

## 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?

- We have been developing partnerships and implementing environmental projects for over sixty years, working in forestry, wetland restoration, stream bank stabilization, environmental education, outdoor recreation and wildlife preservation.
- Our focus is on expanding, restoring and enhancing natural areas and habitats within the watershed where current land use practices have compromised the watershed functions, for example water quality, wetland stability, wildlife habitat and forests.

## 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.

### 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 [catfishcreek.ca](http://catfishcreek.ca) or contact us for more information:*



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

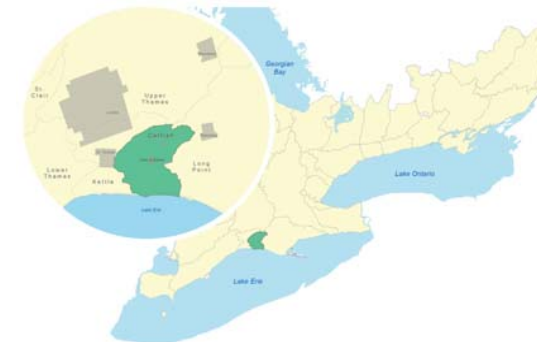
## Catfish Creek WATERSHED Report Card 2018



Catfish Creek Conservation Authority 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:



### GRADING

<b>A</b> Excellent
<b>B</b> Good
<b>C</b> Fair
<b>D</b> Poor
<b>F</b> 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 + chloride were measured at 2 Ontario Ministry of the Environment monitoring wells across the Catfish Creek watershed.

### What Did we Find?

- Chloride concentrations are better than the drinking water guidelines in all wells (A grade).
- Concentrations of nitrate approach or exceed the drinking water guidelines at one well (South East portion of the Main Catfish Creek subwatershed, resulting in a very poor grade of F).
- 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 and Escherichia coli (bacteria) were measured at Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Catfish Creek Conservation Authority stations. Benthic invertebrates (small aquatic animals living in the sediment) were also identified. The type and number of these animals are measures of water quality.

### What Did we Find?

- Grades range from B to F, with mostly D grades.
- Most watersheds remain steady – since the last reporting period – however, there have been improvements within the Main Catfish Creek Branch, and Silver Creek has worsened.



## FOREST CONDITIONS

The percentages of forest cover, forest interior, and streamside cover were measured with Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

### What Did we Find?

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



## WETLANDS & RIPARIAN ZONES

The percentages of wetlands and riparian zones were measured with Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

### What Did we Find?

- Grades are either C or D, with mostly C grades.
- Less than 1 per cent of the Catfish Creek watershed is covered by wetlands and less than 4 percent is covered by riparian zones
- More wetlands and riparian areas are needed in strategic locations across the watershed, in particular in the East and West Catfish Creek.

For more details about the information found in these maps, visit [catfishcreek.ca](http://catfishcreek.ca) or contact us. You can find our contact information on the back panel.

