



237897 Inglis Falls Road, R.R.#4, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 5N6 519 376-3076 www.greysauble.on.ca

World Water Day - March 22, 2018

For Immediate Release

Grey Sauble Conservation Releases 2018 Watershed Report Card

Owen Sound (March 22, 2018) – The five-year update of Conservation Authority Watershed Report Cards rollout today, and the grades indicate that many of Ontario’s watersheds, particularly those in southern, more urban areas are stressed. In contrast, the local Grey Sauble watersheds scored very well, with most achieving a grade of Good to Excellent!

The Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Watershed Report Cards released in 2008 and 2013 showed similar results. CAO Sonya Skinner commented that, “A healthy watershed provides economic, social and ecological benefits to all our communities. Given our significant increases in development and tourism, our positive Watershed Report Card results encourage us to continue and increase local efforts with our many partners, stakeholders, municipalities and developers.” The main challenges to healthy watersheds continue to be the impacts of development and severe weather.

Using a variety of methods, Grey Sauble Conservation monitors and reports on surface water quality, forest conditions, and wetland cover. Wetland cover is a new parameter reported on in 2018, which highlights the importance of these natural features, as they have large biodiversity and mitigate both flooding and droughts downstream.

Conservation Authorities work in many local, provincial and federal partnerships with governments, other agencies, landowners, and residents to plan and deliver watershed programs that strive to keep Ontario’s watersheds healthy. The Watershed Report Cards can be used to show the overall environmental trends in our watershed and assist in developing targeted actions to address issues. Increasing riparian areas (trees and shrubs) along watercourses is an extremely effective action because this improves water quality, forest cover, and can contribute to wildlife and fish habitat.

As with any report card, keeping up good grades takes work! Grey Sauble Conservation is looking forward to another successful year of tree planting, environmental planning, and stewardship projects with local landowners, our municipalities, and partners, which help restore, protect, and enhance natural features, while improving water quality.

You can access the local report card at www.greysauble.on.ca and find more information about the Watershed Report Cards and conditions across the province at www.watershedcheckup.ca.

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For more Information;

John Bittorf, Water Resources Coordinator j.bittorf@greysauble.on.ca 519 376-3076 ext 228

Gloria Dangerfield, GIS/Database Coordinator, g.dangerfield@greysauble.on.ca 519 376-3076 ext 237

Vicki Rowsell, Programs and Communications Planner v.rowsell@greysauble.on.ca 519 376-3076 ext. 278

Karen Gillan, Programs and Communications Planner/Risk Management Inspector k.gillan@greysauble.on.ca 519-376-3076 ext. 224

Background:

Our vision is a healthy watershed environment in balance with the needs of society.

Our mission, in partnership with the stakeholders of the watershed, is to promote and undertake sustainable management of renewable natural resources and to provide responsible leadership to enhance biodiversity and environmental awareness.

www.greysauble.on.ca

<http://www1.greysauble.on.ca/water-management/watershed-report-cards/>

<http://watershedcheckup.ca/>

www.stateofontariowatersheds.ca