

WHAT IS OUR WATERSHED'S KEY ISSUE?

Non-point source pollution:

- Comes from many sources.
- Occurs when rain or snowmelt runs off fields, streets, or backyards.
- Carries soil particles and pollutants to water bodies and groundwater.

What actions could you take to reduce non-point source pollution?

- Conserve and connect existing woodlands.
- Create natural landscapes to filter stormwater.
- Control soil erosion through the use of grassed waterways, berms, cover crops, and crop residue.
- Apply nutrients at rates and times that optimize crop uptake.
- Dispose of chemicals properly through household hazardous waste days or drop-off locations.
- See the back panel for more actions to reduce non-point source pollution.

What local actions have been taken?

- Community-based watershed plans and strategies in the City of Kawartha Lakes, Scugog and Trent Lakes municipalities have highlighted actions for local agencies and individuals.
- Please see:
<http://kawarthaconservation.com/watershed/management-plans>
<http://kawarthaconservation.com/scugog-water-fund>
<http://kawarthaconservation.com/shoreline-protection>
<http://kawarthaconservation.com/bluecanoe>
<http://kawarthaconservation.com/stewardship>

HOW CAN WE ENHANCE THE WATERSHED?

What Can You Do?

- Plant native trees and shrubs.
- Inspect and pump out your septic system every three to five years.
- Create wetlands to maintain water balance during wet and dry periods.
- Reduce the amount of household chemicals you use and store – such as antifreeze, paint, lawn chemicals, detergents, and cleaners.
- Ensure manure storage facilities are adequate.



What Can Your Community Do?

- Support ongoing improvements to municipal infrastructure.
- Direct development away from areas of environmental significance.
- Support local initiatives to monitor water quality and quantity.
- Get involved in coordinating or participating in protecting shorelines and tree planting.

What Can Agencies Do?

- Protect wetlands.
- Green their operations.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of environmental programs.

Do you have questions not answered by this summary document? Visit

KawarthaConservation.com/watershed/report-cards for the full report or contact us for more information.



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The Watershed Report Card is available online and in other formats upon request.

Kawartha Conservation WATERSHED Report Card 2018



Kawartha Conservation has prepared this report card as a summary of the state of your forests, wetlands, and water resources.



WHERE ARE WE?



What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land drained by a creek or stream into a river which then drains into a body of water such as a lake or pond. Everything in a watershed is connected. Our actions upstream can affect conditions downstream.

Why Measure?

Measuring helps us better understand our watershed. We can target our work where it is needed and track progress. We measured:



Groundwater Quality



Surface Water Quality



Forest Conditions



Wetland Conditions

GRADING

A Excellent
B Good
C Fair
D Poor
F Very Poor
Insufficient Data

What is a watershed report card?

Ontario's Conservation Authorities report on watershed conditions every five years. The watershed report cards use Conservation Ontario guidelines and standards developed by Conservation Authorities and their partners.

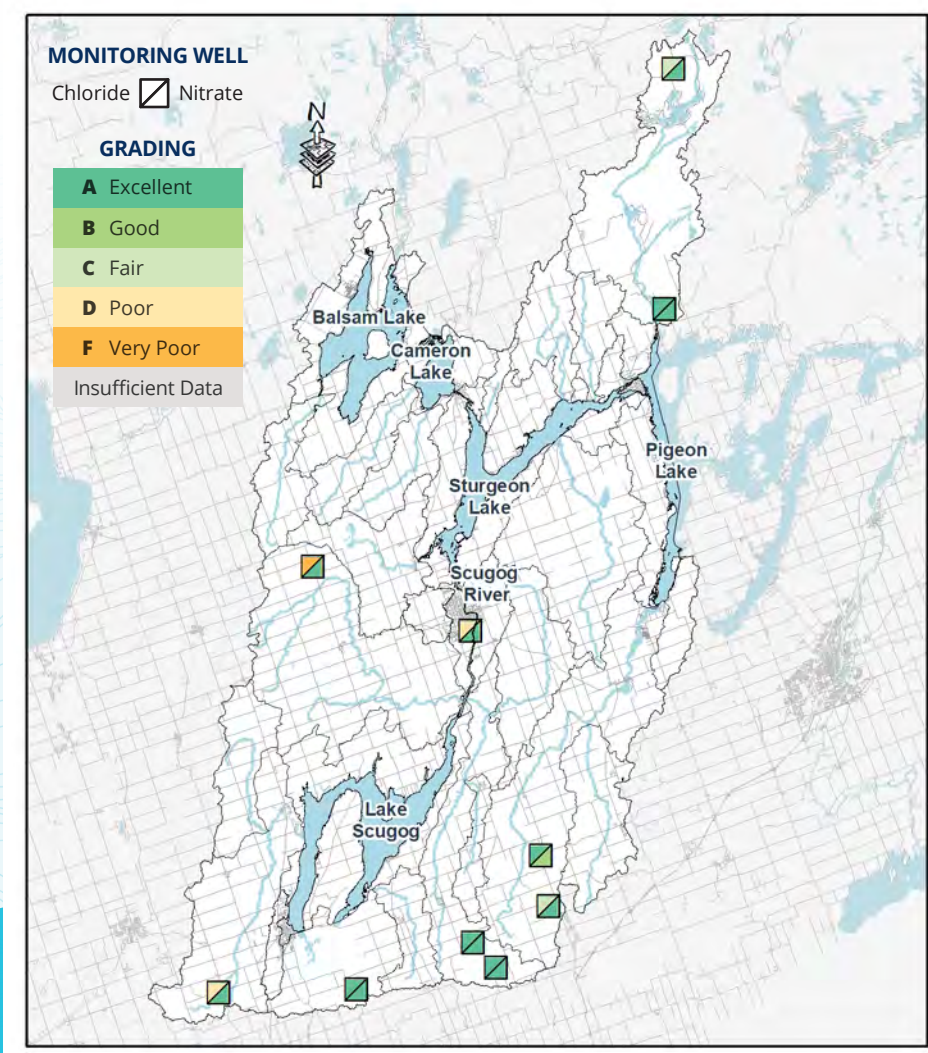


GROUNDWATER QUALITY

Concentrations of nitrate and chloride were measured at 10 Ontario Ministry of the Environment monitoring well locations. (Learn about groundwater at www.conservationontario.ca and go to Watershed Reporting)

What Did we Find?

- Nitrate and chloride concentrations are better than the drinking water guidelines in most wells.
- Concentrations of chloride approach or exceed the drinking water guidelines at some wells.
- The quality of your well water may vary from that of the monitoring wells. In some instances, the location of wells was chosen to monitor local issues.

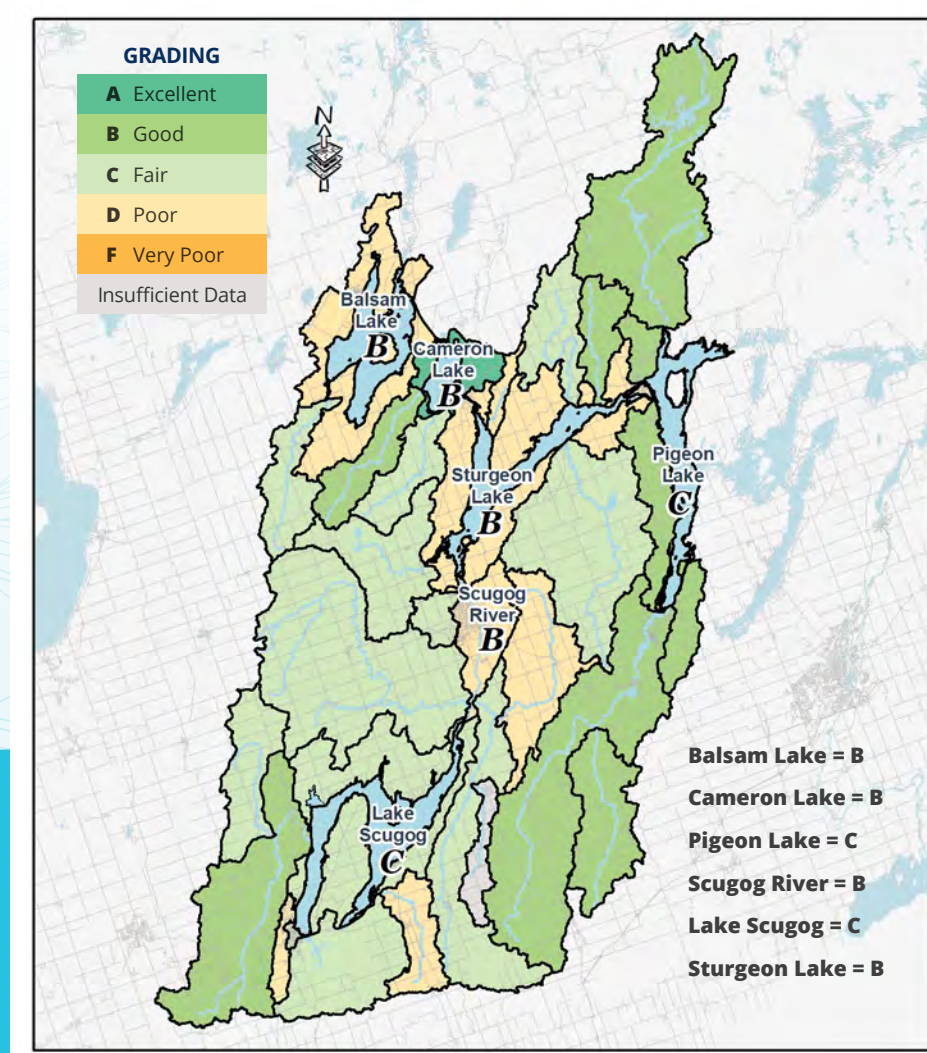


SURFACE WATER QUALITY

Concentrations of phosphorus were measured at Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and Kawartha Conservation sampling stations. Benthic invertebrates (small aquatic animals living on the streambed) were also assessed in the watersheds. The type and number of these animals are measures of water quality.

What Did we Find?

- Grades range from B to D, with mostly C grades.
- Most watersheds remain steady since the last reporting period, however, there have been improved grades within the East Cross Creek, Nonquon and Pearn's watersheds. (Visit kawarthaconservation.com/watershed/report-cards to compare 2008 and 2013 report cards).

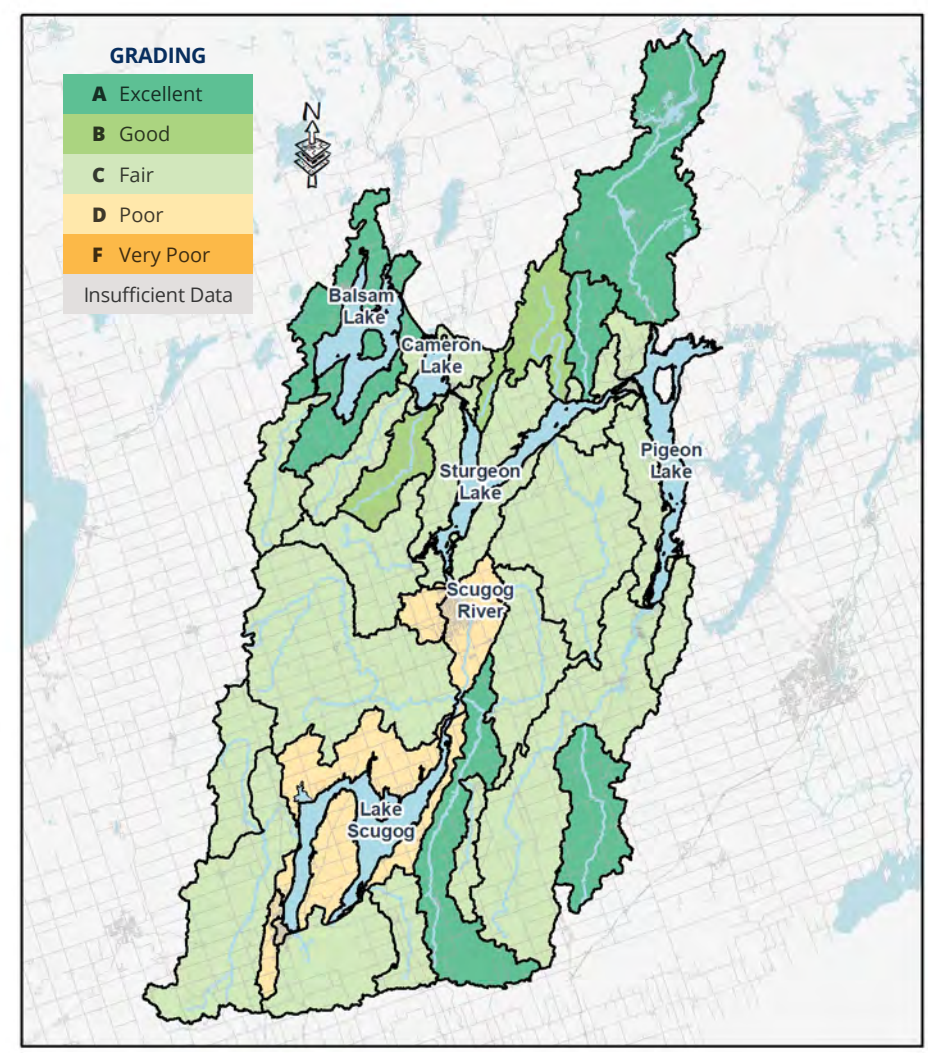


FOREST CONDITIONS

The percentages of forest cover, forest interior, and streamside cover were identified through aerial photography interpretation and through available data. Analysis was conducted with Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

What Did we Find?

- Grades range from A to D, with mostly C grades.
- While mature forests take years to grow, environmental benefits begin as soon as trees are planted. Changes in forest cover will be noticed in five years or more.



WETLAND COVER

The percentage of wetland cover was identified through aerial photography interpretation and through available data. Analysis was conducted with Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

What Did we Find?

- Grades range from A to F, with mostly A grades.
- Kawartha Conservation's watershed benefits from more than 10 per cent wetland cover.
- More wetlands are needed in strategic locations across local watersheds.

For more details about the information found in these maps, visit kawarthaconservation.com/watershed/report-cards or contact us. You can find our contact information on the back panel.

