

THE BAXTER



Fall 2022 | Volume 1 | Issue 4

**BAXTER CREEK WATERSHED FORUM:
COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 26, 2022**

6:30PM – 8:30PM

**MILLBROOK ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION,
9 KING STREET EAST, MILLBROOK, ONT.**

Your Land. Your Water. Your Future.

The Baxter Creek Watershed Alliance invites you to attend our first Community Forum on September 26, 2022. Learn more about:

Our Vision – “People living and working in CavanMonaghan and the Baxter Creek Area, caring for a Clean and Healthy Watershed”.

Our Mission – “Dedicated to conserving and enhancing the local Watershed Environment for future generations of humans and wildlife”.

Meet our team and some of our current and future partner organizations and hear about our achievements, ongoing projects and future plans!

Most importantly, come to find ways you can help to support the long-term health of our watershed and our community. Your support is essential to the successful protection of our Watershed!



SUMMER PROGRESS FOR THE BAXTER CREEK WATERSHED ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This past summer our Board of Directors for the Baxter Creek Watershed Alliance (now commonly referred to as “BCWA” or simply “the Alliance”) has been actively meeting with partners and potential partners with vested interests in watershed conservation. We continue to actively seek out new partnerships to build our capacity and outreach. Here are some highlights of our spring and summer engagements.

As mentioned in our last issue, the Alliance closed out our 2022 Fleming GeoCommunity mapping project this year. In June we met with our student team for a final demonstration of their work as we implemented their mapping products to our new [Baxter Creek Watershed Hub site](#). Perhaps one of the most impressive outcomes of the project was the student’s delivery of an online [Baxter Creek watershed Story Map](#). The student’s map series is now online and many of the maps will be on display at our fall Watershed Forum on September 26th.

Thanks to the engagement of our Director, Dr. Noel Kerin, on August 19th we had the opportunity to meet with Brian Bates, the Chief Executive Officer for the Walkerton Clean Water Centre (WCWC). Dr. Kerin also sits on the Board of the WCWC, so this was a terrific opportunity to engage on shared interests between the Alliance and the WCWC. The Board presented our organizational goals and objective and highlighted where BCWA can help the WCWC’s at a local level. As a citizen based community group, we communicated to WCWC that we help support their mandate in our community by providing information, education and advice to the public about other environmental issues related to drinking water. We are looking forward to meeting again with WCWC to further discuss how we can work together in our township, to increase access to information, enhance our understanding of our water resources, and possibly assist in delivering education locally.

We are also grateful to our Mayor, Scott McFadden, for arranging a meeting with the Honorable David Piccini, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), on the same day as our meeting with the WCWC for afternoon of August 19th. A

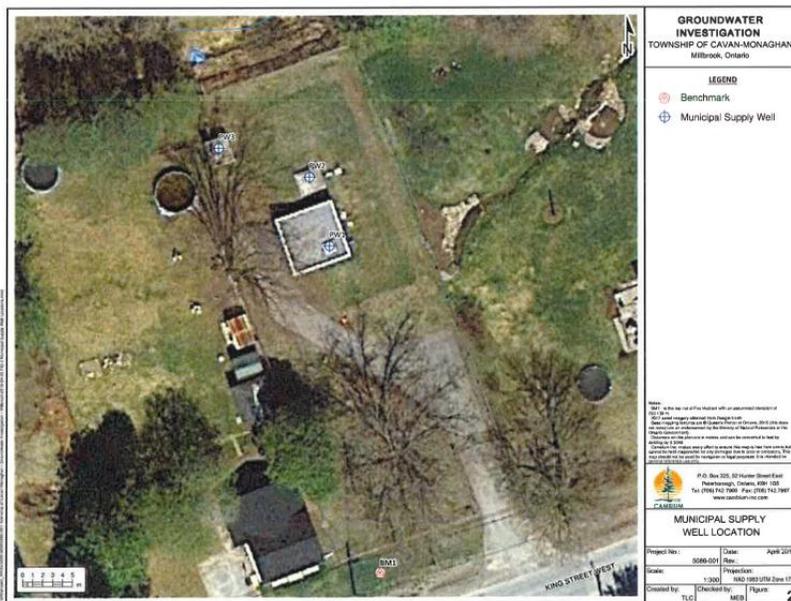
delegation of our Board of Directors met with Minister Piccini, Mayor McFadden, Brian Bates from WCWC, as well as other council members and staff from the township. The delegation toured the Millbrook Drinking Water System including the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Millbrook (WWTP). The operator of the WWTP, Rob, did a fantastic job showcasing and demonstrating the incredibly modern waste water treatment technology we have in our community. We are fortunate to have such dedicated and knowledgeable staff employed by our township overseeing the critical job of treating our effluent before it is released to the Baxter Creek.

During our meeting with the Minister of the Environment we highlighted our vision as well as our goals and objectives. We spent some focused time presenting our vision of conserving the former Millbrook Correctional Centre lands. The Minister was extremely engaged on this topic and welcomed our ideas. The Minister asked if anyone had considered establishing a regulated Conservation Reserve on the property and if that may be considered. We welcomed this idea and the Minister committed to having staff review the file and determine if a Conservation Reservation may be a appropriate mechanism for conserving the lands. While a Conservation Reserve is typically used for protecting significant ecological lands that are pristine or “untouched” representations natural systems this could be a potential solution given the location of the lands within the municipal drinking water Wellhead Protection Area. BCWA will be following up with the Minister’s office into the fall to further these discussions.

Finally, on August 26th, our Alliance’s Watershed Research Task Team met with staff and faculty from Trent University. This meeting included Stephen Hill, the Director of Trent’s School of the Environment as well as staff from the Trent Community-Based Research Centre as well as faculty from the Trent Department of Biology. This was an extremely well attended meet which included a formal presentation from the Alliance on our mission to caring for the watershed. Trent staff highlighted how the Alliance can leverage resources from Trent, in particular student and faculty research projects. Trent staff highlighted some of the current work in the Baxter Creek watershed, including their monitoring work over the last 15 years whereby they have been collecting water chemistry data samples from the Baxter Creek at the former Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network site located at Baxter Creek in Cedar Valley at Hutchinson Drive.

MILLBROOK’S MUNICIPAL GROUNDWATER WELL SYSTEM

In our last issue we highlighted Millbrook’s Wellhead Protection Area. If you are new to the community you may wonder where your tap water comes from. Some people may have moved to Millbrook from municipalities with drinking water systems sources from surface water. For instance, Lake Ontario is a primary source of drinking water for most GTA municipalities. Millbrook’s municipal water supply is sourced from a groundwater aquifer in the Oak Ridges Moraine.



Millbrook’s three municipal wells are located on a property north of King Street West between Turner and Queen Street. The entrance is just before a small white house – there is a chain link fence around the site.

The wells in Millbrook are located between two outcroppings of the Oak Ridges Moraine. Two of the wells were drilled in 1976 to create a municipal water supply. Before 1976 residences and business were supplied by individual wells or a group well.

A third well was drilled in 2002 to ensure water supply for a nursing home – Centennial Place. They are not used at the same time.

The Millbrook wells tap into a **WELL CONFINED** aquifer that is approximately 31 m (101 feet) deep. The aquifer

spreads to an unknown distance to the west and according to the 2009 Golder report as far south as the end of Huston Street where it meets Carveth. There are several households on private wells that tap into the same aquifer. The former Millbrook jail constructed in 1955 had two wells that also tapped into the same aquifer.

A 2009 Golder report predicted that the approximately 600 houses proposed then in Fraserville (plus the 300 in Millbrook) would result in a drawdown of about 9 metres (about 30%) over 20 years. There was no information in the 2009 report on how that drawdown figure might change due to climate change. The estimated immediate and long-term drawdown as a result of the approximately 2000 residential plus commercial units that are being proposed or have been approved has not been found in any recent reports.

The preliminary RV Anderson report states that there will be the need to look elsewhere for a water supply in the near future. The full report is supposed to come before Council sometime in 2022.

The 2009 report on the Millbrook wells concluded there was likely no hydraulic connection between the aquifer and Baxter Creek – but other hydrogeologists disagreed and said they are connected. Further research is needed in this area.

There are multiple springs throughout Millbrook – including the popular standpipe across from the Medical Centre. The 2020 Cambium report on the Millbrook wells and future use states that capping that spring would increase the water supply. Back in 2009 a consultant recommended all springs be capped to ensure a water supply for the Fraserville development.

The 2020 Cambium report states that the existing Waste Water Treatment Plant right now restricts future growth with only 649 allocations available “after accounting for the 1,173 units currently committed to Towerhill South, Towerhill North and Nina Court.” That may be why recent development proposals and plans of subdivision are proposing additional on site mobile wastewater treatment plants.

“We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.”

- Thomas Fuller

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Baxter Creek Watershed Alliance (Corporation# 13483819) is a Canadian federal corporation entity registered with Corporations Canada, located in the Village of Millbrook, Township of Cavan-Monaghan, County of Peterborough, Ontario, Canada.

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