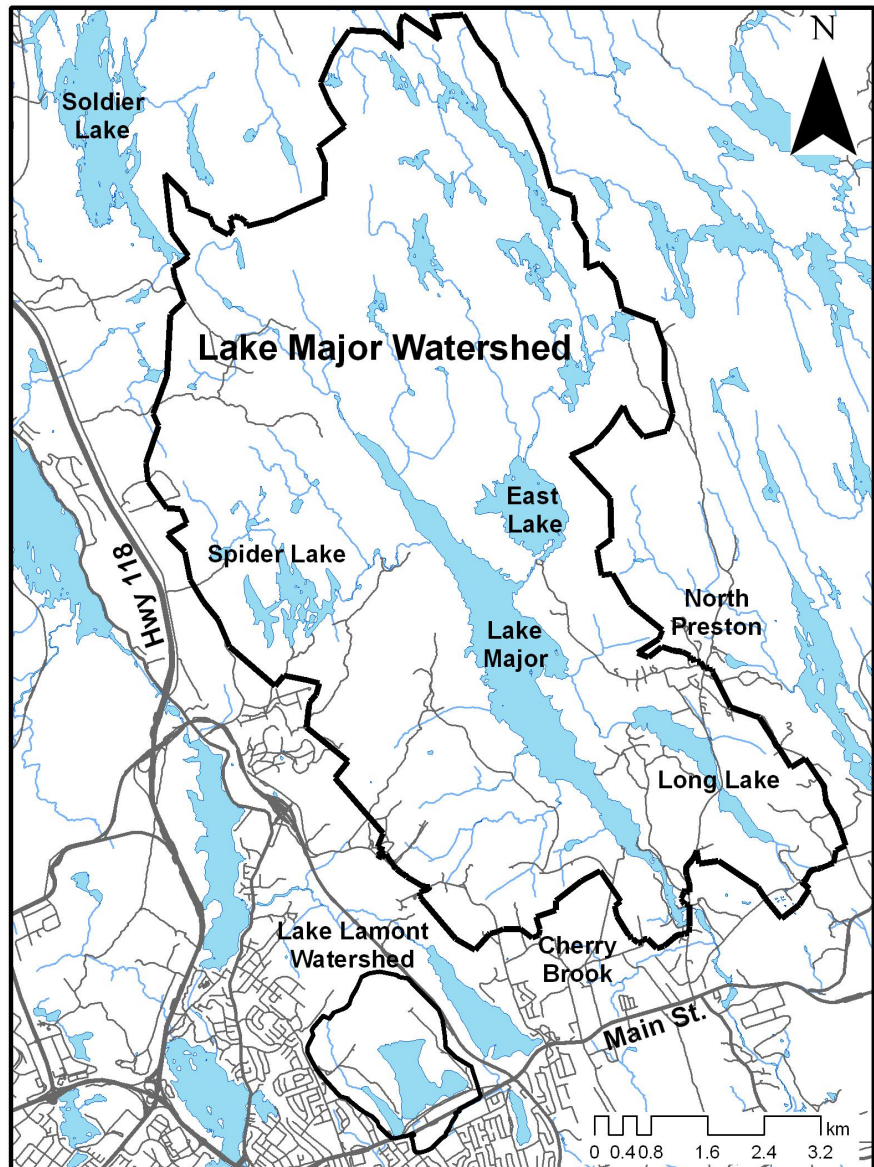
As we have recently expanded our newsletter readership distribution, we would like to take this opportunity to tell you a bit more about the Lake Major Watershed.

A watershed is an area of land that collects rain and snow and drains into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater. The Lake Major Watershed is approximately 7000 ha in size, and is located north of Main Street in Dartmouth. The watershed is approximately 89% forest; the remaining areas are primarily residential, with some commercial developments.

Lake Major provides public water supplies to the communities of Dartmouth, Cole Harbour, Eastern Passage, Westphal, Cherry Brook, North Preston, and Montague Gold Mines.

There are multiple checks and balances to ensure clean and healthy water all the way from the source to your tap. Water from Lake Major is treated at the Lake Major Water Treatment Plant, where it is filtered and disinfected to remove impurities and improve taste. After the water leaves the plant, Halifax Water also conducts routine water quality testing at locations along the distribution system to check that water quality is being maintained.

Halifax Water also believes that keeping water sources clean and healthy is the most efficient and cost-effective way to ensure public health protection and maintain healthy supplies for both us and our environment. This commitment to environmental stewardship drives our **Source Water Protection Program**.



Tips for preventing water pollution this winter:

- **Physically remove as much snow and ice as possible before applying deicers, such as salt.** Adding deicers without first removing ice and snow can lead to over-application, which means more salt and chemicals end up in our waterways.
- **Limit salt application.** Consider limiting salt use to one common entrance to your home, and reducing the amount used on driveways and sidewalks. By limiting your salt use, you save money and the environment!
- **Consider greener alternatives.** Deicers such as sand, potassium acetate (KAc), and calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) are less environmentally harmful than salt and are not corrosive.

Source Water Protection

Source waters are the untreated water sources that we use for public water supplies. All the water within the Lake Major Watershed is considered to be source water (i.e., lakes, rivers, wetlands, and groundwater).

Our goal for source water protection is to maintain, or improve, the quality of drinking water resources **before** it reaches the treatment plant. Protecting water at the source helps to prevent contaminants from entering the drinking water system.

In general, Halifax Water's protection program for Lake Major includes:

- Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board
- Regulations for Environmental Protection
- Purchasing Watershed Lands
- Sound Forest and Land Management
- Source Water Area Monitoring
- Public Awareness and Education
- Research Projects and Other Initiatives

In the previous Lake Major Watershed newsletter, we highlighted our watershed monitoring program, as well as some of our public awareness and education projects.

From a regulation standpoint, the Lake Major Watershed was designated as a Protected Water Area in 1986 by the Province of Nova Scotia. The designation regulates activities such as fire, vehicles and water vessels, fishing and hunting, construction and development, chemical application, among issues that could affect water quality. The full list of regulations can be found on the internet:
www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/envpwlmr.htm

Maintaining healthy forests in the Lake Major Watershed into the future is vital for conserving quality water supplies. A research project in collaboration

with Dalhousie University has been recently completed that contributes to this goal. James Steenberg, a Master of Environmental Studies student in the School of Resource and Environmental Studies, investigated how potential effects of climate change may alter the Lake Major Watershed forested areas.

James used computer modeling techniques to simulate how our native tree species would respond to change, and projected how various forestry management techniques could be used to maintain a healthy watershed forest ecosystem.

More information on the Lake Major Watershed and Halifax Water's Source Water Protection Program can be found on our website:
www.halifaxwater.ca

Lake Major Watershed Community News

Forestry Activities – As the hurricane cleanup efforts were completed in 2009, there were no forestry management activities planned for 2010.

Website Update – Watch for Halifax Water's new Source Water Protection website in winter 2011. The site will feature up to date information on the Lake Major Watershed and how we can protect our water supplies.

Profile of Reid Campbell

Reid Campbell is Director of Water Services with Halifax Water. In this role he is responsible for the operation of all aspects of the municipal water supplies serving Halifax Regional Municipality.

This includes over 100 employees working in water treatment plants, water quality management, distribution system operation and maintenance and technical services, which is the group that looks after

computerized controls and communications systems that allows its facilities to work. Water Services also includes Source Water Protection which includes the Lake Major Watershed Advisory Board.

Reid joined Halifax Water as Planning Engineer in 1998. In 2001, he became Manager of Plant Operations and in August 2007, with the merger with HRM's wastewater system he became Director of Water Services.

Prior to joining Halifax Water, Reid worked for a large consulting engineering company in Toronto for six years, where he was involved in the design of water treatment plants and pumping stations. He then worked for a smaller consulting company in Halifax for four years, and while in that role had the opportunity to work on the Lake Major Water Treatment Plant project. Reid has been involved with the current treatment plant since the early days of its design and construction.

Reid says he finds his participation in the LMWSAB very rewarding. "All of the community members of the Board have a long history of community involvement and volunteerism and it is very rewarding to work with people who are putting such effort into the betterment of their communities."

Reid lists the completion of the Lake Major plant, successful recovery of the Hurricane Juan forest damage, the first phase of the Preston trail system, and the establishment of the Arnold Johnson scholarship as highlights of his time working with the watershed communities.

How to Contact Us:

The Lake Major Watershed Newsletter is a publication of Halifax Water. Visit our website at www.halifaxwater.ca, contact Customer Service at 490-4820, email us at Cust_Inq@halifaxwater.ca, fax us at 490-4749, or write to us at P.O. Box 8388 RPO CSC, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 5M1

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