



For Immediate Release

**Canada's Only Groundwater Guardian Celebrates 10 Years  
NA Groundwater Foundation Designated Cambridge More than A Decade Ago**

Cambridge, Ontario. December 10, 2007...It's been a decade since the Groundwater Foundation based in Nebraska, US, recognized Cambridge as a Groundwater Guardian Community. Currently Canada's only Groundwater Guardian, it demonstrates the proactive establishment of this subcommittee of the Cambridge Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC).

Today, the group of citizens dedicated to water initiatives unveiled a new name in advance of a city council meeting - *Cambridge Waters* (Water Awareness Through Education and Resources Stewardship). The name carries on the traditional volunteer-oriented focus which serves to capture the group's interest in speaking to the public and in schools about Cambridge water resources and how actions can lead to conservation and protection.

"It's about telling the Cambridge water story in a new way," says Cambridge Councilor Pam Wolf, a member of the CEAC.

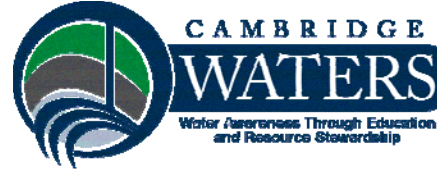
Cambridge Councilor Gary Price, also a member of CEAC, commends the volunteers for bringing their expertise and ideas to the table for so many years. "Cambridge provides considerable support for this group to continue their focus on education," he adds.

There have been a number of developments that have benefited the community. The Region of Waterloo joined the group as an affiliate member in 1998. Two guides for teachers were created to foster public education including a package for children in grades 3-4, and most recently for grade 8 students.

The region is the largest urban area in Canada that is dependent upon groundwater. Cambridge relies on twenty-seven water supply wells. Some of these wells date back to the 1900s so there is a history and tradition of water management and quality control. The Region of Waterloo has introduced many water conservation innovations in recent years for homeowners and Cambridge Groundwater Guardian works hard to make citizens aware of these programs and initiatives such as rainbarrels, toilet replacement programs, drinking water protection areas, and educational resources to name a few.

Cambridge WATERS is always looking for volunteers with an interest and/or expertise in water issues. *The 11 members of Groundwater Guardian / Cambridge WATERS are:*

John Goodwin, Chair (founding member)  
Dave Smyth (founding member and presenter)  
Susan Galvao (presenter)  
Ken Alkerton (CEAC member)  
Tamara Graham  
Jim Graham  
Chris Schuett  
Larry Schut (CEAC member)  
Paul Willms  
Rose Atabakhsh  
Annette Leis



*And, the 5 Friends of Groundwater Guardian / Cambridge WATERS are:*

Dan Meagher (Communications Coordinator, Water Efficiency, Region of Waterloo)  
Leanne Lobe (Water Resources Technician, Region of Waterloo)  
Eric Hodgins (Manager, Water Resources Protection, Region of Waterloo)  
Dan Currie (Director, Policy Planning, City of Cambridge)  
April Souwand (Senior Environmental Planner and founding member, City of Cambridge)

#### Did You Know?

- \* Middleton well has been operational since the turn of the century (19th - 20th century that is) and STILL supplies 40% of Cambridge's water
- \* Waterloo Region is the largest groundwater dependent place in North America - we now get about 20% of our water from the Grand River and it is pumped into an underground aquifer (Manheim Treatment Plan) and then pumped out at a later date and mixed with groundwater
- \* The highest producing wells occur in the heart of Cambridge and these supply almost half of the water used by residents and industries
- \* Middleton pumping station pumps approx. 6.8 million cubic metres through its five wells each year - the average classroom is approx. 180 cubic metres. From this station alone, the equivalent of 37, 869 classrooms filled to the ceiling is pumped each year.....and there are at least 20 other operating wells in Cambridge
- \* The average Cambridge resident uses 74,825 litres of water per year or 19,772 gallons
- \* Cambridge's daily consumption of water (based on our population) is 21,000,000 litres per day
- \* The toilet is the biggest water hog - 30% of our household water goes to toilet flushing, with clothes washing making up 21%, and faucets (16%) and showers (13%) also making up a significant amount. Over 50% of our summer water use goes on our lawns and gardens

For More information contact:

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The City of Cambridge is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. It is strategically located astride highway 401 in Southwestern Ontario, part of Canada's Technology Triangle. In 2007, the population reached over 124,000 people with a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services. Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement.

For more information on the area or the corporation visit [www.city.cambridge.on.ca](http://www.city.cambridge.on.ca)

The City of Cambridge press room is located at <http://www.city.cambridge.on.ca/article.php?sid=176>

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