

Profiling Ontario Cities and Towns Using Ground Water

The City of Cambridge is situated in the heart of Southern Ontario, Canada, approximately a one-hour drive west of Toronto, and a three-hour drive north-east of Detroit. The City is a local area municipality within the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, the largest urban area dependent upon groundwater in

Canada. Cambridge is situated at the confluence of the Grand and Speed rivers, which are important sources of drinking water for a number of communities. Underlying bedrock aquifers supply most of the drinking water to Cambridge (population 130,000) as well as to the other municipalities

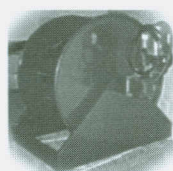
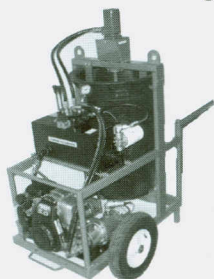
within the Regional Municipality of Waterloo (which has a total population of approximately 500,000).

The City relies on twenty-seven water supply wells up to 60 metres (200 feet) deep. The highest producing wells occur in the heart of the City and these supply almost half of the water used by residents and industries. Many of these wells date back to the 1900's with the first wells being drilled in 1891. Approximately 80 percent of the water consumption in the City is drawn from groundwater. The remaining 20 percent comes from the Grand River and is pumped into the Manheim aquifer and mixed with groundwater before distribution.

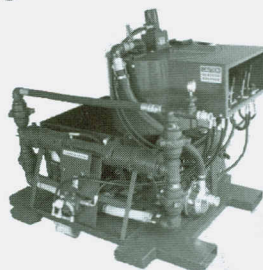
Although this precious resource is relied upon as our source of drinking water, other water uses place a great strain on its availability. However, attitudes towards water usage and conservation have begun to change with the recent water restriction bylaws, educational activities and events, and very successful incentive programs (rain barrels, high efficiency toilet replacement programs, among others).

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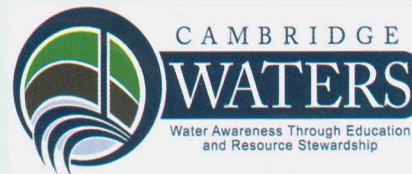
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Groundwater Guardian Community



Cambridge WATERS is currently the only Groundwater Guardian community in Canada. Since 1997, Cambridge WATERS has undertaken groundwater protection and conservation related activities including the development of educational posters and teaching packages, and participated in public awareness events and wellhead protection implementation plans.

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Cambridge Groundwater Guardian recently changed their name on their 10th anniversary (December 2007) to better reflect their focus. The new name, "Cambridge WATERS" (which stands for Water Awareness Through Education and Resource Stewardship) represents the group's interest in "water" issues (both surface and groundwater), "awareness" and "education" (for general public as well as schools), and "resource stewardship." The new name reflects the subcommittee's past (and future) projects that involve "telling the Cambridge water story."

Cambridge WATERS retains its membership in the Groundwater Foundation as the only Canadian member and as "a proud Groundwater Guardian member since 1997."

Cambridge WATERS is a standing subcommittee of the Cambridge Environmental Advisory Committee of Council. The purpose of the subcommittee is to be the coordinating organization for the Cambridge community and to develop and implement the Groundwater Guardian program and water awareness, education, and resource stewardship projects. The subcommittee works with Cambridge schools, community groups, churches and businesses as well as individuals to develop projects that improve water awareness, education, and resource stewardship in the community. Cambridge WATERS membership is comprised of water professionals from private industry, government, and members of the public.

Past projects have included developing Cambridge-specific teacher packages for elementary grades, articles for various publications, personal appearances in classrooms and information booths at local festivals.

About Groundwater Guardian

The Groundwater Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating and



motivating people to care for and about groundwater. The foundation established the Groundwater Guardian (GG) to encourage communities of all types (cities, counties, watersheds, etc.) to begin and enhance groundwater education and protection activities. Groundwater Guardian supports communities in their efforts and recognizes their achievements.

For more info on the Groundwater Foundation, including membership or if you want to start a similar group in your municipality, please visit www.groundwater.org.

Community Contact:

Cambridge WATERS

Paul Willm

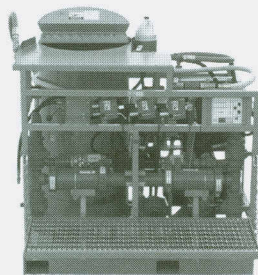
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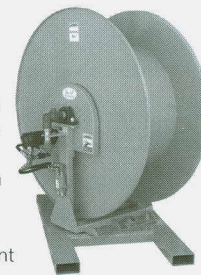
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