

Sewer project not to blame for dry wells: Region

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resident has had a large water container placed on his front lawn this week.

But York Region says its sewer project isn't at the root of the problem.

"Our assessment suggests our dewatering is not impacting any shallow wells in Bethesda," said Nitti Subramaniam, project manager for the 16th Avenue project.

There are 56 monitoring wells located around an

area stretching from Woodbine Avenue to Reesor Road and from 19th Avenue to Hwy. 7.

According to the Ministry of Natural Resources, this summer has been unusually dry. Precipitation is about 50 per cent lower than last year, which contributes to low flows in streams, Mr. Subramaniam said.

The dewatering project started in late 2002. But work was held up while officials studied a number of wells that went dry dur-

ing north of 16th Avenue.

Following that investigation, York Region instituted its Well Mitigation Program, which ensures residents they receive a new or deeper well or are hooked to municipal water if problems are caused by the dewatering project. About 100 of 2,500 have been impacted in the past two and a half years, Mr. Subramaniam said.

Water levels have been lower in York Region, said Lloyd Lemon, program manager for York Region's

water resource protection program. But, it's unclear if it's due to unusually dry weather or other factors. Monitoring in the Aurora Road and McCowan Road area has not shown anything "substantial", he added.

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Anyone who has called with concerns about their water has gotten a response, he said. There have been more calls than usual this summer, he admitted.

"Someone will come out and investigate," Mr. Lemon said.

Meanwhile, Jim Robb, of the Friends of the Rouge Watershed environmental group, is planning to hold a meeting at the beginning of September with concerned residents, regional officials and others so residents can have questions about their water problems answered. The meeting is to take place at the Lemonville Community Centre.

"I think York Region, intentionally or not, is mis-

leading the residents," Mr. Robb said.

He added York Region is telling residents its studies show the 16th Avenue dewatering is not impacting residents north of Bethesda Road.

"I have maps from York Region's own consultants showing impact on the aquifer extending north of Bethesda Road," he added.

For more information call 905-640-3965. Anyone with a water concern, can call the region's hotline at 1-888-445-4418.



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