



Celebrating
60
Years

News Release

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New Conservation Watershed Report Cards Reveal Stressed Conditions In Our Watersheds

A second set of Conservation Authority watershed report cards has begun to roll out today and the grades indicate that many of Ontario's watersheds – particularly those in southern, more urban areas – are stressed.

Conservation Authority watershed report cards show an average grade of 'C' for surface water quality and 'C' for forest conditions.

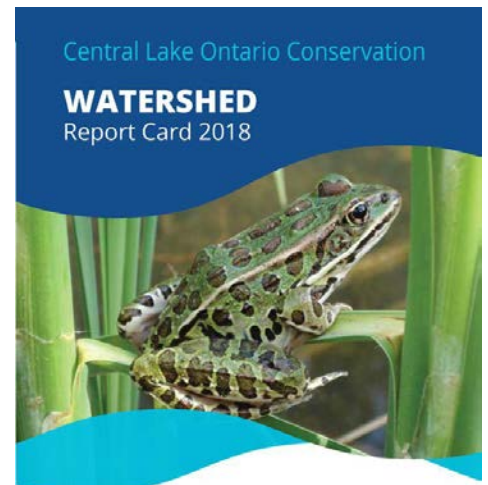
Groundwater appears to be in better shape, however it is much more difficult to assess on a watershed-wide basis.

"March 22 is World Water Day and one of the reasons we celebrate it is to bring attention to how important it is to protect our lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater. We rely on them as sources for drinking water, in addition to all kinds of other uses," said Chris Darling, CAO of Central Lake Ontario Conservation. The Watershed Report Cards provide science-based information to government and agency partners. They are also a good way to get information out to local residents who are very curious about conditions in their area along with information on opportunities for people to get involved and take action. "The main challenges to our healthy watersheds continue to be the impacts of urbanization and climate change," says Darling. "The good thing about these scores is that they can be improved upon by working together."

You can access Central Lake Ontario Conservation's Watershed Report Card at www.cloca.com and find more information about other watershed report cards at www.watershedcheckup.ca. As well, a story map has been developed to show more detailed information about conditions across the province at www.stateofontariowatersheds.ca

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Healthy watersheds for today and tomorrow.