

[Back to previous page](#)



document 1 of 1

## Our city is flush with water:: [Final Edition]

Loten, Angus. **The Gazette** [Montreal, Que] 27 Aug 2003: A.7.

Find a copy



[http://lg5jh7pa3n.search.serialssolutions.com/?ctx\\_ver=Z39.88-2004&ctx\\_enc=info:ofi/enc:UTF-8&rft\\_id=info:sid/ProQ%3Acanadiannews&rft\\_val\\_fmt=info:ofi/fmt:mtx:journal&rft.genre=unknown&rft.jtitle=The+Gazette&rft.atitle=Our+city+is+flush+with+water%3A+08-27&rft.volume=&rft.issue=&rft.spage=A.7&rft.isbn=&rft.btitle=&rft.title=The+Gazette&rft.issn=03841294&rft\\_id=info:doi/](http://lg5jh7pa3n.search.serialssolutions.com/?ctx_ver=Z39.88-2004&ctx_enc=info:ofi/enc:UTF-8&rft_id=info:sid/ProQ%3Acanadiannews&rft_val_fmt=info:ofi/fmt:mtx:journal&rft.genre=unknown&rft.jtitle=The+Gazette&rft.atitle=Our+city+is+flush+with+water%3A+08-27&rft.volume=&rft.issue=&rft.spage=A.7&rft.isbn=&rft.btitle=&rft.title=The+Gazette&rft.issn=03841294&rft_id=info:doi/)

### Abstract (summary)

Montrealers each consume on average about 373 litres of water every day, the study found, above the national average of 343 litres.

The country's next biggest users were Hamilton at 921 litres and St. John's, Nfld., at 878 litres.

Municipalities with the lowest per capita water use included Iqaluit, Waterloo and Regina, all under 400 litres.

### Full Text

Canadian study: Leaky pipes, not home use, to blame. 37 per cent of Montreal total is unaccounted for: 'there's something funny going on'

Montreal uses more water than any other city in the country, a new study shows.

But nearly half that supply is lost through leaky pipes and a crumbling network with sections predating confederation.

Flushing the Future, a study by the POLIS Project on Ecological Governance at the University of Victoria, ranked the city highest in total water use among 20 urban centres in Canada.

Montrealers each consume on average about 373 litres of water every day, the study found, above the national average of 343 litres.

But combine that with commercial and industrial users like restaurants, hospitals and manufacturers - and include spillage - and the total swells to well over 1,200 litres.

The country's next biggest users were Hamilton at 921 litres and St. John's, Nfld., at 878 litres.

Municipalities with the lowest per capita water use included Iqaluit, Waterloo and Regina, all under 400 litres.

The study, based on statistics from Environment Canada's Municipal Water Use database, found that about 37 per cent of Montreal's total water use is "unaccounted for."

"It's not surprising, since the city has one of the oldest water infrastructures in North America," said Oliver Brandes, the study's author.

He said the national average of water system losses is 13 per cent. "You naturally expect some losses in any system, but there's something funny going on in Montreal," he said.

Last August, 250 homes were flooded in St. Michel when a burst pipe sent 45 million litres of water gushing down Pie IX Blvd. in the middle of the night.

According to recent estimates, seven per cent of the city's 2,700-kilometre water supply network was laid down before the 1900s - with concrete pipes joining steel, cast iron and plastics.

Alan DeSousa, executive committee member responsible for the water network, admits much of it is "past its best-before date."

A PriceWaterhouseCooper study recently pegged the price of updating the system at \$4 billion over 20 years, he said.

Just keeping the system flowing - from pump stations drawing water from the St. Lawrence River to filtration plants and treatment centres - costs the city \$280 million a year.

"We can't fix everything overnight," he said. The city has doubled its water system budget and is looking to "secure more money from both federal and provincial governments for infrastructure projects."

aloten@thegazette.canwest.com

### Illustration

Graphic/Diagram: (See hard copy for graphic)

(Copyright Montreal Gazette 2003)

### Indexing (details)

<b>Title</b>	Our city is flush with water:: [Final Edition]
<b>Author</b>	Loten, Angus
<b>Publication title</b>	The Gazette
<b>Pages</b>	A.7
<b>Number of pages</b>	0
<b>Publication year</b>	2003

<b>Publication date</b>	Aug 27, 2003
<b>Year</b>	2003
<b>Section</b>	News
<b>Publisher</b>	Infomart, a division of Postmedia Network Inc.
<b>Place of publication</b>	Montreal, Que.
<b>Country of publication</b>	Canada
<b>Publication subject</b>	General Interest Periodicals--Canada
<b>ISSN</b>	03841294
<b>Source type</b>	Newspapers
<b>Language of publication</b>	English
<b>Document type</b>	Business
<b>ProQuest document ID</b>	433965334
<b>Document URL</b>	<a href="http://search.proquest.com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/docview/433965334?accountid=14846">http://search.proquest.com.ezproxy.library.uvic.ca/docview/433965334?accountid=14846</a>
<b>Copyright</b>	(Copyright Montreal Gazette 2003)
<b>Last updated</b>	2012-02-16
<b>Database</b>	Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies