

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Distribution of the NPCA Water Quality Summary Report for the Year 2020 to Member Municipalities

From: Grant Bivol <gbivol@npca.ca>

Sent: July 15, 2021 4:23 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca; Ann-Marie.Norio@niagararegion.ca; eeichenbaum@haldimandcounty.on.ca; billmatson@niagarafalls.ca; clerk@thorold.ca; clerk@welland.ca; ptodd@notl.org; WKolasa@wainfleet.ca; jkirkelos@lincoln.ca; cschofield@forterie.ca; skim@grimsby.ca; hwillford@pelham.ca; cityclerk@portcolborne.ca; bdunk@stcatharines.ca

Subject: Distribution of the NPCA Water Quality Summary Report for the Year 2020 to Member Municipalities

Dear Mr./Madam Clerk;

At the June 18, 2021 meeting of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's Board of Directors, the following Resolution No. FA-124-2021 was presented and carried:

Resolution No. FA-124-2021

Moved by Member Ingrao

Seconded by Member Kawall

1. **THAT** Report No. FA-38-21 RE: Water Quality Monitoring Program Summary Report for the Year 2020 **BE RECEIVED**.
2. **THAT** the actions highlighted in the report to inform municipalities, stakeholders, and the public about the report findings and best practices to improve local water quality **BE IMPLEMENTED**.
3. **AND FURTHER THAT** a copy of this report **BE CIRCULATED** to municipalities, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Ministry of the Environment and Parks (MECP) and the Federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).

CARRIED

As such, I am pleased to provide:

- a) A link to Board Report No. FA-38-21 RE: Water Quality Monitoring Program Summary Report for the Year 2020 and the associated presentation: https://npca.ca/images/uploads/board_files/FA_Meeting_Agenda_Package_-_June_18%2C_2021.pdf
- b) A link to the Water Quality Monitoring Program Summary Report for the Year 2020: <https://npca.ca/watershed-health#water-quality-monitoring>
- c) The associated NPCA Water Quality Fact Sheet (attached)

At your municipality's request and convenience, the NPCA would be pleased to make a short presentation to Council and/or staff regarding the Water Quality Monitoring Program Summary Report for the Year 2020.

Sincerely,

Grant Bivol

Grant Bivol

NPCA Clerk / Board Secretariat

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NPCA has taken measures to protect staff and public while providing continuity of services. The NPCA main office is open by appointment only with limited staff, please refer to the [Staff Directory](#) and reach out to the staff member you wish to speak or meet with directly. Our Conservation Areas are currently open, but may have modified amenities and/or regulations.

Updates regarding NPCA operations and activities can be found at [Get Involved NPCA Portal](#), or on social media at [NPCA's Facebook Page](#) & [NPCA's Twitter page](#).

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NPCA 2020 Annual Water Quality Monitoring Report Fact Sheet

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority regularly collects and tests water samples at 80 surface water stations and 38 groundwater stations located throughout the NPCA's jurisdiction. Surface water quality samples are analysed for several indicators such as chloride, nutrients, E. coli, suspended solids, and metals.

For more information and to review the full report, scan with your smart phone



Surface Water What Did We Find?

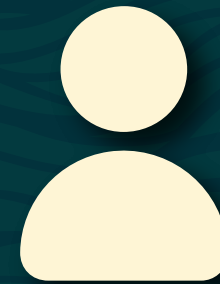


- Surface water monitoring results indicate most of the watersheds in the NPCA jurisdiction have poor water quality.
- The high levels of total phosphorus, E. coli, suspended solids, and chlorides within the surface water continue to be the major causes of poor water quality.
- The sources of these pollutants are generally from both rural areas (agricultural runoff and faulty septic systems) and urban areas (combined sewer overflows and urban stormwater runoff).
- The best water quality is found in watercourses where water is introduced from Lake Erie and the Niagara River, in watercourses with significant groundwater discharges and in watersheds with substantial natural landscapes.

Groundwater What Did We Find?



- The groundwater quality in NPCA's jurisdiction was found to be highly variable with some wells exceeding the Ontario Drinking Water Standards.
- All the Ontario Drinking Water Standards exceedances are a result of the natural conditions of the groundwater.
- Private well owners are responsible for having their well water tested regularly and to make sure that their well is properly maintained and in good condition.
- For information about private well testing, contact your municipality.



What Can You Do?

- Plant native trees, wildflowers, shrubs, and/or rainwater gardens.
- Reduce the amount of mown grass on your property.
- Reduce the amount of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers you use.
- Conserve water by using low flow showers and toilets, high efficiency clothes washers and dishwashers.
- Install rain barrels to collect water for use around your yard.



What Can Your Community Do?

- Sponsor community clean ups to keep waste out of natural areas.
- Look for ways to expand the existing urban tree canopy.
- Reduce the amount of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers used.



What Can Your Business Do?

- Establish a corporate volunteering program to support local initiatives such as tree plantings.
- Invest in 'greener' alternatives to current practices.
- Encourage recycling and composting in the workplace.
- Donate towards water quality and habitat improvement programs.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of environmental programs.

NPCA Restoration Grant Program

The NPCA is taking action to restore and improve water quality, wildlife habitat and forest cover across the NPCA watershed. If you have an idea for an environmental project, the NPCA welcomes you to apply for assistance through the NPCA's Restoration Grant Program. For further details, please visit the following link: npca.ca/restoration