

About one-third of the Credit River was graded poor or very poor

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middle watersheds, which was ranked predominantly "good" and "fair" - a contrast that Credit Valley Conservation's Loveleen Clayton says can be attributed to the difference in urban development in the areas, as the upper watershed is less urbanized.

"In urban streams you tend to have a lot more hardened surfaces, so grooves and roads and parking lots and all that is an attractant for all the pollutants that come off of it as well," Clayton said. "It makes the water run much quicker and faster; it doesn't allow it to naturally recharge through the ground. There's less trees or natural foliage so the streams are a little bit warmer."

As well, two wells in the Credit River Watershed, one located in Acton, show amounts of chloride that exceed the Ontario Drinking Water Standards.

However, the remainder of Halton Hills falls within the middle watershed and two subwatersheds that pass through Halton Hills have seen a slight improvement in terms of forest conditions, while one subwatershed has seen a significant improvement.

And despite the seemingly bad news for the lower watershed, the area is showing progress when compared to its score in 2013, with certain areas transitioning from "very poor" to "poor" in both the surface water quality and forest condition categories.

Surface water quality is graded based on phosphorus, E. coli bacteria and benthic macroinvertebrates, and forest conditions are graded on the percentages of forest cover, forest interior and the

30-metre forested zone next to watercourses.

How residents can make a difference

Helping to improve the conditions of the watershed starts with each resident at home. Small changes such as opting for a green alternative to lawn care or participating in local tree-planting initiatives can go a long way.

According to the CVC report, more than 625 local residents each year have made the switch to more sustainable landscaping options.

In addition to this, local businesses and agencies have been implementing low-impact development practices such the addition of a rain garden at Terra Cotta Conservation Area or the building of a permeable pavement at Edith Street parking lot in Georgetown.

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POLICE AND FIRE

Damage pegged at \$350,000 in Charles Street house fire

The cause of the blaze that tore through the second floor of a home on Charles Street in Georgetown last week has been deemed undetermined at this point by the Halton Hills Fire Department.

A woman living on the first floor was at home at the time the fire began at approximately 7:30 a.m. and made it safely out of the structure, although a dog was found

dead and a cat is missing.

Fire Chief John deHooge put the damage estimate at about \$300,000 to the home and another \$50,000 in contents.

A young couple renting the second floor was not at home Sunday morning. They lost most of their belongings in the fire and are staying with family in Pickering this week.

EARTH WEEK CELEBRATIONS

April 21-28, 2018



Save the Dates!

Community Wide Clean-up Saturday, April 21, 2018

Residents and community groups are encouraged to help clean-up our community! Free gloves and bags are available for clean-up activities at the Robert C. Austin Operations Centre, 11620 Trafalgar Road (Georgetown) and at McDonalds in Halton Hills.



To join or register a clean-up group contact:
Transportation and Public Works
Tel: 905-873-2601, ext. 2603
cleanup@haltonhills.ca

22-Minute Makeover Monday, April 23, 2018

Local businesses and institutions are encouraged to go outside and clean-up for 22 minutes. Free gloves and bags are available for clean-up activities at the Robert C. Austin Operations Centre, 11620 Trafalgar Road (Georgetown) and at McDonalds in Halton Hills.



To register your clean-up area contact:
Transportation and Public Works
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Earth Day at Public Works Saturday, April 28, 2018

Participate in the Earth Day event at the Robert C. Austin Operations Centre located at 11620 Trafalgar Road. Purchase trees at \$5.00 each, pick up free compost and woodchips (bring your own shovel), and drop off your unwanted electronics and household hazardous waste.

A delicious BBQ breakfast and lunch will be available. Food and cash donations for our local food banks are gratefully accepted.

For more information contact:
Transportation and Public Works
Tel: 905-873-2601, ext. 2603

Earth Day and Sustainability Fair

Join us for the Town's annual Earth Day and Sustainability Fair at the Georgetown Market Place. Environmental, cultural, economic and social groups will showcase the good work they do in the community. Highlights include Conservation Halton's Mountsberg Birds of Prey and Credit Valley Conservation children's activities.

For more information contact:
Planning & Sustainability
Tel: 905-873-2601, ext. 2290

Need more information about Earth Week Celebrations?
Visit: haltonhills.ca



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