



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## What's in the water? NVCA releases report on the state of local groundwater

UTOPIA, Ontario, March 20, 2009— In order to protect our precious, local water resources, we must study the sources of our water supply.

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) is unveiling a new report on the state of groundwater in our watershed to coincide with World Water Day on March 22nd. World Water Day has been an annual international day of observance since 1993 to draw attention to the need for worldwide access to clean, safe drinking water.

Results from the report, which can be found at [www.nvca.on.ca](http://www.nvca.on.ca), indicate that groundwater in the Nottawasaga Valley watershed meets Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards. However, while our water is clean and safe now, some concerns have been identified and continued monitoring and stewardship is necessary to protect water from contamination.

“It is important that our groundwater be in good health because the majority of watershed residents are solely dependent on groundwater resources for water supplies,” says Ryan Post, Hydrogeologist for the NVCA.

The watershed supports more than 130 municipal wells and more than 10,000 private wells. The only other source of drinking water in the watershed is the Georgian Bay surface water intake which services the communities of Collingwood, Angus, Baxter, Alliston and Beeton.



*NVCA staff monitor groundwater conditions in the watershed.*

NVCA staff annually monitor water in 15 wells located throughout the watershed as part of the Ministry of the Environment’s Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program. Monitoring data allows the NVCA to track changes in groundwater quantity and quality over time.

Groundwater from all monitoring wells meets the provincial health standards but water from some wells shows levels of the metals iron and manganese that are slightly above aesthetic objectives due to the aquifer’s natural characteristics. This

means that the taste, odour or colour of the water may be impaired. Another potential aesthetic concern is elevated sodium levels in shallow wells near Highway 400.

### Member Municipalities

Adjala-Tosoronto

Amaranth

Barrie

The Blue Mountains

Bradford-West Gwillimbury

Clearview

Collingwood

Essa

Innisfil

Melancthon

Mono

Mulmur

New Tecumseth

Oro-Medonte

Grey Highlands

Shelburne

Springwater

Wasaga Beach

### Watershed Counties

Simcoe

Dufferin

Grey

Member of



Conservation ONTARIO  
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“Groundwater is most vulnerable when the aquifer lies close to the ground surface,” says Post. “It is vital that landowners use best land management practices to prevent contaminating groundwater. Once contaminated, groundwater is extremely difficult to clean up.”

The NVCA offers a variety of grants to eligible landowners for land and water stewardship. Some projects include decommissioning or upgrading wells, inspecting and upgrading septic systems, agricultural runoff and erosion protection and business and industry pollution prevention reviews.

The NVCA’s watershed, which is an area of land that is drained by a river and its tributaries, spans approximately 3,700 square kilometres with jurisdiction in 18 municipalities in the counties of Simcoe, Dufferin and Grey.

To learn more about NVCA grants or to read the report on groundwater, please visit [www.nvca.on.ca](http://www.nvca.on.ca) or call (705) 424-1479.

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Mulmur

New Tecumseth

Oro-Medonte

Grey Highlands

Shelburne

Springwater

Wasaga Beach

## About the NVCA

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is a public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment through specialized programs to protect, conserve and enhance our water, wetlands, forests and lands.

For more information about the state of groundwater in the NVCA watershed, please contact:

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