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# **The 2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report:** Burlington, Burloak and Oakville Water Treatment Plants and the South Halton Distribution Subsystem

February 2024



## Introduction

Halton is committed to providing safe drinking water to all of our customers. As mandated by the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*, this annual Water Quality Report includes:

- a description of the water treatment process and chemicals used;
- any major expenses to install, repair or upgrade equipment in the system; and
- the results of our water tests and how they compare to provincial regulatory standards.

In the Burlington, Burloak and Oakville Water Treatment Plants and in the South Halton Water Distribution Subsystem, all provincial regulatory monitoring requirements were met or surpassed in the current reporting year.

## Burlington Water Treatment Plant

**Drinking Water System Number: 220001664**

The Burlington Water Treatment Plant (WTP), located at 3249 Lakeshore Road, Burlington, has a rated capacity to produce 263 ML/d (million litres per day) of treated drinking water. The raw water source is Lake Ontario.

This facility is a conventional filtration treatment plant with a process that consists of a sand ballasted clarification process (microsand-enhanced clarification), filtration, fluoridation, ozonation (disinfection and taste and odour control) and chlorination (disinfection). Seasonally, the water is chlorinated at the intake for mussel control. The treatment chemicals used in the current reporting year were:

- chlorine gas (disinfection and control of particle counts on filters and mussel formation at the intakes);
- hydrofluosilicic acid (fluoridation);
- polyaluminum chloride with provision to switch to aluminum sulphate (coagulation);
- polymer (coagulation aid);
- waste polymer (waste treatment aid);
- sodium bisulphite or calcium thiosulphate (dechlorination and ozone quenching);
- sodium metabisulphite (waste dechlorination);
- liquid oxygen (ozone generation).

The plant is controlled through a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system that is monitored twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. The treated drinking water is pumped into the South Halton Distribution Subsystem which serves Burlington, Oakville and areas of Milton and Halton Hills.

## Burloak Water Treatment Plant

**Drinking Water System Number: 260085436**

The Burloak Water Treatment Plant (WTP), located at 3380 Rebecca Street, Oakville, has a rated capacity to produce 55 ML/d (million litres per day) of treated drinking water. The facility is a membrane filtration treatment plant with a process that consists of flocculation, ultra-filtration (via membranes), ultra-violet irradiation, ozonation (disinfection and taste and odour control), fluoridation and chlorination (disinfection). Seasonally, the water is chlorinated at the intake for mussel control. The treatment chemicals used in the current reporting year were:

- chlorine gas (disinfection and mussel control);
- hydrofluosilicic acid (fluoridation);
- polyaluminum chloride;
- citric acid (clean membranes);
- sodium bisulphite (dechlorination and ozone quenching);
- sodium hypochlorite (maintenance cleans on membrane system)
- liquid oxygen (ozone generation); and
- potassium hydroxide (pH adjustment on waste system).

The plant is controlled through a SCADA system that is monitored twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. The treated drinking water is pumped into the South Halton Distribution Subsystem which serves Burlington, Oakville and areas of Milton and Halton Hills.

## Oakville Water Treatment Plant

**Drinking Water System Number: 220001637**

The Oakville Water Treatment Plant (WTP), located at 21 Kerr Street, Oakville, has a rated capacity to produce 130 ML/d (million litres per day) of treated drinking water. The raw water source is Lake Ontario.

This facility is a conventional filtration treatment plant with a process that consists of a sand ballasted clarification process (microsand-enhanced clarification), filtration, fluoridation, ozonation (disinfection and taste and odour control) and chlorination (disinfection). Seasonally, the water is chlorinated at the intake for mussel control. The treatment chemicals used in the current reporting year were:

- chlorine gas (disinfection and mussel control);
- hydrofluosilicic acid (fluoridation);
- polyaluminum chloride with provision to switch to aluminum sulphate (coagulation);
- polymer - solid (coagulation aid);
- polymer - liquid (filtration and residue management aid);
- liquid oxygen (ozone generation);
- provision for hydrogen peroxide addition (taste and odour control); and
- calcium thiosulphate (dechlorination and ozone quenching).

The plant is controlled through a SCADA system that is monitored twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. The treated drinking water is pumped into the South Halton Distribution Subsystem which serves Burlington, Oakville and areas of Milton and Halton Hills.

## South Halton Distribution Subsystem

**Drinking Water System Number: 260085462**

The South Halton Distribution Subsystem is registered separately from the three water treatment plants; Burlington, Burloak and Oakville WTPs which provide the drinking water. The South Halton Distribution Subsystem serves Burlington, Oakville and areas of Milton and Halton Hills.

## What Improvements Are We Making?

In the current reporting year, approximately \$24,200,000 was spent on capital upgrades to the Burlington, Burloak and Oakville treatment facilities and South Halton outlying stations. Projects included:

- Neyagawa Pumping Station Upgrades
- Brant Street Reservoir Column Repair
- Mount Forest Booster Station Decommissioning
- Burloak Water Treatment Plant Membrane Replacement
- Oakville Water Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrade
- Oakville Water Treatment Plant Chlorine Intake System Replacement

Approximately \$25,730,000 was spent on watermain projects in Oakville, Burlington, Milton and Halton Hills (lake-based) which are all connected to the South Halton Distribution Subsystem. In addition to capital upgrades, Halton continued to support the production of high-quality, safe drinking water through water sampling and monitoring above the provincial requirements, ongoing upgrades to the SCADA monitoring and infrastructure management systems, oversight of cross-

connection control, an update of the Water Master Plan, water efficiency programs and optimization of water treatment processes. Work also continued on the Drinking Water Quality Management System, a provincial requirement to support the licensing of municipal drinking water systems which came into effect for Halton in January 2009.

## Partnership for Safe Water Program

The Partnership for Safe Water is an alliance of drinking water organizations with a mission of improving the quality of drinking water delivered to customers. Halton Region is actively involved in the Partnership for Safe Water program that awarded the Region the prestigious American Water Works Association Directors Awards in 2020. The Region is the first municipality in Canada to receive the awards recognizing outstanding commitment to high-quality drinking water and treatment. The Public Works department has built a one-team culture effectively integrating operations with maintenance and engineering. The culture aligns with the Partnership for Safe Water and optimization program capable plant concept. Operational process control combines with facility design, asset maintenance and administrative policies to create an infrastructure capable of achieving or bettering objectives and targets set by the regulatory bodies and the operating authority.

## Water Quality Testing

A large number of water quality tests are performed each and every day, in accordance with the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* and regulations. The following sections provide a summary of the test results.

### Terms

CFU/100 mL	Colony-forming units per 100 millilitres of water
µg/L	micrograms per litre
mg/L	milligrams per litre
Standard	Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standard, O.Reg. 169/03

## Microbiological Testing

	Number of Samples	<i>E. coli</i> Results (min - max)	Total Coliform Results (min - max)	Number of Heterotrophic Plate Count* Samples	Heterotrophic Plate Count Results (min – max)
Raw Water Burlington	52	0 – 100	0 – 3900	N/A	N/A
Treated Water Burlington	52	0 – Absent	0 – Absent	52	0 - 2
Raw Water Oakville	52	0 – 26	0 - 921	N/A	N/A
Treated Water Oakville	58	0 – Absent	0 – Absent	58	0 - 4
Raw Water Burloak	52	0 - 6	0 – 330	N/A	N/A
Treated Water Burloak	58	0 – Absent	0 – Absent	58	0 - 13
Distribution	3144	0 – Absent	0 - Present	2331	0 - 87

### Microbiological standards for treated and distributed water:

<i>E. coli</i>	not detected
Total Coliforms	not detected
HPC	Heterotrophic Plate Counts are conducted on some treated and distribution system samples. The HPC test is used as a tool to monitor overall quality, but the results are not indicators of water safety. There is no Drinking Water Quality Standard for HPC.

## Operational Testing

At all three WTPs, continuous analyzers measure and record the results of chlorine residual, turbidity and fluoride residual throughout the treatment process and in the treated water. All of the readings are validated by an operator and are also reviewed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Inspector. As well, Halton operators measure the chlorine in the distributed water. 'Adverse' test results must be reported if there is an indication that primary inactivation (disinfection) may not have been achieved, if the turbidity of filtered water is >1.0 NTU, if the fluoride residual is >1.5 mg/L or if a free chlorine residual in the distribution system is <0.05 mg/L. In the current reporting year, all validated readings and test results for these parameters were within the ranges required by regulation.

## Chemical Testing

### Inorganic Parameters – Treated Water (unless otherwise noted)

Parameter	Sample Date	Unit of Measure	Burlington Result	Oakville Result	Burloak Result	Standard	Exceedance of Standard
Antimony	04/17/23	mg/L	<0.0005	<0.0005	0.0005	0.006	No
Arsenic	04/17/23	mg/L	<0.001	<0.001	0.001	0.01	No
Barium	04/17/23	mg/L	0.023	0.022	0.026	1.0	No
Boron	04/17/23	mg/L	0.024	0.024	0.025	5.0	No
Bromate (latest running annual average)	12/04/23	mg/L	0.005	0.005	0.003	0.01 (running annual average)	No
Cadmium	04/17/23	mg/L	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	0.005	No
Chromium	04/17/23	mg/L	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.05	No
Mercury	04/17/23	mg/L	<0.00005	<0.00005	<0.00005	0.001	No
Selenium	04/17/23	mg/L	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	0.05	No
Sodium	12/11/23	mg/L	14.6	*22.2 Duplicate *22.4	15.2	20	*Yes – Reported January 2023
Uranium	04/17/23	mg/L	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	0.02	No
Fluoride	12/11/23	mg/L	0.73	0.71	0.71	1.5	No
Nitrite	11/13/23	mg/L	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	1.0	No
Nitrate	11/13/23	mg/L	0.30	0.43	0.32	10.0	No

### Organic Parameters – Treated Water (unless otherwise noted)

Parameter	Sample Date	Unit of Measure	Burlington Result	Oakville Result	Burloak Result	Standard	Exceedance of Standard
Alachlor	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	5	No
Atrazine + N-dealkylated metabolites	04/17/23	µg/L	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	5	No
Azinphos-methyl	04/17/23	µg/L	<2.0	<2.0	<2.0	20	No
Benzene	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	1	No
Benzo(a)pyrene	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.0050	<0.0050	<0.0050	0.01	No
Bromoxynil	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	5	No
Carbaryl	04/17/23	µg/L	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	90	No
Carbofuran	04/17/23	µg/L	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	90	No
Carbon Tetrachloride	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	2	No
Chlorpyrifos	04/17/23	µg/L	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	90	No

Parameter	Sample Date	Unit of Measure	Burlington Result	Oakville Result	Burloak Result	Standard	Exceedance of Standard
Diazinon	04/17/23	µg/L	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	20	No
Dicamba	04/17/23	µg/L	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	120	No
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.20	<0.20	<0.20	200	No
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.20	<0.20	<0.20	5	No
1,2-Dichloroethane	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.20	<0.20	<0.20	5	No
1,1-Dichloroethylene (vinylidene chloride)	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	14	No
Dichloromethane	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	50	No
2-4 Dichlorophenol	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.25	<0.25	<0.25	900	No
2,4-Dichlorophenoxy acetic acid (2,4-D)	04/17/23	µg/L	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	100	No
Diclofop-methyl	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.90	<0.90	<0.90	9	No
Dimethoate	04/17/23	µg/L	<2.5	<2.5	<2.5	20	No
Diquat	04/17/23	µg/L	<7.0	<7.0	<7.0	70	No
Diuron	04/17/23	µg/L	<10	<10	<10	150	No
Glyphosate	04/17/23	µg/L	<10	<10	<10	280	No
HAA (latest running annual average)	11/13/23	µg/L	5.6	5.5	6.5	80 (running annual average)	No
2-Methyl-4-chlorophenoxyacetic acid	04/17/23	µg/L	<10	<10	<10	100	No
Malathion	04/17/23	µg/L	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	190	No
Metolachlor	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	50	No
Metribuzin	04/17/23	µg/L	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	80	No
Monochlorobenzene	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	80	No
Paraquat	04/17/23	µg/L	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	10	No
Pentachlorophenol	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	60	No
Phorate	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	2	No
Picloram	04/17/23	µg/L	<5.0	<5.0	<5.0	190	No
Polychlorinated Biphenyls(PCB)	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	3	No
Prometryne	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.25	<0.25	<0.25	1	No
Simazine	04/17/23	µg/L	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	10	No
THM - Distribution (latest running annual average)	11/13/23	µg/L	29.6	29.6	29.6	100 (running annual average)	No
Terbufos	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	1	No
Tetrachloroethylene	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	10	No
2,3,4,6-Tetrachlorophenol	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	100	No
Triallate	04/17/23	µg/L	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	230	No
Trichloroethylene	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	5	No
2,4,6-Trichlorophenol	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.50	<0.50	<0.50	5	No
Trifluralin	04/17/23	µg/L	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	45	No
Vinyl Chloride	04/17/23	µg/L	<0.20	<0.20	<0.20	1	No

## Additional Testing Required by the Municipal Drinking Water Licence

Parameter	Date Sampled	Burlington Result	Oakville Result	Burloak Result	Exceedance of Specified Concentration
Suspended solids in the treated wastewater at point of discharge (composite or automatic sampler)	Monthly (January to December)	5.7 mg/L (average) Max. per MDWL = 15 mg/L	9.0 mg/L (average) Max. per MDWL = 25 mg/L	24 mg/L <sup>1</sup> (average) Max. per MDWL = 15 mg/L	No <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The suspended solids limits for the water treatment plants are only applicable when the plants are discharging waste to the natural environment (i.e. storm sewer system). At the Burloak Water Treatment Plant, the waste discharges to the sanitary sewer system and the discharge to storm valve is normally closed, meaning that the limit of 15 mg/L is not applicable unless this operational practice changes.

## 'Adverse' Results Notifications

The following tables show the notices of 'adverse' water quality results submitted in accordance with the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* to the MECP and the Medical Officer of Health.

Sample Date	Location	Adverse Condition	Corrective Action	Notice of Issue Resolution
January 16, 2023	Treated	Sodium = 22.2 mg/L Duplicate = 22.4 mg/L	Resamples taken and resample results within acceptable limits Reportable every 57 months	January 18, 2023
April 10, 2023	Treated	Turbidity = 1.03 NTU Duplicate = 1.01 NTU	Resamples taken and resample results within acceptable limits	April 11, 2023
April 10, 2023	Distribution	Sodium = 20.4 mg/L/Duplicate = 20.3 mg/L Sodium = 26.8 mg/L Sodium = 21.7 mg/L	Resamples taken and results were comparable in value to the original sample(s) Reportable every 57 months	April 11, 2023
July 13, 2023	Distribution	Presence/Absence confirmed Total Coliform	System flushed, resampled, and resample results within acceptable limits	July 15, 2023
July 24, 2023	Distribution	Presence/Absence confirmed Total Coliform Duplicate also PA confirmed Total Coliform	System flushed, resampled, and resample results within acceptable limits	July 26, 2023
July 25, 2023	Distribution	Presence/Absence confirmed Total Coliform	System flushed and resampled, results within acceptable limits	July 27, 2023
August 1, 2023	Distribution	Watermain Failure	Repaired, disinfected, and distribution samples collected within acceptable limits	August 2, 2023
September 26, 2023	Distribution	Presence/Absence confirmed Total Coliform	System flushed, resampled, and resample results within acceptable limits	September 28, 2023

## Community-Wide Lead Sampling Program Results

Under the Community-Wide Lead Sampling Program, samples were collected from twenty-three sampling points and twenty-five sets of consumer samples located throughout the South Halton Distribution Subsystem in the current reporting year. None of the samples contained concentrations of lead above the standard of 10 µg/L.

## Microcystin Sampling Results

Under the direction of the MECP, Microcystin samples were collected on a weekly basis from June to October, from Oakville, Burlington and Burloak water treatment plants. None of the samples contained Microcystin concentrations at or above the standard of 1.5 µg/L. The results for all raw and treated samples were <0.1 µg/L for Total Microcystin.

## More Information or Questions

The related annual Drinking Water Systems Flow Summary Report is presented to Municipal Council members on or before March 31 of each year and is posted on [halton.ca](http://halton.ca).

For alternate formats or questions relating to these documents, email [accesshalton@halton.ca](mailto:accesshalton@halton.ca) or call 311.

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