

## Jennifer Lawrie

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**From:** Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority <a.richards@svca.on.ca>  
**Sent:** March 22, 2023 2:49 PM  
**To:** Jennifer Lawrie  
**Subject:** 2023 SVCA Watershed Report Card Released



### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 22nd, 2023**

***Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) releases the 2023 Watershed Report Card***

**SAUGEEN WATERSHED, ONTARIO** – Bruce, Dufferin, Huron, Grey, and Wellington Counties.

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) is excited to present the 2023 Watershed Report Card, a comprehensive summary of the state of water quality, forests, and wetlands in the Saugeen Valley watershed from 2017 to 2021. Prepared in partnership with Conservation Ontario and released every five years, this report card offers essential insights into the current conditions and trends within the watershed, enabling informed planning for a sustainable future.

In compiling the 2023 Watershed Report Card, SVCA collected data on groundwater quality, surface water quality, forest cover, and wetland cover at numerous sites throughout the watershed. For the first time, the report card incorporates at least ten years of data for groundwater to provide a more accurate representation of long-term trends.

**Key findings from the 2023 Watershed Report Card include:**

**Groundwater Quality:** Chloride levels at all tested sites received a grade of A (excellent), and nitrogen levels at most sites (86%) received a grade of A (excellent). Two sites received nitrogen grades of B (good), and one site received a D (poor). These findings are not indicators of drinking water quality.

**Surface Water Quality:** Overall grades range from A (excellent) to C (fair), with mostly (60%) B (good) grades. Phosphorus grades fell in the South Saugeen River and Lower Main Saugeen River, while E.coli grades remained mostly unchanged across the watershed, and benthic macroinvertebrate grades generally improved.

**Forest Cover:** Grades range from A (excellent) to D (poor), with mostly B (good) and C (fair) grades.

**Wetland Cover:** Grades range from A (excellent) to D (poor) with mostly excellent grades.

SVCA encourages residents, businesses, municipalities, and counties in the Saugeen Valley region to review the 2023 Watershed Report Card, which is available for download at the SVCA website. By engaging with this essential information, all stakeholders can play an active role in preserving and enhancing our shared natural resources.

**View the website:**

[www.saugeenconservation.ca/2023wrc](http://www.saugeenconservation.ca/2023wrc)

Download the report card by [clicking here](#).

**For more information, please contact:**

Ashley Richards, Communications Coordinator

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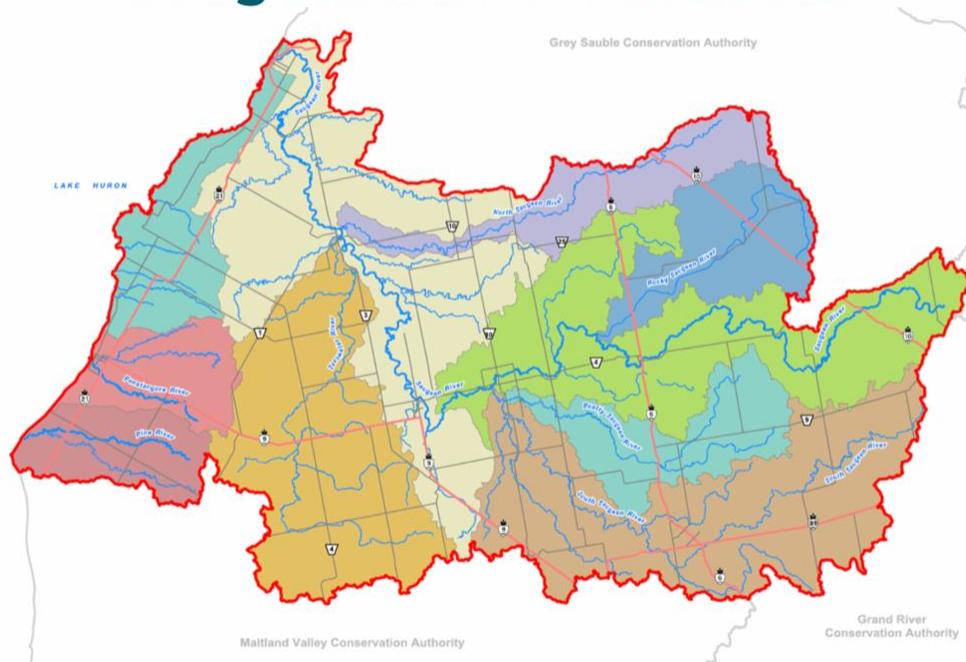
Cell: 519-364-1255 ext. 238

[www.saugeenconservation.ca](http://www.saugeenconservation.ca)

The map below depicts the sub-watersheds that make up the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority. These are the Beatty Saugeen River, Lake Fringe, Lower Main, North Saugeen River, Penetangore River, Pine River, Rocky Saugeen River, South Saugeen River, Teeswater River and Upper Main watersheds.

The sub-watersheds, irrespective of political or geographic boundaries, are the defined areas for the grades produced in the report cards. The sub-watershed boundaries reflect the tributaries and creeks that form the larger river systems that flow towards Lake Huron.

## Saugeen Sub-watersheds



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