

SEMI- ANNUAL DATA REVIEW: City of Hamilton's Surface Water Quality Program

April 25 2024



ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

AGENDA

- A Year in Review
- Areas of Interest (AOI): Semi-Annual SWQP Data Review
 - Chedoke Creek Sub-Watershed
 - Spencer Creek Watershed
 - West Pond/Cootes Paradise
 - Grindstone Creek Watershed
 - Long Pond
 - Red Hill Valley Watershed
 - Stoney Battlefield Creeks Watershed
 - Niagara Peninsula CA Update

Conclusion, Action Items & Next Steps

***QUESTIONS & DISCUS**SIONS THROUGHOUT*



ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

City's Surface Water Quality Program A YEAR IN REVIEW

2023

Hamilton

- Monthly SW Sampling
- Monthly Data trending review of City SWQP results
- Semi-annual Data Review with Senior Leadership
 - City's SWQP, including other internal and external SW Programs
- Annual SWQP Operational Framework Review
 - Removed ten (10) Urban Core locations
 Amendment of the Phase I dated Oct 13, 2023
 - Increased monthly sample locations from 33 to 40
 - Slightly modified LSC SW2 & RHV SW2 locations
- Annual Update to Council SWQP <u>2022 Annual Update (PW23040)</u>
- Council approved 2nd WQT position & Supervisor
- Renewed MOU/Partnership Agreements (next review 2025)
- Continue to work with Internal Units/Departments & External Partners









Chedoke C	reek: LOWER						
LOCATION City's CC SW3 East	PARAMETERS OF INTEREST Unknown	INFORMATION Storm pipe at HE090F01 =	PHOTO Insues here	Ch	edoke	Creek: S	SUMMARY
	(Unknown GW quality - Landfill area)	constant light flow of groundwater.	HCA CP - 1 from		HCA CC- 7 Princess Falls	Chebile Galf Canne City s CC SW9 Mountview Falls OCC SW8	City's CC SW7 City's CC SW7 City's CC SW7
Landfill Leachate Seep @ Storm pipe between CC SW2 & CC SW3	N/A (Landfills)	CCTV inspection completed; seep was identified. Landfills have retained Dillon Consulting; pipe is beyond the limit of waste & current leachate collection system.	CCSW2 EAST CCSW2 EAST CCSW2 EAST	Scenic Falls Propage Transmission Conservation Alexan	ing a second sec	w Vestalite Ve	Vestciff Falls
	otes Paradise			LOCATION	PARAMETERS OF	OTHER INFORMATION	РНОТО
C-3	(C-1) (C3) (C9) (C9) (C9)		Coper Paralise Hamilton Ha	HCA CC-7 & Redeemer's Princess Falls	E.coli, Nutrients	Redeemer's PRL (up - stream to Princess Falls): phosphate and total phosphorus = significantly higher	Home Home <th< td=""></th<>
		200	FT Marie	City's CC SW9 & Redeemer's <u>Mountview</u> Falls	E.coli, Nutrients, incl. Ortho & Zinc	Geo-engineered overland flow route collapsed/ sinkhole formed.	
		Scritt Proceed Partie Concerned Partie Concerned Partie	Casole Chever Fab Westerne Fab an Fab Institute Assertioned	City's CC SW8	Metals (Al, Cu, Pb, Zn)	Min. to no flow during dry weather sampling; suggests flow is primarily run-off during wet weather events.	
		Redeemer		City's CC SW7 & Redeemer's Cliffview Falls	E.coli, Nutrients, incl. Ortho	See Redeemer data trends in Reference material.	/=
H	Iami	lton		HCA CC-9 & Redeemer's Chedoke Falls	E.coli, Nutrients	NA	



Ancaster Creek OTHER INFORMATION LOCATION PARAMETERS PHOTO OF INTEREST City's AC SW1 E.coli Cross connections group made AC SW corrections upstream. Less floatables observed during sample events, in late 2023. AC SW4 HCA AC-5 E.coli Annual concentrations of E.coli at this site appear to be improving, however the period of record for this site is only 6 years.

Tiffany Creek

LOCATION	PARAMETERS OF INTEREST	OTHER INFORMATION	рното
City's TC SW1	Chloride	*WQ Indicative of typical run-off; downstream to large commercial buildings & parking lots	C INK

Spencer Creek: SUMMARY

LOCATION	PARAMETERS OF INTEREST	OTHER INFORMATION	РНОТО
LSC SW1	Total Phos.	Desjardins Canal & downstream to WWTP.	LSC FMS
LSC SW2.1	Temp. (observed during 2024winter months)	May be cross connected upstream to outfall.	- kom
LSC SW3	Chlorides & orange substance/organic sheen	Additional samples taken in 2023 for drinking water sweep for pesticides & an Open Characteristics. No findings. To date: considered natural.	
LSC SW4	Nutrients	Lake Joio drainage into Cootes. More data requires to further trends/observations.	

Cootes Paradise

LOCATION PARAMETERS OTHER INFORMATION РНОТО OF INTEREST General Westdale inlet: Dramatic improvement in WQ. TP Nutrients & Water Erosion was 83 ug/l. Clarity was excellent. Lots of SAV Quality through the whole season; just a few instances where the plants drove the DO < 5mg/l. West Pond Water Lilies: slowly recovering. Less floating algae at the boom. WQ slightly improved. McMaster Creek (downstream of the stormwater drains): Elevated E coli following storm events. - late 1960s agreement to allow stormwater into this inlet under the condition it was not negatively affecting RBG area - this is clearly not the case. - Emergency slope stabilization; fall 2023 below one of the outfalls. Another was a complete rebuild by McMaster in 2022. It now needs to become a significant

remediation project for the adjacent slope and adjacent old growth forest. Adjacent to the above, RBG still has an ongoing







GC350 3W

6C222 8W

Grindstone Creek: SUMMARY

LOCATION PARAMETERS OF INTEREST		OTHER INFORMATION	РНОТО
RBG General Water Quality	Nutrients & Erosion	Upper Long Pond: water lilies need time to recover. Tributaries that outfall to Long Pond: the upper most one (farthest west) showed evidence of sever erosion. The other two showed elevated TP and E coli suggesting some sewage contamination. Overall, WQ in 2023 saw an improvement to all WQ parameters. - Driven by high water levels and periods of DRY	- Destingtioned



<u>Grindstone and Indian Creek Water Quality Sampling Program</u> In 2024, CH will monitor twelve (12) surface water sites within the City of Hamilton. These sites were also sampled in 2021 as part of a similar study. The monitoring stations within the Hamilton City limits, mostly encompass the headwaters of Grindstone Creek, with influences from wetlands within the Flamborough area.

Surface water quality samples are taken once monthly from March to November, and are analyzed for several parameters including nutrients, metals, bacteria, suspended solids, and general chemistry.





ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT

LOCATION	PARAMETERS OF INTEREST	OTHER INFORMATION	РНОТО				
RHV SW1 & SW2 / SW2.1	Total Phos. Dissolved Oxygen	Change in WQ between City's RHV SW3 & RHV SW2.1 (Harbour water influence?)	RHV_SWT				
Redemeer's Woodward	Temp.		HHV_SW3	UO SW1 & HCA's Mt. Albion (Ecoli)	Chloride, <u>E.coli</u> , Zinc	HCA's analysis suggests that a steady source of <u>E.coli</u> within this creek could potentially be located near the Mt. Albion location	Red Hill Owerk Annual Genemen E orl Concentrations
WUP WQ Locations	Nutrients Metals	Metal concentrations such as Copper, Lead, Iron, Zinc are consistently high; Boron and Cobalt concentrations should continue to be specifically monitored for	-1.22	(2000)		Abon location	
		trends in tuture years; Nutrient based parameters (Nitrate/Nitrite, TKN, Total Phosphorous, Ammonia) generally do show a consistent upward trend downstream for the sample locations; and PWQO exceedances at the upstream monitoring locations (WQL, WWTP effluent) were consistently lower than those further downstream (WQ2, WQ3);		Redeemer's Butternut Falls	Nutrients	Upstream of Buttermilk Falls (just east of where it passes under Mountain Brow Blvd), an overflow pipe appears to be an important source of bacterial and nutrient contamination for the Red Hill Creek Watershed.	
		-	And the second	Dadaamaria	Chlorido		
		And	unt per la mai cent	Redeemer's Upper Glendale Falls	Chioride	100 100 400 200	2 Survey on State
				Redeemer's Lower Davies Creek area	Nutrients	Multiple sites within the Red Hill Creek watershed showed evidence of fecal contamination. Five sample sites had total coliform counts greater than 100 000 CFU/100mL. These five sites also had relatively high nitrate, phosphate and total become and the sites and total show the site of the site of the sites and total show the site of the sites and total show the site of the sites and total show the site of the site of the sites and total show the site of the sites and total show the site of the sites and total show the site of the	Learner Store Perform Store

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Stoney - Battlefield Creeks: AOI & SUMMARY

BatC SW1: Potential cross connection upstream at SD07OF01

- December 2022 Found with TC & reported to WWC
- Sept 2023: Cross Connections group rely on 'physical evidence'. Laundry machines are notoriously hard to pin down as they're all soluble contaminants and there's nothing left behind for us to see.
- CC will keep this area of concern in mind as they explore new investigation strategies within the upcoming Enhanced Sewer Inspection Program.
- Oct 2023 EME Update: CC did identify a potential source/property
 - No solids, but large amounts of flow
- EME sampled outfall and upstream MHs.
- **Current Update:** In-pipe sampling/tracing program will inspect.









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Niagara Peninsula CA Update



NIAGARA PENINSULA CA UPDATE

LOCATION	PARAMETERS OF INTEREST	OTHER INFORMATION
NPCA	Total Phos. = 96% of samples Chloride & Zinc =	NPCA monitors twelve (12) SW sites within the CoH Two of the sites were added in 2023 from the City's SWQP Phase II. Lake Niapenco in Binbrook Conservation Area is also monitored throughout the
	WROO2	year. Chloride & Zinc commonly exceeds downstream to the Hamilton International Airport.

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- ✓ Continue with Monthly Field Monitoring & Sampling
- ✓ Annual Review the SWQP Framework (May-June
 - 2024)

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- ✓ Phase II Expansion & 2nd WQT
- Process Improvements = SWQP Findings, Communications & Actions/ Next Steps
- ✓ Open Hamilton / Data Sharing & Trending
 - Currently no WQ Trending Dashboard
- WQ Trending Dashboard
- ✓ Annual Update to Council (September 2024)
- ✓ Next Semi-annual Data Review (November 2024)
- Continue to work with Internal Units / Departments & External Partners
 - ✓ WQ Trending & SW Threshold Development
 - ✓ Phase II Expansion
 - ✓ PW Infrastructure Sampling & Inspections
 - ✓ Knowledge & Data Sharing



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CITY'S SWOP SEMI-ANNUAL DATA REVIEW: REFERENCE MATERIAL



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CHEDOKE CREEK



Chedoke Creek: Areas of Interest

- Lower Chedoke Creek
 - Storm Pipe at HE09OF01 constant light flow
 - Landfills Update:

Leachate @ Stormwater drainage pipe: Completed CCTV inspection. Seep was identified. Pipe is partially lined; considering to line the remainder of the pipe.

- Retained Dillon Consulting: pipe is beyond the limit of waste & current leachate collection system.
- Chedoke Creek Brow
 - CC SW7
 - Nutrients
 - CC SW8
 - Metals
 - CC SW9

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Nutrients, Ort





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Redeemer Data: Chedoke Creek: Areas of Interest

PRL and PRT: elevated levels of all WQ parameters = indicate sewage of contamination.

PRL (upstream to Princess Falls): phosphate and total phosphorus concentrations significantly higher

The outflows contained high nutrient concentrations and bacterial counts

Possible cross-connections in these areas = source of sewage contamination in the falls.



Table 2. Analysis Results of Chedoke Outflow samples.

Location	Nitrate (ppm)	Phosphate (ppm)	Total Phosphorus (ppm)	Chloride (ppm)	BODs (mg/L)	Total Coliform (CFU/100mL)	E. coli (CFU/100mL)
SCB	3.07	0.149	0.258	73.099	5.6	25267	200
SCD	1.80	0.058	0.050	142.938	1.4	3267	67
PRL	4.15	0.929	1.039	190.716	7.6	160667	81333
PRT	2.46	0.353	0.403	329.908	5.0	157200	34267
SNb	2.35	0.046	0.044	279.552	1.5	2533	200
SNc	1.84	0.052	0.037	369.704	1.2	16467	6600
SPa	2.63	0.121	0.113	213.796	1.3	16533	1467



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SPENCER CREEK & COOTES PARADISE



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- Ancaster Creek •
 - AC SW1 cross con. •
- **Tiffany Creek**
 - TC SW1 urban creek •
- Lower Spencer Creek •
 - LSC SW2.1 temp (winter) •
 - LSC SW3 chlorides
 - LSC SW4 Lake Jojo ۲



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AC_SW4





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RBG

Spencer Creek: Areas of Interest

• Cootes Paradise Data & Summary

General:

- WQ 2023 = Very Good. All WQ parameters were better in 2023 over 2022.
- At delisting station in Cootes (CP2), 16 of the 22 samples met initial TP target for the RAP of <70ug/l.
 - The mean for May to Sept was 54 ug/l.
- Right conditions in May to grow SAV (submergent aquatic vegetation)
 - Lots of clear water; low in TP = few storms to add sediment.
 - The plants hold the water still and persisted through most of the year when we usually see a die off of the plants after June.
- We did have a couple samples with <5 mg/l of DO (likely due to SAV).

Specific Locations:

- Westdale inlet: Dramatic improvement in WQ. TP was 83 ug/l. Clarity was excellent. Lots of SAV through the whole season; just a few instances where the plants drove the DO < 5mg/l.
- West Pond Water Lilies: slowly recovering. Less floating algae at the boom. WQ slightly improved.
- **McMaster Creek** (downstream of the stormwater drains): Elevated E coli following storm events.
 - The one storm in July with 18mm of rain had E coli up to 23000. TP was elevated during the dry sampling as high as 279 ug/l so I guess that would be evidence of urban runoff.



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Parameters	HHRAP Targets Cootes/Grindstone			Cootes Sampling Stations				
	Initial	Proposed Final	Guidelines	1	2	5	16	20
Secchi (m)	>1.5/>1			0.64	0.59*	0.54	0.79	0.64
Temperature (°C)				19.90	18.09	20.07	18.80	19.31
рН				8.45	8.27	8.09	7.66	8.34
Chl a (µg/l)	<20			-	3.93	-	-	-
Turbidity (NTU)		<4 / <8		8.31	7.87	9.20	2.05	5.16
DO (mg/L)	>5	>5 for 80% of samples and >3 for 95% of samples		8.75	7.62	11.14	4.46	8.47
TP (µg/L)	60 – 70		<301,3	57.39	54.33	101.88	83.43	57.37
Nitrate-N (mg/L)			<3.0 ¹	-	0.39	5.84	-	-
Nitrite-N (mg/L)	< 0.06			-	0.025	0.10	-	-
Unionized Ammonia (mg/L)	<0.02	<0.02	< 0.02 ³	0.003	0.003	0.0027	0.0003	-
TSS (mg/L)	<25	<10/<14		14.85	10.11	15.52	4.92	-
ISS (mg/L)				8.93	3.54	7.63	0.55	-
<i>E. coli</i> (#/100 mL)			<1000 ²	17	105	15	17	-

1 Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment Guideline

2 Federal Secondary Contact for Recreation Guideline

3 Provincial Water Quality Objective

NOTE: * seven and ** two samples where secchi is equal than water depth.

CP5 samples were not collected beyond September 6th





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GRINSTONE CREEK & MARSH



RBG

Parameters	HHRA Cootes/	P Targets Grindstone	Guidelin	Grindstone Sampling Stations		
	Initial Proposed Final		es	1	5	
Secchi (m)	>1.5/>1			0.42**	0.35	
Temperature (°C)				19.36	20.77	
рН				8.32	8.06	
Chl a (µg/l)	<20			8.02	-	
Turbidity (NTU)		<4 / <8		16.54	21.05	
DO (mg/L)	>5	>5 for 80% of samples and >3 for 95% of samples		8.35	7.00	
TP (µg/L)	60 - 70		<301,3	97.37	133.56	
Nitrate-N (mg/L)			<3.0 ¹	0.76	-	
Nitrite-N (mg/L)	< 0.06			0.03	-	
Unionized Ammonia (mg/L)	<0.02	<0.02	< 0.02 ³	0.004	0.0003	
TSS (mg/L)	<25	<10/<14		25.40	24.62	
ISS (mg/L)				6.31	16.11	
<i>E. coli</i> (#/100 mL)			<1000 ²	97	16	

Water quality parameters (mean values) measured during the entire 2023 field season (May 3rd to September 27th); initial and proposed final HHRAP targets associated delisting stations in Cootes Paradise Marsh (CP2) and Grindstone Marsh (GC1) are also listed.

Values highlighted in bold exceed targets/guidelines.

- Upper Long Pond: water lilies need time to recover. May be a similar West Pond; recover from seeding.
- 2022 monitoring: Collected info on tributaries that outfall to Long Pond. The upper most one (farthest west) showed evidence of sever erosion. The other two showed elevated TP and E coli suggesting some sewage contamination. See full 2022 report.

Grindstone Creek: Areas of Interest



- At the Grindstone delisting station, saw an improvement in all parameters.
- The mean TP for May to Sept was 97.37 ug/l.
- The improvement at GC1 was driven by higher water levels. (The added water depth at the shallow site reduces the resuspension from the bottom).
- Results at GC1 were similar to 2019 and 2017 when we had the record-breaking high-water levels.

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RED HILL VALLEY



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Red Hill Valley: Areas of Interest

Red Hill Valley & Upper Davies Creek

- RHV SW1, RHV SW2 & SW2.1
 - Changes between RHV SW2 & RHV SW3 (Harbour influence?)
- UO SW1 (chlorides & zinc)
- RHV / Ham Harbour DOT data – No Update.





Red Hill Valley: Areas of Interest

WUP Data



- Metal concentrations such as Copper, Lead, Iron, Zinc are consistently high; Boron and Cobalt concentrations should continue to be specifically monitored for trends in future years;
- Nutrient based parameters (Nitrate/Nitrite, TKN, Total Phosphorous, Ammonia) generally do show a consistent upward trend downstream for the sample locations;
- PWQO exceedances at the upstream monitoring locations (WQ1, WWTP effluent) were consistently lower than those further downstream (WQ2, WQ3, WQ5); and
- A consistent number of PWQO exceedances was noted for the majority of the samples collected in 2023, these exceedances were for parameters which typically exceed PWQO limits for urban watercourses (metals, E. Coli).



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HCA'S (MECP) PWQMN E. Coli Data Red Hill Valley: Areas of Interest

Seven (7) locations sampled monthly from April – November in conjunction with Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network sampling schedule and locations.

- Hamilton Water currently supports E. coli sampling and analyzing samples at the City's Environmental Laboratory.
- PWQMN Parameters include: Ammonia, Nitrate, Nitrite, TP, Dissolved Organic and Inorganic Carbon, and Metals analyzed at the MECP Laboratory.
- Red Hill Creek at Mt. Albion exceeded every sample event in 2023
- Red Hill Creek at Queenston Road exceeded on 5/7 samples in 2023
- Since sampling began in 2003 E.coli in Red Hill are experiencing an increasing trend in concentration

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- HCA's analysis suggests that a steady source of E.coli within this creek could potentially be located near the Mt. Albion location
- Downstream at Queenston, E.coli concentrations suggest there is a dilution effect taking place within Red Hill Creek





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Redeemer

Sampling Locations – Red Hill Creek Watershed

- since 2017 (2015 for some sites)
- in 2022

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- every two weeks May – June
- every two weeks Oct – Nov

Red Hill Valley: Areas of Interest



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Redeemer

Red Hill Valley: Areas of Interest



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Redeemer

Five sample sites: GHPa, GHPb, VQb, KQa, and BFa

- total coliform counts greater than 100 000 CFU/100mL
- high nitrate, phosphate and total phosphorus concentrations.

Table .	 Analysis 	Results of	Red Hill	Outflow samples.	

Location	Nitrate (ppm)	Phosphate (ppm)	Total Phosphorus (ppm)	Chloride (ppm)	BODs (mg/L)	Total Coliform (CFU/100mL)	E. coli (CFU/100mL)
DRT	2.80	0.073	0.190	238.324	2.0	16200	1933
HCa	0.59	0.228	0.313	370.501	3.4	92267	5733
ANC	1.55	0.00	0.128	472.724	2.7	7267	2400
VPa	1.60	0.112	0.248	483.937	1.3	14533	933
VPb	0.21	0.056	0.147	134.692	1.6	54800	8533
GHPa	1.60	0.377	0.737	124.348	6.0	102533	35333
GHPb	4.39	0.320	0.514	221.331	3.1	219200	140533
VQb	3.59	0.236	0.388	396.605	3.3	137000	60067
VQc	0.46	0.058	0.066	96.454	1.7	3667	333
KQa	2.40	0.263	0.243	504.974	8.1	141733	23333
BFa	4.32	0.337	0.335	443.286	3.6	133333	51467
BFb	2.61	0.106	0.176	256.325	3.4	21800	5800
THP	3.78	0.179	0.272	187.122	5.3	55000	17000

showed moderate evidence of fecal contamination

Red Hill Valley: Areas of Interest



Butternut Falls(Bfa/b):

- Two (2) cross connections corrections (recent) along Upper Kenilworth
- LiquiForce relining sewers in area; unconfirmed if it's SAN/STM, both?



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BATTLEFIELD – STONEY CREEKS



Stoney - Battlefield Creeks: AOI & SUMMARY

BatC SW1: Potential cross connection upstream at SD07OF01

- Sept 2023: Cross Connections group rely on 'physical evidence'. • Laundry machines are notoriously hard to pin down as they're all soluble contaminants and there's nothing left behind for us to see.
- CC will keep this area of concern in mind as they explore new ٠ investigation strategies within the upcoming Enhanced Sewer Inspection Program.
- Oct 2023 EME Update: CC did identify a potential source/property ٠
 - No solids, but large amounts of flow
- EME sampled outfall and upstream MHs. ٠

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No further update as no inspections were completed in Oct 2023 .









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NIAGARA PENINSULA CA



Niagara Peninsula CA Update

- NPCA monitors twelve (12) SW sites within the CoH
- Two of those sites were added in 2023 from the City's SWQP Phase II.
- Lake Niapenco in Binbrook Conservation Area is also monitored throughout the year.

Surface water quality samples were taken once monthly from April to November. total phosphorus, E.coli, chloride, nitrate, and zinc.

Total Phosphorus

In 2023, 96% of samples exceeded total phosphorus.

Escherichia coli

E.coli guidelines were exceeded in 34% of the CoH sites.

Twenty Mile Creek and Sinkhole creek exceeded the guideline most frequently.

Chloride

The Canadian Water Quality Guideline (CWQG) for chloride is 120 mg/L. WR002, Welland River downstream of the Hamilton International Airport, exceeds the guideline frequently and has a median concentration of 657.5 mg/L which means it is a chronic issue.

Sinkhole creek, Twenty Mile Creek, and Welland River exceeded chloride guidelines on a few occasions.

Nitrate

Buckhorn Creek exceeded nitrate more frequently but still in fewer than half the samples taken.

Nitrate was only exceeded by Sinkhole Creek and WR003A once each.

Zinc

Zinc is commonly exceeded downstream of the Hamilton International Airport at site WR002. Zinc exceedances in WR002 are the highest seen in the NPCA ambient monitoring program.



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